



An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

2016-2017

Number 30

5 June 2017

Dear Parents

Hopefully, despite what was for Whitsun some fairly half-hearted weather, the half term has given everyone the rest needed in the final run up to the end of summer break. Certainly the y6 children returning from Paris needed to catch up on some sleep – and so did the adults! The children were brilliantly behaved throughout our residential trip overseas, however and enjoyed the visit to the full: stopping at the Newfoundland WW1 Memorial Park on the way; walking through the historical heart of the city from the Bastille and Place des Vosges, stopping for lunch on the Ile de la Cite and continuing on through the Louvre to visit the Musee d'Orsay for a guided tour of 19th Century Art; climbing the Eiffel Tower and exploring the Parisian streets around the Sacre Coeur; and enjoying a day at Parc Asterix. You can see some of our pictures under the new *Paris 2017* page on the website gallery (<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/galleries/7810>).

Healthy Schools and Marlborough's Pupil Parliament

I wrote last time about some of the school's recent success in areas covered by the Cornwall Healthy Schools mandate. The School Parliament has now been confirmed as having achieved both Bronze and Silver award levels in the PADL (Proclaiming Active Democracy Loudly) scheme and representatives, including members of the Cabinet have been invited to a reward ceremony at the Council Chambers in New County Hall on Friday 23 June 2017. The Healthy School's team have again recognised that our Pupil Voice structure doesn't match the usual School Council approach, but acknowledge that it works hard to make sure that all children can play a part in making decisions at and for the school. The children have agreed a new constitution and are trialling this from now and through the coming year: the aim is to extend involvement for the infants more effectively following the hard work that all the children did for the review of our school grounds through 2015-2017. From time to time parents do ask about how we gather children's views and the subject came up, along with other questions at last term's Headteacher Coffee morning: anyone interested can find out more about the Parliament at <http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/parliament/7828>.

Communication Matters – Website, Newsletters and Dates

Other issues raised at the coffee morning highlighted the need to use the school website. Questions asked at the coffee morning, school gate and office so often request information that we do make readily available on the. For example, a full diary of events, which was sent to all parents in September, is copied onto the Term Dates page under the Information and Policies section. We really do strive to provide as much information in as good a time as possible and, for your ease and rapid reference the entries for the summer term are copied again here (03.07.17 added; 14.07.17 amended):

June

Mon	05.06.2017	Second Half Summer Term starts
Tue	06.06.2017	Swimming y0 and y2 (6 sessions until 11 th July)
Thurs	15.06.2017	Sports Day
Thurs	22.06.2017	Reserve Sports Day

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July

Mon	03.07.2017	y6 Leavers' Presentation
Thurs	06.07.2017	Inter-Packet Tournament – Cricket – Juniors
Thurs	13.07.2017	17:15 Full Governing Body
Fri	14.07.2017	Annual Reports y6 Leavers' Day
Fri	21.07.2017	End of Summer Term Swanpool Beach – gathering from 17:00

The 2017-2018 Term Dates are available on the website, but do not yet include the five closure staff training and development days for the year. Final arrangements have to be agreed with other schools where joint training or liaison is involved. I am able to confirm that the school is planning two training and preparation days at the start of term so that the children's summer holiday will include Monday and Tuesday 4th and 5th September, doors opening at 08:45 on Wednesday 6th. As always, we will send the full year's diary as soon as we are able.

Please do note the two following dates and keep them free:

Tue	19.09.2017	17:00-18:30 – Infant Parents Meeting with the head and class teachers
Thurs	21.09.2017	17:00-18:30 – Junior Parents Meeting with the head and class teachers

We find that children benefit from their parents' attendance at these meetings and this year with some significant developments it will be very important that every family is represented.

Parents were extremely supportive of our efforts to move the newsletter from paper copies to an on-line facility and generally this has been very successful for some time. However we know that to provide everyone with all the necessary information we need to encourage full use of the website. Following some valuable and helpful feedback, I am aware that the letter can be difficult to read on some mobile technology and so am taking advice to improve this. My hope is that a much easier to access newsletter will soon be available and from September we will send weekly email links to open that rather than attaching the PDF copy.

Update on Learning – Books and Reports

The new exercise books will now be used in all classes from the beginning of the new school year in September. You can't have failed to notice their delivery boxes filling the foyer shortly before half term, unfortunately too late for us to implement for the summer. This does at least mean that we are using remaining old stocks fully and children will be able to start their new classes together with the new common format up and running immediately they return. As mentioned at the beginning of term, there will be a new look to the annual reports, due out on 14 July. We have completed the new design: progress charts will accompany the next steps in English and Maths and information about learning covered in other domains will include effort and achievement grades. Teachers are now busy completing assessments and we think that the range of information now available from the new curriculum assessment software means that we will be able to pass on the progress information in a more efficient manner and clearer presentation. We can assure you that the sections parents say they value the most will continue with as much detail and as personal as ever.

Current Packet Points			Owing to y6's being away before half term, packet points were not collected but they will be included in the coming week's total.
1 st	Swiftsure	24	
2 nd	Fox	20	
3 rd	Peiham	18	
	Freeling	18	
	Walsingham	18	
6 th	Chichester	15	

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Year 6 Rummage in the Jumble Sale!



This Friday 9th June 2pm onwards

Class 6 are having a fundraising bric-a-brac/jumble sale. Please come along to pick up some magical bargains and treasures. There will be a tombola too and homemade elderflower fizz!

Any donations are very welcome. We would love toys, clothes, books, bric-a-brac as well as plants. Please bring to the school from Wednesday 7th June.

Thank you!

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