



An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

2016-2017

Number 19

20 February 2017

Dear Parents

There was almost (I hope not a false) sense of spring in the air this morning – helped by the lengthening daylight – apparently just over 3 minutes a day at the moment, so half an hour's more light this side of the half term break. It was good to see the children ready for the school day and we do hope everyone manages to keep up with the prompt arrivals necessary to ensure a smooth start each morning

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there will be meetings for parents of children in years 2 and 6 on Wednesday, 22nd February 2017. The purpose of these meetings is to explain preparations and arrangements for next term's assessment period. y2 parents will meet at 15:30 in class 2 and y6 parents at 16:00 in class 6. These, and those for y1 and y0 parents arranged for a later date, are general meetings with a specific focus, additional to the start of year 'meet-the-teacher' evenings. We provided individual consultation times also in the autumn term – generally, these should suffice although some parents may wish to discuss their children's current learning and will be able to make appointments using the pages shortly to be opened on the website. In some cases, teachers may contact you request a consultation – please do not be alarmed by this as we are simply aiming to catch up with a few appointments or to let you know about some of the ways we are aiming to support different groups of children with the new curriculum.



Art club begins for juniors this half term and is now on Fridays after school from 14:00-15:30 commencing 24th February 2017 £7.50 for 5 sessions. Sign up at the school office (max 12 places)

Cirque du Ciel - returning March 2017

We are delighted to announce the return of our Circus Club which will reopen after school on Tuesday, 7th March.



Cross Country

Well done to everyone from the school who took part in the cross-country race on the final afternoon of last half term, and thank you to all the parents for your understanding and support as this had to be rearranged for an awkward time following the previous week's bad weather. The timeslot was further restricted by the next round's being arranged for tomorrow, 21st February, and we do have some runners who won through to the next event at Pool School. It was great that Marlborough was so well represented. Although, the runners came from both Penryn and Falmouth, places are awarded to the towns separately...

Last Week				Total		
1 st	Pelham	28	7	1 st	Fox	34
2 nd	Swiftsure	27	5	2 nd	Swiftsure	29
3 rd	Chichester	25	4	3 rd	Freeling	25
4 th	Fox	24	3	4 th	Pelham	20
5 th	Freeling	20	2	5 th	Chichester	16
6 th	Walsingham	14	1	6 th	Walsingham	13

... so, well done especially to the qualifiers whose positions are shown here:

y4	boys	Coby Baldwin	5 th
y5	girls	Sasha Gowers	4 th
y6	boys	Leon Shaw	6 th
y6	girls	Mia Patterson	2 nd
		Cordelia Iggulden	7 th

Come join us for Breakfast and fun

MESSY CHURCH is a **family** gathering with craft, games, songs, story and food, not like conventional church; that is partly why it's called "Messy".

The next gathering will be on **SATURDAY 11th March at ALL SAINTS CHURCH**, Falmouth, **09:30-11.30** with **breakfast** followed by activities etc.

Messy Church is free, but donations are very welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult please. For more information see www.messychurch.org.uk or find us on Facebook.com/Messy Church Falmouth.

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



TESCO Bags of Help – February 2017

We are leading the way with the TESCO Bags of Help scheme, so thank you to everyone who has voted for Marlborough's outdoor refurbishment project. The scheme is continuing to run for the rest of the month so please keep up your support each time you visit the shop and again, **PLEASE** tell all your family and friends to post their tokens in the slot under our name!

1st place £5000 - 2nd place £2000 - 3rd place £100

Keep us in poll position as this award would help enormously in ensuring that we meet our grounds improvement target.

Parents' Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the on-line parents' survey. With an enthusiastic rush at the end, the final response was a very good one, and I know that there were still a few people who were sorry to just miss the deadline.

This service came as a part of the assessment package we are using this year and should be available again for the future. Even without any previous data for comparison, it has already provided us with some useful information, and raised some questions too. We will be following these up as 'lines of enquiry' but in the meantime, thought you might like to know the main findings:

- 83 completed questionnaires were returned representing a response rate of 38.2% of **all** parents
- Parents gave an excellent score (86.5%) for the school's overall performance
- Of the parents whose children were not in their first year at the school 33% said the school had improved over the last year and 10% thought that the school's performance was worse
- Of the parents of new pupils, 32% said the school was better than they had expected it to be while 8% felt that it had not lived up to their expectations
- Parents are most happy with community spirit, teaching quality and computer access
- They are least happy with class sizes, library facilities and school communication
- The criteria most important for parents are children's happiness, developing confidence and potential and the quality of teaching
- Their least important criteria are library facilities, computer access and the use of exams and testing

The report is an extremely comprehensive one – running to 62 pages, and that's without including the individual comments, which have yet to be collated! With opinions on performance and priorities both being requested it is also a fairly complicated process to evaluate. For example, ideally those criteria which are most important to parents would also be the ones to which parents they award the highest scores. Conversely, it might not be so critical if areas which are not so highly valued, don't score so strongly under performance.

However, at Marlborough we are eager to do as well as we can for you and your children in every area of our service. It is pleasing that of all the 'gradings' provided (where, as with the Ofsted system, 1 = outstanding, 2 = good, 3 = requires improvement and 4 = inadequate) parents rated the school as 2 (good) in its Leadership and Management and 1 (outstanding) in the areas relating to the Quality of Teaching; Early Years; Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare; and Outcomes for Pupils.

There were also some very fair and pertinent observations, and the survey identified areas for improvement as being the use of teachers' feedback on pupils' work; e-safety; and the appropriate level of challenge. If you would like to pass on any views on ways that we can improve these areas, and also with school communication please do leave a comment in the post-box beside the office door. Constructive advice is always welcome and if you would like to provide it anonymously, we are of course happy to respect that.

Thank you



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