



## An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

Dear Parents

After the Easter holiday closed with such spectacular storms on Sunday, and despite the forecast April showers ahead, it was a relief to start the new term with sunshine, especially as we've begun our summer's learning with activities based on overhauling the school grounds and improving the outdoor learning environment and opportunities. All the children's views have been sought through special meetings of the School Parliament and they are setting up 'Advisory Groups' to plan the tasks ahead for different areas around the site. We are eager for them to develop the responsibility to care for the fittings and their equipment, and to ensure that all that we develop in the weeks and months ahead can be sustained into the future. Just as with past Big Digs, we are very keen that parents feel very welcome to come in and help us. My hope is that future newsletters and flyers will include requests written by the children in their new 'advisory' roles!



As mentioned, to help us get started, we've invited every family to take part in a special **Big Dig Competition**. Plans of your ideas for outdoor learning and play need to be brought into school for judging this Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Among our wooded area you may be able to spot that the Cuckoo Pint is beginning to make its annual appearance. We've been talking about this with the infants as it's a fairly common plant (with a great range of names) but does produce poisonous berries around May time, so please don't let little ones play in this area.



Last term's exhaustive exploration into (and hasty retreat from) the world of Multi-Academy Trusts has I think taught us a lot about the process, and something of ourselves as a school. It has reaffirmed our belief in the school's strength as a part of the community and the staff and governors' sense of your support for our aims underpins the way ahead. Many parents have spoken to me of their concerns for all aspects of education at this time (eg. the new curriculum, testing, academies pressures and other political interventions). We pointed you to the government petitions site and I have since been made aware that a number of you have also come across other education based campaigns. Of course the school cannot and will not officially endorse any political organisation and, whilst certain aims of some interest groups may accord with our school ethos we could not authorise any action that might interfere with children's learning. That said, I think we should feel energised by the fact that nationally there is an increased interest in the challenges that lie before schools. At Marlborough, we need to ensure that we work together to support children's learning – particularly through this term's Outdoor Environment projects.

**Swimming** lessons for y1 and y4 begin next Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April for 6 weeks. We do need to ask for a voluntary contribution of £3.00 per week to help cover the cost of the coach and would appreciate any help with supervision on journeys and with changing!

**Watersports** for y3 and y5 will start on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May – again to help cover costs we need to ask for a £12.50 contribution per session (£100 for the whole 8 week period). I'll send details of a meeting for parents with next week's newsletter, but if you have any queries, or need to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to arrange to speak with me.

Thank you.

### Falmouth School Information and Transition Meetings - Advance Notice

Pip Iles, the head of Falmouth Lower School will be visiting Marlborough on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 and would like to invite any parents (especially of junior aged children) to attend a presentation from 14:00-15:00. For y6 children transferring to Falmouth, Brett Miners (head) will be speaking at the secondary school in the evening.

For parents of Reception class children, Miss Harry is still signed off – we hope to update you shortly.

**Clubs** – see attached (please note, Film Club will be taking a Summer Term break).

*Rogansier*

Spring Term Packet Points			
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Fox</b>	44	7
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Swiftsure</b>	41	5
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Freeling</b>	40	4
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pelham</b>	30	3
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Chichester</b>	27	2
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Walsingham</b>	24	1

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

