



## An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

2017-2018

Number 33

11 June 2018

*Dear Parents*

*Thank you to everyone who managed to make last week's meeting to discuss the governors' follow-up action plans for the Ofsted Inspection. I am providing a summary of outcomes from the discussion here and we should be able to send a more thorough report, including a copy of my presentation notes to parents who have requested information shortly. It was a relatively well attended meeting (up to fifty parents, staff and governors) and I hope that everyone who did come shares the view that there was a fair and honest exchange of questions and views. The main sense governors took from the meeting was that there is a positive desire to move forward as a whole school community and that everyone here is committed to the school and eager to support the children in a range of ways.*

### **Action Plan**

I opened the meeting by outlining developments since our previous inspection and describing the Development Plans that we have designed and used for school improvement over the past 4 years. We have benefitted from the guidance provided by School Effectiveness Cornwall and the NAHT Instead Review to help identify aspects of school life that do have required attention and that, whilst we recognise that not all planned targets have been met, the school has specific plans in place and is working towards improving those areas identified through the Ofsted process.

### **Governance**

Initial questioning concerned the role of governors, with particular attention to the transparency of the election and appointment of governors, the length of service and the structure of committees and working parties. Information concerning the governors can be found under the *Our School* pages on the website at <https://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/governors/7850>. The governors explained that we currently have some vacancies on the board and that having carried out an audit of skills are extremely eager to enrol governors with expertise or knowledge of legal and/or financial matters. Two such posts for co-opted governors need to be filled at the earliest opportunity. The local authority will shortly propose a replacement for Helen Turner who explained at the outset of the meeting that she had resigned her position last year and would be stepping down at the end of the summer term. A parent governor vacancy has also recently become available and an election will be organised for the start of the new school year.

### **Clerking**

The governors took the opportunity to ask if anyone present would be interested in taking on the role of clerk to the governors. This is a paid position requiring some training. Skills required include minuting meetings and guiding governors on procedure and minor legal matters. It can be an interesting and rewarding position and is currently being advertised. Further details will shortly be posted with job description and person specification on the school website. Please would all parents consider it!

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



## Parental Feedback and Involvement

Parents' response to the Ofsted request for feedback was felt to be low and concern expressed that the window of opportunity to access *Parentview* had been missed. In fact, all Ofsted's own letters of notification had been issued and the deadlines set by the inspection process: because the inspectors changed the period of inspection from one to two days there were time pressures and complications, not only in gathering parents views, but also other supporting evidence. With regard to parental engagement as a whole, which was also raised as a concern, Marlborough is extremely grateful for the support we receive. I explained that a *Friends of Marlborough* group had been disbanded in 2006 and replaced with a system of parents of children in y2, y4 and y6 leading social and fund-raising projects in turn. This ran successfully for some years, but was then replaced by the *Marlborough Mariners* which also ran some extremely positive, popular and successful events (eg a Family Treasure Hunt and the regular Sponsored Cycle ride), but has lapsed as parents involved have left. Every September and as events arise in newsletters we ask for assistance and invite parents to volunteer to get involved in activities, for example, the incredibly successful *Big Digs*. The traditional Apple Day is another example of this. Here particularly there was an honest exchange of opinions, the outcome of which has been an offer from Jon Christie and Lou Gall to hold a **meeting** to revive the **Marlborough Mariners**. This will be held **at the school at 18:00 next Monday**. We have a few events coming up – end of term fair, autumn sponsored cycle and Apple Day, for starters, so are very eager to enrol a team of volunteers to get involved: **All Welcome!**

## Communication – Website, Newsletters, etc

As ever when holding an open forum meeting the issue of communication was raised (the website is not seen as user friendly by everyone, newsletters are too wordy, notice can be late, etc). We acknowledged that systems are not perfect, but do our best through a range of methods to keep parents informed. Communication is a two way process and we do ask that parents access the website regularly and open newsletters. We do also provide texts, maintain class blogs and I am also always available at the school gate or by appointment. One parent suggested that improvements in Sport were an example of the school's response to issues raised and another identified the open classrooms every morning are a special feature of the school. Governors noted comments and will consider actions that can be taken to refine lines of communication. In the meantime, this is and remains an open school – please speak with appropriate staff whenever you need.

## Expectations

This led on to one parent asking what the school requires of parents and, given the opportunity, but off the cuff I came up with:

- Punctual school starts each morning
- Do the Reading and Maths home learning (counting & tables fluency) at home with children
- Always attend the September meeting with the head and class teachers
- Read the newsletter (save the website as a 'favourite' if not your home page!)
- Volunteer for activities
- Let us know when we're not getting it right

From the floor then came a request for Volunteer Help in the Kitchen and for parents to come and have lunch with the children – see below.



Friday's meeting closed with a few parents sharing observations and views with regard to the inspection report. Comments were very supportive of the school and everyone present eager to move forward with positivity and purpose. We would like to share the views so many parents, grandparents and members of the community have expressed concerning the school as they find it and to record these on our website. If you would like to add your views in writing please email the office.

