



## An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

Dear Parents

On Thursday this week, I am attending a county-run conference which, as part of its remit, will cover the government's White Paper and its impact on Cornwall, including the continuing 'direction of flow' in favour of academies and, more particularly, multi-academy trusts. As the governors and I explained in our initial letter, back in March, concerning the unrealised plans to join Cornerstone, a chief reason for our doing so was the fact that so many schools in Cornwall have converted and that the county was thus reaching a 'tipping point'. The truth is that, if anything, the situation has become yet more critical: around half of the authority's (240 primary) schools have already converted and of those remaining I understand that over 70 have, as a direct result of the pressure put upon us all over the winter, filed for conversion by next Christmas. Essentially, the government does not need to force academisation upon us... the viability of the local authority and its capacity to support community schools is very much in question. I should know more by the end of the week, but what is not in doubt is the vibrancy of the school we have at Marlborough and our own capacity to draw on the strength of the community. These are interesting times in education, but with your active support they could provide exciting opportunities. The sponsored cycle ride on Sunday 10 July promises to be an event that can bring us all together and if it raises the sort of sums we've seen in the past, it will underpin a significant part of the work we would like to do on the grounds to make them more accessible for children throughout the year. Please look for any opportunity you can to share your skills and to make Marlborough a better place for children now and into the future.

Parents will be aware that another area of the DfE's upheaval has to do with assessment. Even without the department's well advertised administrative and security mistakes, the rest of the profession has serious questions with regard to the tests' relevance, their accuracy, usefulness and validity. There is plenty to discuss, but what cannot be denied is the maturity and focus that our children in class 6 put into the process this year – they proved that they were well and truly ready for their SATS... whether the tests were ready for them is another matter. They can now look forward to the celebrations and events that make up our summer term. For many of them this starts with our trip to Paris next week: we'll be leaving from Swanpool car park at midnight on Sunday!

**Well Done to Class 3 for their fine brass band performance this morning** – I was unable to join them, but what I heard was superb... especially bearing in mind the fact that they haven't rehearsed since before Easter! Some of them, and others who are learning a brass instrument through the school music service, may be interested to know that Pendennis Youth/Training Band is holding an open day at Budock Village Hall from 10:00 to 12:00 on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. The band would like to welcome new young players and does have some instruments available for those who would like to have a go.

If you are interested, further information can be obtained from:

[ea.allen@btinternet.com](mailto:ea.allen@btinternet.com)

(tel: 01326 315585) or

[glynthomas62@gmail.com](mailto:glynthomas62@gmail.com)

(mobile: 07960658164)



Last Week				Total		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Freeling	26	7	1 <sup>st</sup>	Fox	24
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chichester	24	5	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Freeling	23
	Walsingham	24	5		Swiftsure	23
4 <sup>th</sup>	Fox	22	3	4 <sup>th</sup>	Chichester	21
5 <sup>th</sup>	Swiftsure	20	2	5 <sup>th</sup>	Pelham	13
6 <sup>th</sup>	Pelham	18	1	6 <sup>th</sup>	Walsingham	12

### ART CLASSES

Saturday art classes for children aged 5-11, at King Charles church hall, starting Saturday June 11th.

See [www.primarypainters.co.uk](http://www.primarypainters.co.uk) or contact Becky,

07790567386



*RoGambier*

<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>

