



Ottery Primary School Newsletter



20th July 2018

Fond farewells:

At this time of the year, we reluctantly say goodbye to our amazing Year 6 children. This week they put on an absolutely amazing Leavers' Assembly based around the music of The Greatest Showman. It was simply breath taking and will live long in the memory. They showed us all once again how talented and inspiring they are and have been over their time with us. We really will miss them and wish them every happiness as they move on. Although they may be leaving us today, the door will never truly close behind them.

We are also saying goodbye to a host of staff as they leave us for new adventures. In no particular order, Mrs L Brown, Mrs Chesterman, Mrs Hoondert, Mrs North and Miss Purcell are all looking to new opportunities moving forward. They have all added to the school community in so many ways and we are grateful to each and every one of them for all they have done.

Can I also take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff to thank you for your continued support of the school and the children this year and to wish you all a very happy, safe and sunny summer holiday.

New starts:

Before we know it, we'll be back in September wondering where the summer went. For many it will be a familiar return while for others there will be subtle changes. Children moving up to Year 3 for example will need to be aware that the morning bell for them rings at 8.55 rather than 9.00. They will also have access to the tuck shop at breaktime where they can buy a variety of snacks and drinks. Prices range from 15p for toast up to 35p for a carton of milkshake.

Children moving up to Year 2 will gather in the morning outside the Year 2 classrooms on the part of the playground that leads down towards the bus where their teachers will meet them in the morning.. They will be collected from there at the end of the day too.

Children moving up to Year 1 will wait in the top playground until the bell is rung and then they will walk into their classrooms.

New term starts on Tuesday 4th September, with our new rising 5 children starting in Reception on Wednesday 5th September

School Fete:

We are thrilled to say that the school fete raised a record amount of almost £2700 last weekend. This is an incredible total and a credit to the efforts of the PTA and the support of yourselves and the rest of the community.

Meet the Teacher Evenings:

Keep an eye out when we return to school for the dates of the Meet the Teacher evenings. These evenings provide a range of useful information concerning the upcoming year for your child.

You Tube:

It has come to our attention that there are a number of year 5 pupils who have their own You tube channel

While **having a YouTube channel** may be fun, it is essential for parents to use a few guidelines to keep them **safe** online. If your child is under age 13 they are required to use a parent's email to set up a **YouTube account**.

Safety Tips for using YouTube

1. Register using a parent's email account.

If your child is under age 13 they are required to use a parent's email to set up a YouTube account. If they are over 13, consider also using a parent's email so you receive alerts and notifications.

2. Use a screen name instead of real name.

For privacy, make sure your kids use a fictitious name (or the very least first name only). They should never disclose their personal information such as address or phone number.

3. Turn off ability to comment.

Opening comments only opens a can of worms which could lead to [cyberbullying](#), trolling, and much more. In fact, [YouTube has been thought responsible for recent increase in cyberbullying](#). Limit this problem by disabling comments completely.

4. Monitor videos.

Before your child starts posting YouTube videos, check out what they are doing on the videos and make sure it's something you feel comfortable and appropriate for other children to view.

5. Sign a [family contract](#) on house rules for social media and mobile device use.

It's a good foundation for an overall conversation about electronic and social media usage.

6. Change the privacy settings to private or unlisted.

YouTube gives users 3 choices for privacy settings, private, public and unlisted.

- **Public** is the default setting and that means anybody can see your video.
- **Private** means only those you invite to view the video can view it (they must have their own YouTube accounts and the maximum number is 50 usernames). Only those on the list can view your video and the video will not come up under any search results or your channel list.
- **Unlisted** means your video will not come up in search results or on your channel either. In this mode, only those who know the link can view it, and you can share the link with anyone, even those who do not have a YouTube account/username. But be careful with who you share the link since the video could still be seen by anyone with the link!

Plastic Free...

One of our Year 5 children came to me recently hoping to raise awareness of the issue of single use plastics. As it is such a relevant issue at the moment, I thought I would share their thoughts in this newsletter.

Plastic Plan

I'm only 10, and personally when I grow up, I don't want to have to take a litter picker where ever I go, would you? I am a pupil at Ottery St Mary Primary School, and I'm determined to make a change to help the world.

Let's start with what plastic can do:

Plastic can be a flexible, strong or sturdy material. It's a cheap material to make so a lot of it is made. However, it can take about 1000 years to decompose.

Think about all the things that are plastic and are not being reused, think if you've used one of these items today e.g. food containers, milk cartons or even bubble wrap, Now, please think of everybody on Earth who have probably used these things too, and just in 1 whole day! Think about all the pieces of plastic that go into a landfill and are left there to decompose. Anyway, we need to stop thinking and start doing!

fortunately, not all plastic goes into a landfill. This is one of the changes I'll talk about later. Recycling is a great way to help the environment whilst making snazzy things! In our community, we've signed up to recycling -which basically means when people come to collect our rubbish, there are two separate containers. One for plastic (and other recyclable products,) and one for your normal rubbish. But, in some other communities this 'plastic plan' isn't being welcomed with open arms. So, we as a town, need to try and persuade other people to consider our proposal.

The reason some people are not acknowledging this can sometimes be because they don't know the damage this product can do:

- 1) Sea Creatures: You might not think that plastic causes a situation for these ocean dwellers, but believe me this can become a major problem! One of the most harmful designs of plastic is the plastic bag. If you live miles away from the coast, you may not stop to think about that piece of rubbish you have just tossed into a gutter or drain. This may be a surprise to you, but that one, tiny piece of plastic can actually end up bobbing around in the sea! If a plastic bag does end up in the middle of the sea, an animal could mistake it for something else, and even end up eating it whole (which would result in it's digestive system being clogged up.) or they could get tangled in it and eventually suffocate. So, all in all plastic bags aren't the world's hero.

2)
However, that's not the only design: microplastics can also cause a dilemma. Microplastics go by their name, they are a miniscule shard of plastic that is practically invisible to the naked eye. For about a year now, microplastics have been banned in shower gels and toothpastes. That was a big step. Although, there is still the matter of the pieces that are still in the ocean. Please imagine that a shrimp eats a microplastic, doesn't seem to bad does it. He now has 1 microplastic in his stomach. Now please imagine that the shrimp is eaten by a seal who has also eaten a microplastic beforehand. She now has 2 microplastics in her stomach. Now please imagine that the seal is eaten by a shark that has also eaten a microplastic beforehand. He now has 3 microplastics in his stomach. Now, that vicious circle could repeat numerous times. Eventually - if microplastics weren't banned - that circle could potentially have wiped out the entire sea creature race!

Thankyou for reading, and I hope you can choose to make a change too!