In short – the focus of the meeting concerned parental involvement and communication. Governors will consider all points raised, but immediate issues to be addressed are:

**Governor membership** We wish to co-opt 2 governors with some financial/legal knowledge.

If parents know of suitable candidates please let us know.

There will be a parent governor election in September.

Do ask any governor or the school office if you'd like further information.

**Clerking**

We are advertising for a clerk to the governors.

This is a paid role with training provided – please ask if you are interested.

**Communication**

- Personal – speak to the head or class teachers, available every day
- Meetings – please come to the September Meeting (**Monday 17.09.18**)
- Website – save it as a favourite and keep a copy of diary dates etc
- Newsletter – this is issued weekly and a link sent to all parents

**Volunteering**

We do value and welcome any offers of help in class, at swimming, on visits, with social events, in fund-raising, in the kitchen, etc...

We would like to invite any and all parents willing and able to support the school in any way to arrange social events, organise fund raising activities, etc to a meeting at the school to be held:

**Next Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 evening at 18:00**

***The Resurgence of the Marlborough Mariners!***

Also, the **School Kitchen** is looking for some more **volunteers** to help serving our delicious healthy food to your lovely children!

If possible you would be available for a regular slot (weekly or fortnightly) from 11:30-13:00 to help serve the dinner – and, of course, a tasty lunch for you is included. An extra pair of hands at a busy lunchtime makes a huge difference to what the kitchen is able to offer. You could help make Marlborough lunchtimes even better!

Pop in to the kitchen for a chat if you would like to find out more – or email:

[kitchen@marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:kitchen@marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk)

Congratulations to:

Tilly, Luke, Sam and Lilia, the y4 tennis team who came third in the Peninsular tournament.

Matias, Scarlett, Coby and Bella for winning the Truro School Challenge Trophy.

The School Parliament for gaining the Gold Standard in the Healthy Schools Cornwall PADL Award.

Packet Points						
Last Week				Total		
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Chichester</b>	26	7	1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Fox</b>	34
	<b>Swiftsure</b>	26	7	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Swiftsure</b>	32
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Walsingham</b>	25	4	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Chichester</b>	30
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fox</b>	24	3	4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Walsingham</b>	16
	<b>Pelham</b>	24	3	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pelham</b>	14
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Freeling</b>	23	1	6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Freeling</b>	12

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






Moving on from the kitchen, Harriet Rutherford is planning to have at least 10" of her hair cut off to donate to a charity called the *Little Princess Trust* at the end of June. This is a charity which provides real hair wigs, free of charge to children with cancer. She is hoping to get some sponsorship for this too so that she can donate some money as well as her hair. She has set up a 'just giving' page, and would be grateful if we could help her with the fundraising: Thanks...

[https://www.justgiving.com/Harriet-Rutherford1?utm\\_source=Sharethis&utm\\_medium=fundraisingpage&utm\\_content=Harriet-Rutherford1&utm\\_campaign=pfp-email&utm\\_term=XWMQMy75k](https://www.justgiving.com/Harriet-Rutherford1?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraisingpage&utm_content=Harriet-Rutherford1&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=XWMQMy75k)



**Falmouth School's Community Sports Fair is this Wednesday at 18:00. There will be 18 different sporting organisations and clubs attending and there is sure to be something there that will be of interest any student wanting to develop a skill or learn a new sport.**




*Are you curious about the connection between creativity, art and conscious parenting?*

## The Artistry of Parenting

A creative experience for parents, carers and parents-to-be to reflect on your role in a creative and unconventional way, starting from artworks in our collection



**Thursday  
21st of June  
6pm  
Falmouth Art Gallery**

Limited spaces  
Booking essential by Friday 15th of June  
For bookings visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or Falmouth Art Gallery t. 01326 313863



**Do you have accommodation to rent in the Falmouth area?**

**Falmouth Marine School is looking for accommodation for our student intake for September 2018. Do you have a spare room to rent out, could you provide Bed and Breakfast accommodation or accommodation suitable for student rental or do you know anyone in this area who could provide accommodation for Further Education students (16-18 years) and Higher Education students (18+).**

**Students aged 16-18 would prefer to be in a family set up and would possibly require an evening meal.**

**Did you know you could rent a room under the Government's 'Rent a Room Scheme?'**

**<https://www.gov.uk/rent-room-in-your-home/the-rent-a-room-scheme>**

**Students are with Falmouth Marine School for a minimum of 1 year and maximum of 3 years. Courses run from September to June. Secure payments, deposits and references can be obtained. If you are interested or know anyone else who might be able to help please contact:**

**Liz Hellier HE Accommodation Development Officer on ☎ 07500 572546 ✉ [liz.hellier@cornwall.ac.uk](mailto:liz.hellier@cornwall.ac.uk) or Cathy Hendriks FE Accommodation Development Officer on 01326 310302 ✉ [Cathy.hendriks@falmouthmarineschool.ac.uk](mailto:Cathy.hendriks@falmouthmarineschool.ac.uk) Facebook: Cornwall College - HE Accommodation**

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

