

SIR ROBERT GEFFERY'S SCHOOL – NEWSLETTER

8 January 2018 – Number 658

Please return Club lists by Wednesday 10 January.
Clubs start again w/b 15 January 2018

THIS WEEK:

Tue 9 Jan KS2 Theatre trip– Peter Pan
Collect from school at 5.15pm
Hi-5 Netball League 3.30pm
Wed 10 Jan Sportshall Athletics
Fri 12 Jan League Run - Cotehele

LETTERS HOME

A letter went home with years 4 and 6 on Friday regarding Sportshall Athletics on Wednesday – please return by tomorrow at the latest.

Pantomime: Collect at 5.15pm from school

The KS2 visit to the pantomime takes place tomorrow. To collect your children, we ask parents to come in the main door and then wait for pupils inside the hall. Their bags will be left around the outside of the hall so help yourself to your child's if you are waiting. We then ask for you to leave via the fire doors to reduce congestion. Children will be travelling on two buses and will be brought to the hall to be returned! As it is dark we have found this is the safest way to do it.

Staff Training

On the INSET the staff all had chance to find out more about current good practice related to writing and grammar and spelling.

Reading

Please do keep an eye on how much reading your child is doing. The more they read the better and the bigger the impact will be on their literacy work. Do read to them and share discussions about books.

Parents Evening

The days have changed slightly, it's now on Tuesday 6 and Thursday 8 February – look out for online booking codes in the next newsletter.

Happy New Year and Thank you

On behalf of the school staff a huge thank you for all the cards, best wishes and gifts that were sent to us this Christmas. They are greatly appreciated.

We hope everybody feels refreshed and ready for another learning journey this term.

SEN Parent Review Meetings for spring term

For all parents of pupils on the record of need, teachers will be in contact with you to arrange a convenient date and time for meeting with you during the week beginning 15 January. These meetings will be held to review the progress of your child and share new targets for provision in their spring term. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's provision, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Many thanks, Charlotte Clark (SENCO)

Census Day – Thursday 18 January 2018

We receive all our funding for the KS1 dinners based on the dinners taken on two days. One of these is in October and the other on 18 January. Chartwells have a special meal on that day as a celebration and incentive. It would be really helpful, even if your child does not usually have a dinner on that day and they are in Reception, year 1 or year 2, that they have one booked. It is a silly system, but if they do not take it on that day we have no funding for all the others they take. This means that we have to take money out of the budget to cover this instead of it being given from a different pot. Last year it cost us several thousand as not everybody who had meals signed up. If your child does not like the menu on the day, sign up and provide an extra snack box for lunchtime as well.

PLEASE PLEASE HELP BY BOOKING A DINNER ON THAT DAY AND PASS THE MESSAGE ON AS NOT EVERYBODY READS THE NEWSLETTER.

Menu Change: Thursday 18 January

1. Ham and Pineapple Pizza
 2. Macaroni Cheese
- Served with Chips, Garden Peas, Fresh Salad and Garlic Bread

More good news

We know that you will join us in congratulating Becky Blunt and her husband Phil, who are expecting a baby in June. Two babies in one year – our SRG family is certainly growing!

Attendance

I hope everybody will receive the data about their children's attendance this week. This is something we have to share and follow up. Every child is tracked on the computer and their attendance figures are recorded and analysed in school census information that is sent nationally every term.

It is good to see that many of our children have excellent attendance and only a few are late. Thank you, as it makes our work easier and prevents many hours of unnecessary follow up and discussions. Some schools have huge issues to face and then there is less time to spend on learning and the curriculum development.

We need to make all parents/carers aware of the following:

It is the law that all parents make sure that their children attend school. The government have now stated that children who attend for less than 90% of the sessions are classed as persistent absentees. The expectation is moving to at least 95% attendance.

If you had a 'holiday' last term and your child was ill as well, it is possible that they fell into this group. Do make sure you look at it and do query it if you think it is not right! We will be uploading this on as part of the census in the next few weeks.

