

## **NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2018**

Can I begin by apologising for this long newsletter, but it is packed with plenty of important information, including dates, times and important safeguarding advice.

### **Difficult Times**

Last week proved to be a difficult one for all staff, parents and pupils connected with St Clement's School. The conviction of Mr Le Masurier, along with subsequent media coverage, was a shock to us all. It raised the issue of how much information to share with the pupils themselves. Having taken advice from senior colleagues at the Education Department I decided to speak to the Year 5 and 6 children on Friday afternoon as many of them had received BSL lessons directly from Mr Le Masurier, although none of the children at St Clement's School had ever spent time alone, 1:1, with him. Some of the pupils had, out of curiosity, begun to ask questions amongst themselves and I wanted to reassure them that they were safe at school.

I am sure parents differ in their view regarding the extent to which the full details of the conviction should be discussed with their children. I have taken the line that the children needed to know that Mr Le Masurier had engaged in behaviour outside school that was completely inappropriate, and the consequence of the choices that he made makes it impossible for him to teach in our school, or any other school, again. I have made the decision that if parents want to discuss the matter in further detail, then they are free to do so. However, I am conscious that there are a large number of parents who I have spoken to that do not wish to do so, for fear of frightening their children. On Wednesday, I immediately spoke to the parents of our deaf children, some of which have been taught by Mr Le Masurier for a number of years. I have chosen not to speak to the children in the lower year groups as many of them will barely know Mr Le Masurier.

A number of parents came to see me towards the end of last week or contacted me via email to explain their concerns. If any other parents would like to arrange to meet me to discuss this issue please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

### **School Council Elections**

Last week, the children took part in our annual School Council elections. Candidates from Year 1 to Year 6 were able to put themselves forward for nomination for one of the two posts available to their year group. Voting was organised to take place on Thursday morning with the results being shared in the assembly later on Thursday morning.

The first task for our School Council members will be to meet up after the Half Term holiday to consider their contribution towards the States of Jersey Children's Plan.

### **Year 3 Egyptian Assembly**

Just a reminder to parents that our Year 3 'Egyptian' assembly is scheduled to take place this Thursday at 2.25pm. The children have really enjoyed studying this topic during the last few weeks. They loved their recent Egyptian banquet and are looking forward to sharing their learning with you during their assembly.

### **Online Safety Week**

This week is Online Safety Week, incorporating Safer Internet Day, which is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. The children will be discussing all sorts of online issues including personal details, in-app purchasing, photo-sharing and their digital footprint. To support this work I have arranged for our Community Police Officer to co-present an Online Safety meeting for parents after the half term break. In order to make the meetings as accessible as possible we have planned to have two meetings, one for Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 parents at 3pm in the hall (the children will be asked to watch a video in the Year 2 classroom whilst the meeting goes on) and one for Key Stage 2 parents at 6.30pm.

We hope that this meeting will cover a range of issues including gaming and parental controls. I hope as many of you can attend as possible in order to increase awareness amongst our school community.

### **Tide Pod Challenge**

The Education Department contacted me last week to warn of a safety issue that had been noted on You Tube / Facebook. The Tide Pod Challenge has become a recent problem in the US where young people have challenged themselves and their friends to post video footage of them biting down on small washing capsules sold by Tide. This obviously poses a large health and safety risk as the pods contain a variety of bleaches and detergents that should not be ingested. Whilst online examples have been noted in the US, searches for the term have begun to be picked up on monitoring software in Jersey. Can parents therefore be extra vigilant both with this type of product at home and also if they hear their children talking about this challenge.

### **PTA Disco**

Tickets are still on sale for this week's PTA disco starring DJ Pretty. Just a reminder to parents that we have changed the timings of this year's event. The disco will begin at 5.30pm and finish at 7pm. Can parents please ensure that they pick up promptly at 7pm so that staff and PTA reps can go home on time too.

### **Collaboration Event**

This half term's collaboration event is based around the use of ICT and is being split over a number of days. On Tuesday Key Stage 1 pupils will work together using ICT resources within school. On Thursday these pupils will then become the lead learners within the Foundation Stage to teach the younger children how to use these resources. On Wednesday, Key Stage 2 children will work in house groups to complete a variety of ICT based activities. Our Computing teacher, Mr Livesey, will also be involved in these creative activities which will allow the children to learn alongside each other.

### **Top Attendance!**

I recently had a meeting with our school Education Welfare Officer, Christian Mullane, who was exceptionally pleased with our attendance figures from the last academic year. Our overall school figure was 97.4% attendance, which is above the Island and UK average of 96%. Punctuality had also improved, although this is still an area that I feel we can work on. I believe that school's play an important role in preparing children for their future employment. Being punctual is one small way that we can achieve this. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that your children arrive at school at 8.40am, so that learning can begin promptly at 8.50am.

