



## An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2021; what a year it has been and we're only 6 days in to it! Teachers attended Inset training on Monday, looking at the term ahead and planning exciting and challenging learning opportunities. Although staff were prepared to continue teaching our children, there was a high level of anxiety and concern around the safety of teaching a full class when transmission rates of Covid-19 have increased at such a dramatic rate. The Prime Minister's announcement was greatfully received as recognition that schools are currently an unsafe environment, however the timing could not have been worse. Not only have parents had to make huge compromises at the last minute but we really felt saddened for the children who had gone to bed, hopefully feeling excited, thinking that they were due to return, meet their friends and carry on learning. Hopefully this lockdown will enable the country to look after the most vulnerable and enable us to be back to our buzzing social community before long.

The Marlborough community have, yet again, been wonderful in adapting to last minute changes. Teaching staff are having to turn plans around to enable remote learning whilst providing child care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Parents have been proactive in managing their own child care whilst working from home and balancing life. Our children have all been invited to meet with their classteacher via Zoom today and hopefully they have found this contact helpful to get them started on their remote learning journey. Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding during this transition stage.

### Childcare for Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children

We are currently offering child care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. A full list of the criteria was emailed to families on Monday night. We are currently experiencing a high level of need for child care and therefore **it is vital that children only take up a childcare place if their parents are working that day and are unable to keep them safe**. Please can parents who are working from home keep their children at home and only send children to school as a last resort.

In order for us to organise groups and ensure we have enough spaces we need to have childcare bookings in to the office by the Thursday of the previous week. If you already know your work patterns then places can be booked up until February half term.

### Remote Learning

The government have raised the expectations for remote learning and now want children to be continuing their learning experience as if they were in school. Older children have the ability to do some of this independently but we understand that for this to happen with younger children it will take time and effort for parents who are already juggling children, work and life. Keep communicating with your child's class teacher and let them know any barriers that you may be experiencing with regard to remote learning.

Each day your child's class teacher will hold a Zoom meeting to outline the day and make contact with the children. If children are not at the Zoom meeting they will receive a follow up phone call to check they are ok and that they know what the day's learning will include. Reception teachers will share their learning activities via Tapestry, Class 1 and Class 2 will share via Seesaw and Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 will share via Google Classroom. School staff are happy to have a go at trouble shooting technological problems.

<http://www.marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk/website>



### **Home Learning Packs**

If you are unable to access work sheets the office will be able to print out any papers that need to be written on. If you contact the office they can have the papers ready for collection. We will not be printing resources that can be viewed on screen.

### **Free School Meals**

The government are yet to produce guidance on provision for pupils eligible for Free School Meals but we will go ahead and provide hampers for next week. Families can collect hampers from school between 11am and 2pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. The government may switch to a voucher scheme but we will keep you informed of any changes once we know them.

### **Covid Cases, Symptoms and Testing**

Do not send your child to school if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19, someone in your household is displaying symptoms, someone in your household is awaiting a test result or someone in your household has tested positive.

If your child has been in school as part of our childcare provision you must inform the office if your child shows symptoms of Covid-19, is being tested, is awaiting a test result and the outcome of the test. Please continue to inform the office if someone in your household has a positive Covid test result, even if your child has not been in school.

### **Learning Out and About and In School for Child Care Groups**

For children attending school we will continue to have PE sessions and Outdoor Learning sessions. The EYFS and KS1 group will have PE with Vicky Pryor on Tuesday afternoons and the KS2 group will have PE with Plymouth Argyle on Thursday afternoons. Next week the EYFS and KS1 group will also be supported by Louise Tremewan and therefore they will be spending time on the school field on Monday and Tuesday; they will need wellies and very warm clothing.

### **Silly Santa Sponsored walk**

Sponsor forms and monies need to be returned to school by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. We had such wonderful feedback from the whole community about the joy and festive spirit our elves and Santa's brought to Falmouth. Well done to all the children for amazing walking, singing, jolliness and fund raising! Photos of the event can be found on our website:

[https://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/silly\\_santa\\_sponsored\\_walk\\_2020\\_/529393](https://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/silly_santa_sponsored_walk_2020_/529393)

### **Breakfast Club Changes**

Our Breakfast Club is now being provided by Plymouth Argyle. Ryan manages the Breakfast Club, providing breakfast and activities. Breakfast club starts at 7.30am or 7.45am. Please book your child's place for Breakfast Club a week in advance.

### **Online Safety**

*Think You Know* have resources to help families have a safer online experience.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>

### **Mariners' Projects**

Many thanks to the Mariners for finding exciting ways to raise money and bring the community together during the run up to Christmas. The Christmas Stocking and Decoration sale raised £165.72, the Strictly Christmas Dance Party raised £43 and the amazing Christmas raffle made a whopping £769! The development of the field space is still planned and we have already got an accessible toilet on the field so our child care groups can safely spend time in the fresh air.

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