



"Learning that lasts a lifetime"

Newsletter

YEAR 6 PARENTS—TRANSITION DAYS TO PENRICE/POLTAIR ON THE 2nd & 3rd July —YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT TO AND FROM YOUR CHILD'S NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL.

Head's Blog...

Thank you to those parents that attended our Parent Forum on Thursday. This was well attended and we had a good discussion, recorded later in this newsletter.

The Year 6s have been having a great time at PGL Barton Hall, taking part in a variety of activities, including fencing, cycling, swimming, climbing and, of course, a disco! There have been great reports from staff and I'm sure we'll hear lots more about this next week. It's our year 4's turn next week as they head off to Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre for their camp.

In addition, the year 5 pupils trooped down to St Austell Fire Station on Wednesday morning to 'Hazard Alley' where they learned about all manner of ways to keep themselves safe. This is always a valuable addition to our curriculum.

Representatives from St Austell Library visited on Thursday to tell us all about this year's Summer Reading Challenge. This is a great way to encourage your children to continue reading throughout the long summer holiday and last year we were one of the schools with the most participants—it would be great to exceed our participation this year!

Have a great weekend! Mrs Carmichael

KS1 Football Carnival.

Dear Parents/Carers,

KS1 would like to invite you to our football carnival on Thursday 19th July at 2pm. This will be a celebration of our learning all about our immersive topic of Brazil. Over the next two weeks all the KS1 children will take part in a mini world cup and on the 19th July we will hold the exciting final between the top two teams. Children will also be performing music on samba drums and sharing information about Brazil. We hope to see you there.

Many thanks

KS1 team.



Road Safety Awareness

We have had a call from a concerned member of the public who had to break extremely hard to avoid hitting one of our students, this happened up at the junction of Killyvarder Way. If your child does walk to school, please ensure that they are confident in road safety awareness.

Beach School

The first group of Rainbows had a fantastic morning adventuring at Beach School on Thursday. We did some scavenger hunting, looking for beach treasures. We made beach art out of sticks and shells. The children also enjoyed making kingdoms and villages out of sand castles. We even got to see some ducklings!



ATTENDANCE

We're happy to report our continued attempts at raising the importance of positive attendance with pupils and have put the following in place:

For the class achieving the highest attendance each week, a Friday 'Popcorn Pass' will be granted. This involves an hours treat of a film and popcorn to munch on! Here are the winners from this week..... **Peacocks!**

For the individual children achieving 100% attendance throughout the week, their names will be put into a draw. Two names will be drawn and a small prize will be given to the winners.

Our current whole school attendance for this academic year stands at **95.82%**, a percentage that is below the government expectations. Thank you for all your support in ensuring the positive attendance of your child and keeping school informed of any illness or absence.

Classes	%	No of lates
Little Doves	94.17%	0
Little Fish	96.12%	1
Little Lambs	91.67%	5
Peacocks	99.17%	1
Phoenix	99.14%	0
Pelicans	97.5%	0
Angels	93.4%	2
Faith	96.25%	2
Hope	94.64%	0
Weekly Total	95.81	11

2018 Summer Term Diary Dates:

Yr 4 Residential to Porthpean—25th—27th June

Penrice/Poltair Yr 6 Transition days—2nd & 3rd July

New Sept reception starters/Whole school transition morning—2nd July

Last Toddler group—4th July @ 1.45pm Teddy bears picnic

Lambs trip to Heligan—9th July

New Sept reception transition afternoon—1.30pm—3pm

Doves trip to Heligan—12th July

Summer Disco—13th July (more details in next week's newsletter)

Yr 6 Leavers' Communion—16th July

Fishes trip to Heligan—17th July

BBeebies Graduation—17th July @ 10am

Rainbows Graduation—17th July @ 2pm

Yr 2 Graduation—18th July @2pm

Yr 6 Leavers' Ball—20th July @6pm

Yr 6 Leavers' show—23rd July @ 2pm

Last day of Summer Term—24th July at 3.15pm.

INSET DAY—Tuesday 4th September

Autumn Term begins—Wednesday 5th September.



Parent Forum—Thursday, 21st June

We had a great turn-out to this half-term's Parent Forum with over 25 parents, carers and grandparents attending. Discussions mainly focussed on the revised class structure planned for the next academic year. Mrs Carmichael started by explaining some of the benefits this change will bring and parents then asked questions in order to clarify how this change will work in practice. A summary is detailed below:

What are the benefits?

- ◇ it will enable teachers to plan more productively and effectively as they will plan in their planning groups for more similar classes.
- ◇ it opens up the possibility for greater flexibility in working with groups of children across classes, thereby enabling more opportunities for targeted support
- ◇ longer term, it may enable us to reduce the number of class changes which can have a detrimental effect on some pupils.
- ◇ children learn well from other year groups. It can benefit them being the 'older' pupils, giving them a sense of maturity and it can benefit the younger children, having older ones to look up to and emulate. They develop social skills and ability to get on with different children more readily. This is evident in the way our pupils approach the transition to secondary school.

Will preparation for SATs be affected?