### **PTA 100 Club**

A big thanks to Mrs Allcock for organising the selling of 100 Club numbers in recent weeks. The winning monthly numbers will be pulled from a bag during the last assembly of each month. So, the winners for January were as follows :

1st Prize – Jodi Shoer won £22

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Anthony Allcock won £8

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Kasia Morton won £5

There are still another 11 draws with 33 chances of winning! If you would like to purchase your lucky number then please see Mrs Allcock or the school office. The prize fund will increase with more members.

### **Sign to Sing**

This week the children will participate in the annual 'Sign to Sing' event. This is the sixth time we have taken part in this National event. The whole school have been learning this year's song, 'Friends Forever', which is quite tricky to sign. We will be performing the song in Wednesday's assembly, alongside other schools and organisations across the UK.

### **PTA Family Quiz**

Following on from the success of our first family quiz night last year, we are planning to do even better this year! The date to keep free in your diaries is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March where teams of up to 6 people will compete to answer a range of questions for all ages. Tickets for this year's quiz will go on sale after half term, so watch this space!

### **Eco-Active Committee**

Last week, pupils also took part in annual elections in order to identify our Eco-Active representatives for each year group. Candidates from Year 1 to Year 6 were able to put themselves forward and voting was organised to take place on Thursday morning.

The Committee's first job for their next meeting is to discuss the impact of plastic straws on our environment and what the school can do differently to help make a difference.

### **Hair Bands, Bows & Uniform**

In recent weeks I have noticed a number of slightly peculiar twists on the school uniform around school. A number of children are coming to school with either colourful, extravagant bands for their hair, brightly coloured socks or jumpers that show their support a variety of football clubs. Whilst the hair accessories are not something I am familiar with, could I please remind parents that bands should be the plain blue variety and that socks and jumpers should follow the designated school uniform guidelines. These can be found within the School Handbook on our school website.

### **Parent Teacher Discussions**

Parent teacher discussions will take place during the weeks of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March. Each appointment will last for twenty minutes and the focus will be on precise targets for improvement in the areas of Reading, Writing and Maths. Parental feedback from recent years was very positive about these longer 'face to face meetings' where parents and teachers can have in depth conversations about progress and achievement. We are hoping to use an online booking system for appointments for the first time. Further information about this system will be given after half term. As in previous years, written reports will be provided for parents at the end of the Summer Term.

### **Year 5/6 Production**

Rehearsals are now well under way for our Year 5/6 production of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' later this term. Just a reminder that the afternoon dress rehearsal will take place at 1.15pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March with the evening performances on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March beginning at 7.00pm. Further information about tickets will be sent out after half term.

### **Netball Success**

Our netballers are competing well against a variety of school teams. Their shooting is improving now that they have new posts in the playground to practice with.

### **Football Success**

Our school teams have two fixtures left on the league calendar. Both teams have developed their skills throughout this year and have had super results recently. The 'A' team came from behind to beat V.C.P 4 – 2 whilst the 'B' team beat Janvrin on Saturday 4 – 1.

### **Spring Cross Country**

Over 700 children in Year 5 and 6 ran in the Autumn Term Cross Country event, which is an incredible number! The follow up event is planned to take place on the first Wednesday after half term, the 21<sup>st</sup> February. This time we have even more Year 5 and 6 pupils willing to give it a go! The organisation for this event is now so much better than in previous years when parking has been a major problem. Races will again be completed during the afternoon, beginning with the Year 5 girls' race at 1pm followed by the Year 5 boys, Year 6 girls and Year 6 boys respectively. This

is a great mass participation event, where some children enter to win, some simply to better their finishing position from October and others just for the sheer fun of the challenge. Whatever, the reason we wish all of our runners the best of luck – remember ... Aim High and Go For It !

### **Dates for the Diary:**

#### **Spring Term:**

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February Online Safety Week
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February Year 3 Egyptians Assembly at 2.25pm
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February Key Stage 2 Disco 5.30 – 7.00pm
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February Online Safety Parent Meetings – FS/KS1 3pm KS2 6.30pm
- Weeks of 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March Fortnight of extended Parent/Teacher discussions
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March Year 2 Mothers' Day Assembly at 2.25pm
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March PTA Family Quiz Night
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March Year 1 Animals Assembly at 2.25pm
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Year 5 Class Assembly at 2.25pm
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March Afternoon Dress Rehearsal – 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at 1.15pm
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March - 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at 7.00pm
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Last day of the Spring Term

#### **Summer Term:**

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April Summer Term Begins
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May School INSET Training Day
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May Liberation Day Holiday
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 9am Year 6 Leavers' Assembly