



## An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

Dear Parents

Following last term's *Instead Review* I wrote to parents with news of the key findings and proposed focus actions. These were:

*Prioritise – decide upon, implement and embed an agreed policy for teacher feedback to pupils*

*Develop – in consultation with pupils and parents, agree a clear approach to home learning*

*Maximise – strengthen the school's reflective Learning-to-Learn approach*

*Sustain – maintain the school parliament so that it develops the practical involvement of pupils in the life of the school in the knowledge that their voice matters and leads to action in their best interests.*

Along with our on-going school development task, and of course day-to-day teaching and learning, we began or stepped up work in these areas immediately. Last week, as part of our parliament focus, the junior children considered the school development plan, making judgments on the action teachers and governors have already taken and adding their voice to next steps.

They gave a strong thumbs up to the new feedback and marking system, unanimously agreeing that they find the red lighthouse and blue sailing ship guidance alongside and green notes very helpful. Juniors and infants have also begun to discuss home learning and at last week's meeting were eager that I share their views with you as this is an area where they rightly see the value of the home-school partnership.

Children understand that Reading and aspects of Maths are probably the most important part of their home learning. It 'gives us a chance to practise at home'; 'it can be stuff to do if we don't finish in school'; 'we can get help from an adult at home'; 'it prepares us for secondary school'. Among infants there was an 80% to 20% split between those that do and those that don't enjoy homework. Not altogether surprisingly this moved to 60% against 40% in ks2, although over 90% agreed that 'homework is good for us!' About 25% of juniors felt parents help them with home learning tasks and they were all in agreement that we re-write our home learning policy to make sure that it is manageable, enjoyable and helpful. This is something we will be doing in coming weeks and the Parliament Learning Committee will lead our consultation with parents to make sure that the new policy helps all of us in supporting children's linking learning at home and school.

**5 Sentence Stories** If you haven't already, take a look at the sample of short stories children in ks1 and ks2 wrote at the end of last term. The examples of some supported writing tasks are on show in the entrance foyer.

On Friday we sent a team of boys and girls to represent the school in a Falmouth Futsal Tournament. Essentially this is a mixed small court 5-a-side football game that involves everyone and encourages the creative development of skills. There is now a good tradition of Futsal in the town and, according to the secondary school coaching and refereeing team, although experienced players are joined with some who may be representing their school for the first time, the standard is very high. The new players didn't "look out of place amongst some excellent" footballers. The games were extremely competitive but our Marlborough team did exceptionally well, missing out on the title by only one point! Final results:

The new term's Packet Point competition is under way. The infants' Multi-Skills tournament and a junior Tag Rugby tournament will also be held in the spring. The Learning Group are keen to plan a Quiz as well, so that our competition remains a broad and as inclusive as possible.

Week 1 Packet Ship Points			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Swiftsure	32	7
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Walsingham	27	5
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chichester	26	4
4 <sup>th</sup>	Fox	20	3
5 <sup>th</sup>	Freeling	19	2
6 <sup>th</sup>	Pelham	13	1

- 1 St Francis
- 2 Marlborough
- 3 St Mary's
- 4 King Charles
- 5 Falmouth Primary

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## Latest News

“Hot off the Press” is probably a phrase that will probably fall into disuse as so much communication becomes digitised! Perhaps “Hot on the Web” would be a more accurate reflection of a new feature on the school website at [http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/virtual\\_tour/](http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/virtual_tour/), the second item in the *Our School* pages. We have Luke Power to thank for our new 3d Virtual Tour. Aided by assistants class 4 assistants, James and Finlay he spent much of Sunday photographing the school for this fantastic new feature that shows off the results of last week’s Open Learning in each of the classrooms.



By clicking on the overview on the website you can visit each class or public spaces around the school building. You can even explore the kitchen – although unfortunately no treats have been left out to sample!

The journey could be labelled to explain some of what’s going on in the classroom. Of course this might be helpful for visitors from outside of the school, but to those of you who know us already, I wonder who the first person to answer these questions will be:

- What time is it in the hall... and which packet ship is closest to the clock?
- Where can you see old bones floating around?
- Where will the train take you?
- Who are mining for tin and what’s strange about the plants growing in their class window?
- What does Will need to put away from the entrance foyer on Monday?
- Where could you find the *Junk*?
- Where could you go to buy some stamps?
- What animal can be found in both class 1 and class 5?
- Who’s having an argument in y0?
- Which teacher’s desk looks the busiest?
- What is option 3 tomorrow?
- How many eyes are watching you come upstairs?

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