

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.

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 new School Council for this year is therefore:

Year 1 Daisy Longdin & Riley Lumsden

Year 2 Tilly Le Boutillier & Abigail Laird

Year 3 JD Dickson & Jack Ovens

Year 4 Ava Wakeham & Carly Fraser

Year 5 Lexie Dickson & Pedro Malta

Year 6 Joshua Ribeiro & Joe Northcott

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 6th 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

2nd Prize – Anthony Allcock won £8

3rd 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 9th 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. As a result, our new Eco-Active Committee for this year is :

Year 1 Ella Devlin & Archie Wilson

Year 2 Jemma Wery & Hanna Markiewicz

Year 3 Lacey Dickson & Joe Harris

Year 4 Izzy Aldridge & Evie Ross

Year 5 Alfie Crossley & Kevin Da Costa

Year 6 Megan Henson & Ellie Jenner

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 5th and 12th 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 26th March with the evening performances on Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th 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. Congratulations to Layla Dos Santos who has made it into the Island Netball squad this year. As well as fundraising by selling slime, Layla has been a fantastic role model to our younger netballers who aspire to follow her footsteps in the years to come.

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.

Congratulations to Joey O'Toole for gaining a place in the Year 5 Island Representative Football Squad. He will soon be leaving the Island on a 4 day tour around the UK playing against a number of academy teams, including Brighton, Reading and Bournemouth. We wish Joey all the best in the knowledge that he will be an excellent ambassador for our school.

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 21st 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 5th – Friday 9th February Online Safety Week
- Thursday 8th February Year 3 Egyptians Assembly at 2.25pm
- Thursday 8th February Key Stage 2 Disco 5.30 – 7.00pm
- Monday 19th February Online Safety Parent Meetings – FS/KS1 3pm KS2 6.30pm
- Weeks of 5th and 12th March Fortnight of extended Parent/Teacher discussions
- Thursday 8th March Year 2 Mothers' Day Assembly at 2.25pm
- Friday 9th March PTA Family Quiz Night
- Thursday 15th March Year 1 Animals Assembly at 2.25pm
- Thursday 22nd March Year 5 Class Assembly at 2.25pm
- Monday 26th March Afternoon Dress Rehearsal – 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at 1.15pm
- Tuesday 27th March and Wednesday 28th March - 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at 7.00pm
- Thursday 29th March – Last day of the Spring Term

Summer Term:

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