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Newsletter - October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of a long first half of term, I would like to thank all the staff and the children for all their hard work and efforts. I have been fortunate to go into all classes every week to find out what the children have been learning. It is clear from my observations that there are lots of good opportunities provided by this talented team. I would also like to say you should be really very proud of your children as they have been a real credit to you and absolutely fantastic ambassadors for the school both when in school and when we take them out.

We have been very busy this half term and we have already achieved so much

- Throughout the school we have a consistent approach to behaviour based on positive encouragement
- Planning and half termly/termly overviews are available on the school website
- The school website is being up dated to reflect our school
- When children receive a bump to the head parents/carers will receive a text as well a letter in the book bag
- Opportunities have been extended for all children - enriching the curriculum and providing a variety of lunch time and after school clubs
- Reviews have been made to the reading scheme and information about the changes will follow next half term. The PTA are supporting the school in providing monies to expand and widen the new school reading scheme. Computing/ICT and the curriculum have also been reviewed and from this the children have had more opportunities to go on school trips to enhance and widen the curriculum.
- I aim to be always available in the playground at the start and the end of the day
- Creative positive learning environments have been created to support learning.

After discussions with the children they have decided to name their classes. All classes have a tree name. This then links to our Ipplepen logo.

Foundation	Chestnut		
Class 1 [Year 1]	Oak	Class 4 [Year 4]	Willow
Class 2 [Year 2]	Rowan	Class 5 [Year 5]	Acacia
Class 3 [Year 3]	Cherry	Class 6 [Year6]	Sycamore

The children have also decided on names for their house colours:

Red	Poppy	Green	Clover
Blue	Bluebell	Yellow	Buttercup

Governor "Drop in"

Paul Sampson and Pauline Morley, representatives of the USF Governing body, will be holding a "drop in " coffee morning from 9.-9.45am here in the school hall, on Wednesday 2 November; they look forward to meeting you and talking to you about the school.

In October

- * Year 6 visited Orley Common to design and make shelters, as part of their IPC topic.
- * Year 1 have been busy, using our environmental area, with Forest Schools.
- * All years took part in the Fantastic Food Day, which involved over 75% of our school having a school lunch
- * All year groups took part in the Harvest celebration in St Andrews Church, with donations going to HITS. What a fantastic display of donations we had, so a very big thank you.
- * Mathematicians from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in a maths challenge day at Marldon Primary
- * Foundation stage had a day investigating colour, they particularly enjoyed dressing up in their favourite colours.
- * Some children from years 5 and 6 went to a tag rugby tournament held in St Marys Primary, Brixton
- * Year 5 and 6 have had an internet safety talk by the local PSCO.
- * Years 5 and 6 have had the opportunity to take part in outdoor adventure - rafting this half term.
- * Years 5 and 6 have had Bikeability, there are more sessions planned.
- * All year groups have been researching the local area for local history studies week
- * The Ipplepen History Society have been in to share lunch, then present The Arthur French History Cup, in a special assembly. The work will be displayed at our work showing on Wednesday 2nd November. Well done to all the children for such fantastic history, and a special well done to Meghan Connor who was presented with the Arthur French History Cup
- * All year groups held a "Host Country Day" whereby each class looked at a country and learnt about the food, customs and celebrations
- * Arsenal came in to deliver a sports assembly.
- * The school presented books and clothing to the charity Bags of Hope to support education of children in Kenya.
- * Year 1 and Year 6 have both had a class assembly

Cycling and Scootering

It is great to see the children cycling, scootering and walking to school. If children wish to cycle, they will need to do so with an adult. If they are 10 years of age or over, have completed a Bikeability course and have written permission, they can cycle alone. Bikeability has been organised for years 5 and 6.

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.

Application for a Secondary school place

For children in Year 6, please remember that applications for a place at secondary school need to be submitted by **31st October**. You need to apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline to have the best opportunity of gaining your child's chosen place.

Please can I remind the parents of children in Year 6 that your children will sit their SATs in the week beginning the **8th May**. Please could we ask that, during this week, you try to make appointments either for the afternoon or for after school, and that you do not take any holiday.

Message from the community

The Candlelit procession will take place on the evening of Saturday, 26th November. Lantern making dates are Tuesday, 25th October from 10.00-12.30 at the Hub, and 2 consecutive Saturdays prior to the procession - Saturday, 12th November 10.00-12.30 [also Big Breakfast Saturday] and Saturday, 19th November 10.00-12.30 also at the Hub.

Car parking courtesy

May I ask that when dropping off and collecting children in your car that you avoid parking in front of driveways. It is very frustrating for our neighbours if they are unable to use their drive due to it being blocked.

MTA

Do you enjoy spending time with children? Could you be available in the middle of the day, either on an ad hoc or regular basis? We are very keen to add to our team of lovely Meal Time Assistants, and would welcome enquiries from parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles or friends from the community. Please ask for more information at the School Office.

Clubs

Over this term we have offered 19 different clubs. Thank you to everyone who has supported these, unfortunately some have had to cancel because of lack of numbers but we will try and provide the opportunity again next year 2017.

Website

At the moment we are in the process of updating and transforming the website. Please kindly support us during this transitional stage.

To accompany this new and improved website we are going to open a notice board page on Facebook. This page is solely for the purpose of advertising school events and as well PTA ones. Further information about the current PTA Facebook page will follow.

Ipplepen Parish Magazine

Year 6 writers workshop have been working hard this term and will now publish an article each month for the Parish Magazine.

Half term holiday

Please note that school closes at 3:20pm on Friday 21st October and gates open again at 8:45am on Monday, 31st October.

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

Dates for the term		Class Assemblies (Usually Fridays but subject to change)	
October			
21 st	PTA Cheese and Wine evening		
31 st	School opens at 8:45am Year 2 trip to the local cinema		
31 st -4 th	Film Week		
November			
1 st	Year 1 trip to Marldon Primary to watch a film		
2 nd	Work showing 3:30 - 4:30	4 th	Class 2
7 th	Individual School Photographs	11 th	Class 3
16 th	Flu vaccinations for Years 1, 2 and 3		
18 th	Enterprise day -Children in Need		
25 th	Year 3 and 4 Trip to The Eden project		
26 th	PTA Christmas Fair	18 th	Class 4
December			
2 nd	Dress rehearsal to Year 4, 5 and 6		
5 th	Year 6 trip to Buckfast Abbey 2.15 pm Dress rehearsal to grandparents and pre-school children Parents evening	2 nd	Class F
6 th	6.00pm KS1 Christmas performance		
7 th	2.15pm KS1 Christmas performance Parents evening		
8 th	KS1 Christmas performance	9 th	Class 5
12 th	9.30 am Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church Year 1 trip to Pennywell		
13 th	Foundation class to Kents cavern		
14 th	Children's Christmas lunch		
15 th	Christmas party		
16 th	School finishes for Christmas holiday at 3:20pm		
January			
4 th	School opens at 8:45am		