

Newsletter February 2020

PTA

Our new PTA has now raised £2471. Earlier in the year the PTA asked each class what they would like to spend this money on. Most children wanted a range of musical instruments in each class or more playground equipment. The school council has decided to give this spend a music theme including the purchase of a PA system and new instruments to use at events. The school has also purchased stage blocks to reduce frustration for parents when children are performing in the hall sometimes out of sight.

Cabin and school meals costs

Please note that from 1st April the price of a school meal will be £2.30 and Cabin sessions will be; Breakfast Club £4.00, After School Club £5.50. We continue to keep our prices well below other local schools.

Year 5 and 6

Please can I remind year 5 and 6 parents that teachers are not available until the end of each school day, as the school day begins in year 5 and 6 at 8.50am. If you urgently need to give the teacher information please give it to the TA on duty outside Mr Matthews's classroom. At the end of the school day, of course the teachers are more than happy to chat.

Foodbank

The Foodbank in Bideford would like to thank you all for your continual kind donations. The school sent 405Kg of food which equates to 965 meals. Thank you to the PTA members who regularly empty the food basket and deliver this to the Foodbank on your behalf.

School Council Election 14th February

The School Council and Ms Smart have been busy organising a school election which will take place next Friday afternoon. They have acquired ballot boxes and booths from Bideford Town Hall for the occasion. Twenty six pupils put their names forward and an initial selection ballot has reduced the list to eight very keen and able candidates.

Playground Waste

The school Council has been concerned about the amount of fruit waste thrown onto the playground. They asked the children in KS2 to complete a survey thus finding out that 25% of children don't always look for a bin but 75% of the children are careful and always throw fruit waste into the bins. They also found out that most children prefer not to have pears and most of our free fruit are pears! We have also been checking that children are happy during playtimes and that their needs are met.

Attendance Audit

Last week we had an Attendance Audit led by Babcock Educational Services. The outcome was positive. The Local Authority has noted that the number of unauthorised holidays taken by parents, with no significant reason, is more than that in other schools. Please remember that the school whistle is blown at 9am therefore your child needs to be in the playground by 8.55am if they are to be on time. Parents are responsible for the care of their child before 9am.

Attendance recorded	School period lost	Number of lessons missed
100%	0 days	0 lessons
99% attendance	1 day	3 lessons
95% attendance	8 days	24 lessons
92% attendance	3 weeks	45 lessons
90% attendance	3 weeks 3 days	54 lessons
85% attendance	4 weeks 4 days	72 lessons
80% attendance	6 weeks and 2 days	96 lessons

Holiday dates for 2020, 2021 and 2022

Our new calendars and holiday dates are now available from our school website. Please note that October half term 2020 will be only one week long, no longer with additional days. The extended half term will now take place in May, commencing May 2021.

Alverdiscott Road

Please can I ask that parents report any concerns you have about parking and careless driving to highways, Devon County Council. Any incidents of careless driving should be reported to the Police. I appreciate there are concerns, particularly around the water pooling at the BT box. We have tried to make Highways aware of this when we had a meeting but at the end of last year we had no feedback from them. Steph Slade and Lauren Rider are our Parent Governors, they are both keen to know your views and are willing to raise concerns at the next full governing body. Steph and Lauren can be contacted via the school office if you are unsure how to recognise them in the playground.

Educational Visits

Tour round TESCOs store

Reception has had a wonderful time at TESCOs. The staff made the children very welcome and had planned an exciting tour of the store. Thank you TESCOs!

Morrison Food Share

Community Champions Clare and Clarissa, provided the reception children with an amazing range of Fair Trade fruit and vegetables. The children thoroughly enjoyed smelling, tasting and looking at the food.

Roman Soldier Story Teller

The well-known story teller, Steve Manning will be visiting Year 4 sharing a day in the life of a roman Soldier. The storyteller will remain in costume updating the children of roman life, experiences in the Roman Legion.

Pumpkin's visit

Finley and Ollie's Exmoor pony, Pumpkin, came to visit the year 1 children. All the children stroked the pony as well as taking her on a walk around the playground.

Parent Workshop MyMaths

Thank you to Ms Hurrell and Ms Isaac for leading this support group with parents. Please do let us know if you need help logging onto MyMaths, our online maths homework programme.

Reception continues to visit Northam Pool. Please remember Blue Room parents, that after half term your swimming day is every Friday!

Cultural Champion

Our Cultural champion came from Exeter and shared with the children a childhood and life in Devon as a Muslim. The child shared a range of wonderful resources, some of which they tried on.

Long Hair

It is highly recommended that long hair be tied up or plaited please

School Diary

World Book Day celebration 5.3.20

Spring Half Term break 15th –23rd February 2020

Easter break 28th March –13th April 2020

8th May **bank Holiday** will be on the Friday this year not Monday

SATS Week (Year 2 and 6) Monday 11th - Friday 15th May 2020

(No absence will be authorised in Yr 6 or 2)

Summer Half Term 25th-29th May 2020

1st 2nd June 2020 **Science Day** celebrations

Parent Consultations Wed 24.6.20, Thurs 25.6.20(Summer term 2nd)

Year 6 Leavers Assembly Wed 22.7.20 2.15pm family members welcome(no younger siblings)

Last day of Summer Term at school 23rd July 2020