No. We already have mixed classes and manage preparations well. In fact, this gives greater flexibility.

Will this mean an increase in class sizes?

Absolutely not. We are not allowed to go over 30 in years 1 and 2 and we do not anticipate increasing sizes in Key Stage 2. We reduced class sizes a few years ago by adding an extra class and this has been very beneficial. We do not want to revert to larger classes again.

How are classes decided? Are children sorted by ability?

All of the staff have been involved in and have contributed towards the organisation of the children.

There will be three parallel classes across each phase and there are a number of different factors that we consider when allocating children to classes, with the aim of ensuring an equal mix of all factors. Below is a list of criteria staff have considered when grouping children -

Age—We aim to have a balance of both year groups in each class.

Academic ability—We aim to provide a range of ability in each class. This arrangement benefits all children.

Learning partners—We try to match children who work well together. This may not be their best friend. We try to separate children who find it counter-productive working together.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs—We seek to provide a balance across all classes in order to maximise access to high quality support.

Twins—The wishes of parents and children are always listened to. Sometimes twins need to be together; sometimes they need to be apart.

Gender balance— We aim to ensure an even mix of boys and girls in each class, where possible.

Pupil opinions—All of the children have been asked to identify 3 children that they are friends with and we ensure every child has at least one of their named friends in the new class.

Will 1:1 support still be there for those that need it?

We cannot comment on individual children in an open forum but there are no anticipated changes. There is no reason to change something that is having a positive impact.

Will this increase the teacher workload / lessen the time the teacher has for children as they need to teach two different year groups?

Often there is a wide ability range in one year group and teachers must plan for all the needs in each class. They differentiate the learning to ensure all are catered for and ensure both support and challenge is there for all. This takes no more time if there are 2 year groups in one class. In fact, as 3 teachers are planning for 3 very similar classes, it is anticipated that this will lessen planning time!

Will children have a chance to get to know their new class?

As described above, the children are being grouped considering a range of different factors. There will be an opportunity for the children to work in their new classes on 2nd July and during this time, we will review each class to ensure there is a good mix. Any concerns can be raised with school leaders after 2nd July; however, we do not anticipate any adjustments will be necessary

Grouping children in a school of this size is a complex process. The most important consideration is that they are organised to best support the children's learning. Children are not allocated at random nor do we have a top or bottom class!

Will children stay with the same group of children throughout school? Will they stay with the same teacher for 2 years?

Next year's classes have not been decided but this structure gives more options available such as staying with the same group of children or the same teacher for another year. Each year, some children worry about new teachers, moving up to the next year and transitions across key stages. Mixed age classes opens up the possibility of working with each teacher for two years, thereby reducing the number of transitions for a child. This will also reduce the amount of learning time lost as teachers get to know new children. We will review this next year and decide what we feel will best suit the pupils.

Why is there no change in Reception class?

This year group and Nursery work on a different curriculum. These children do split into groups for specific learning experiences.

How will the new year 1 children cope with being in a class with year 2 pupils?

Learning activities are planned to closely match the needs and next steps for all children. Teachers are skilled in ensuring they plan for every child in the class and differentiate every lesson accordingly.

How do you ensure that learning is not repeated during the second year of each phase?

We offer a skills-based curriculum which will need consolidation and building on year on year. Records are kept to ensure the correct curriculum coverage and to make sure topics and subject matter is not repeated.

A number of parents highlighted the fact that their children's experiences of mixed-age classes was very positive and beneficial. One parent commented on the fact that she knows from personal experience that teaching is very much tailored to individual needs, regardless of year group and how this has impacted positively on her child's progress. Another commented on the Family Learning sessions we offer, which has enabled them to understand what the children have to learn and how it is taught.

One parent asked if we could advise parents of children's next class and teacher ahead of the 'move up' day on 2nd July. After consultation with staff, we have decided to send a letter out during next week confirming this.

Other issues raised:

- ◇ **INSET DAYS**—a parent asked if INSET days would be spread through the year again next year. Mrs Carmichael couldn't confirm this but explained the reasoning behind it. She will pass on the request that this is reviewed to the Trust senior leaders.
- ◇ **Trips and extra-curricular activities**—a parent commented on the wide range of trips and out of school activities, expressing that it was a really positive aspect of what we do!
- ◇ **Parking**—a parent requested that it is difficult to get past the minibus inside the cones near the staff car park. Mrs Carmichael said she would look into this and ensure the cones were placed to ensure people pushing prams or buggies could get through easily. Mrs Carmichael also thanked everyone for their support during the building works.
- ◇ **Residential Trips**—A parent expressed a concern that the residential trips we offer, whilst they provide a wonderful opportunity for children to experience a wide range of new challenges, are expensive and may exclude a number of pupils. She suggested that there are cheaper alternatives. Mrs Carmichael explained the activities provided are not something that could be provided by our staff and are beneficial in a number of ways. We also do ask that parents contact the school if they are experiencing financial difficulties as we do want as many pupils as possible participating. The suggestion was made to consult with parents and we will look into this when planning future trips.