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Newsletter - January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This new term has started very well. I have continued to go into every class each week and it is very clear from my observations that learning is at the heart of what we are doing here at Ipplepen. During these visits it is a real pleasure to observe the children, who all have excellent learning behaviours, talking about their learning.

In each lesson it is evident that all staff have an excellent knowledge of their pupils which they use to ensure each child makes progress in the lessons. To achieve this classrooms are now more fluid with children moving groups much more readily based on current knowledge and area of support rather than the marks achieved in a test.

In January

- * Foundation stage continue to go on their "welly walks".
- * Every Friday the children are challenged to run a mile - during break or lunchtime
- * Year 3 visited China Blue.
- * Year 6 had a "virtual reality" e safety talk and workshop at Marldon Primary School.
- * Year 5 have been swimming each week at Totnes swimming pool.
- * Year 6 have been cooking at school with the school kitchen staff
- * Year 3 have been cooking at school with the school kitchen staff
- * All the children have been involved with arts week.
- * The Governors visited the school
- * Year 2 enjoyed a fire safety talk from the fire brigade.
- * Year 5 enjoyed a fire safety talk from the fire brigade
- * The football team played an away game at Blackpool Primary.
- * The football team played a home game against Kingskerswell Primary.
- * The eco councillors represented the school at a combined church service at the Methodist church.
- * The children enjoyed a "Fantastic food day".
- * Mathematicians from year 5 took part in a maths challenge morning at Coombeshead.
- * The children in year 5 and 6 continue to take part in outdoor education on a Friday afternoon.

Website

We have launched a new format website, which we hope will be easier to use and more informative. It is still a work in progress, so keep checking for more updates and features. There is a section for each class to blog about the events and learning in their class.

Internet Safety

We have been very fortunate to secure an Internet Safety talk from Chief Inspector Lou Costin. This will be held at Marldon Primary School, Marldon on Thursday 23 February at 6.00pm. Chief Inspector Lou Costin is kindly running this additional meeting because it was informative. It is a very important subject and one which as a school we take very seriously.

Homework Policy

A big thank you to everyone who returned the parent questionnaire. I have analysed all the responses and it is great to know that 100% of you would recommend the school. The only area which received less than 95% agreement was homework. Therefore as a staff we have looked at the policy and amended where necessary. No homework will be sent home through the holidays as requested by the questionnaires. You can find this on our new website.

On a Tuesday after school Miss Kedge runs a homework club which any child can attend. We have organised that if children attend this club then the completed homework can be handed in on Wednesday. Those children not attending the homework club will need to hand their homework in, as normal, on the Tuesday.

MyMaths

As part of their homework children may be given work from this new and exciting online maths programme. The log in details will be coming home later this week.

School Pupil Tracker

Everyone should have received a log in code so that they can view the pupil page of School Pupil Tracker

Reading Evening

On Wednesday 8 February we will be holding an evening reading event. This event will be held straight after school until 5.00pm. During this time there will be a variety of reading workshops for you to drop in and find out more information about phonics, reading, reading comprehension, the year 2 and year 6 SAT's tests and the new reading assessment guidelines. In addition to all these we will be having an official opening of the reading area.

The PTA will be kindly providing teas and coffees and a crèche will be available!

Absences

We have had to deal with quite a few holiday requests. Can we please remind you that we will not be able to authorise any holiday, in line with Governors' policy, unless there is an exceptional circumstance. Unauthorised absence is recorded which could result in further action being taken. We appreciate all of the efforts that people make to organize holidays within the school holidays.

Cycling and Scootering

It is great to see the children cycling, scootering and walking to school. To help ensure children stay safe, all children who cycle or scooter need to wear a helmet. Please can we also remind you that they should not ride their bikes or scooters on the school grounds.

When scootering, biking or walking around the village, can I please remind everyone to take care. Everyone needs to remember to use their road safety knowledge especially when crossing the roads.

Cricket and Maths Project

We have been very lucky to secure a place on a pilot program called "Bowled Over By Numbers". The concept of the project is that it closely connects the teaching of cricket skills with teaching maths objectives from the **KS2 national curriculum**. As cricket is a game that is highly reliant on maths, there are many opportunities to link to specific areas of the maths curriculum for **both high and low level students**, including opportunities for **demonstrating mastery** and **working at greater depth**.

Further information for Year 4 will follow.

After school clubs

In addition to the wide variety of clubs we have organised this term I have managed to add 2 new exciting clubs after half term. Chris Partridge from the Ipplepen Cricket club is offering to run a cricket club for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Also I have another external club provider who will run an animal club. In this club the children will be able to safely handle various animals and learn more about them.

Further information about both of these clubs will be sent out soon.

Exciting news

Miss Nikki Kedge is going to be having a baby and will be going on maternity leave after the Easter holiday. We send very best wishes to her and her partner from us all.

Pantomime

The PTA have kindly arranged for M and M productions to perform Cinderella at the school on Tuesday 7th February. We hope all the children will enjoy this special performance.

Thank to all of you who donated to Honduras box.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Amanda Lacey
Head of School

Dates for the term		Class Assemblies (Usually Fridays but subject to change)	
February			
1 st	Year 6 Grandparents lunch		
3 rd	Year 5 swimming at Totnes Year 3 cooking	3 rd	Year 1 Oak Class
6 th	Group going to Sign2Sing at Coombeshead Writing workshop for the more able writers		
7 th	M and M Productions - Pantomime Cinderella		
8 th	Reading Workshop from 3.30-5.00pm		
10 th	Year 5 swimming at Totnes Year 3 cooking	10 th	Year F Chestnut Class
	HALF TERM		

22 nd	Work showing		
23 rd	Internet safety talk for parents at Marlton School, 6.00pm		
24 th	Year 3 swimming at Totnes Year 4 cooking	24 th	Year 6 Sycamore Class
March			
2 nd	World Book Day		
3 rd	Year 3 swimming at Totnes Year 4 cooking	3 rd	Year 3 Cherry Class
10 th	Year 3 swimming at Totnes Year 4 cooking	10 th	Year 2 Rowan Class
17 th	Year 3 swimming at Totnes Year 5 cooking	17 th	Year 4 Willow Class
20 th	Parents Evening		
22 nd	Alcohol workshop for Year 6 Parents Evening		
24 th	Enterprise Day - Red Nose Day Year 3 swimming at Totnes Year 5 cooking	24 th	Year 5 Acacia Class
29 th	Football festival		
31 st	Year 3 swimming at Totnes End of Term		