These things are what we have to analyse and make parents aware of:

Patterns in attendance

Most worrying are the pupils who have a regular day off, not that there are many in our school compared to most but a few are showing. This means that children may have the same day off each term or a different one regularly over the weeks. There are days when any one of us feel tired or would prefer to be doing something else, but it is amazing how much learning takes place every day. Children with gaps in learning are often those who miss days. They feel as though others are ahead because they have missed the day before

sessions. Parents who do not send their children to school when they are fit enough can actually cause their child to lose confidence and self-esteem unnecessarily. Whereas we do not want sick children at school, some children do seem to miss quite a few sessions, do make sure they are in school whenever possible. An Education Welfare Officer (EWO) may request a report from the GP or the school nurse may make contact if a child's attendance is causing concern.

Lateness

A few children are missing the first few minutes of maths and causing disruption by being late into sessions. Please can the collective New Year's resolution be to make sure all children are in for registration by 8.40 at the latest. Remember doors open at 8.35 and the registers taken at 8.45.

Unauthorised absences

Without a reasonable explanation, children will not have a code that will record a reason that will authorise absence. The EWO monitors children with these. Please do inform the office on the morning of absence and if letters are sent home requesting the information please return to update our systems. Apologies if you think you have already given a reason we do try to make sure that information is recorded immediately, but there will be times when systems do not work.

Thank you for all your help with this and I hope that by the end of this term nobody will be under 90% attendance!

Guinea Pigs Over the holidays, two of our guinea pigs on the farm unexpectedly gave birth to 6 babies. Supposedly, all of our guinea pigs were female! The baby guinea pigs will be available within 4 weeks. If you are interested in having one or more, please let the office know.

Homework Grid

Please find the spring term Homework Grid at the back of this newsletter.

The children need to complete at least one activity each week, their aim is to gain more than 12 points over the half term. There must be evidence of all the activities chosen.

Health and Safety

Fire drills

We are doing these when the children are in different places and at different times this term. Safety of children is paramount and it is important that everybody is aware of what to do and their role, should there be a fire.

Tesco Bags of Help

Please Vote for SRG School and Community Farm at Callington's Tesco Store

SRG School & Community Farm is bidding for funding from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative. We are one of three groups that have been shortlisted – but we need to gain the most votes to be awarded the funding. Voting is NOW OPEN at the Callington Tesco store, and will remain open throughout January and February. Customers cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop. Please help and tell your family and friends. The Bags of Help initiative is supported by money raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores, which sees grants of up to £4,000, up to £2,000 and £1,000 raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores awarded to local community projects.

Kindness Elves Ideas...

Be a secret kindness agent and do something for someone else today without them even noticing!

Solar Meter Reading this week: 61,611 kW



Parent Workshops this term:

Tue 20 Feb: 2.30pm Grammar
Tue 27 Feb: 2.30pm Phonics

Spelling and Grammar (SPAG)

Usernames and passwords for spag.com will be coming home shortly, please look out for them.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

THIS WEEK:

Tue 9 Jan KS2 Theatre trip– Peter Pan
Collect from school at 5.15pm
Hi-5 Netball League 3.30pm
Wed 10 Jan Sportshall Athletics
Fri 12 Jan League Run - Cotehele

NEXT WEEK:

Tue 16 Jan Yrs 2 & 4 – Zero Gravity
Wed 17 Jan Hi-5 Netball League 3.30pm
Thu 18 Jan Help for Heroes fundraising
Census Day: Change of Menu
Tue 23 Jan Yrs 2 & 4 – Zero Gravity
Wed 24 Jan Yr 5 – Plymouth University
Thu 25 Jan Cake Sale in aid of Hillside School
Mon 29 Jan Stem Hub Visit (Yr 5)
Tue 30 Jan Yrs 2 & 4 – Zero Gravity
Able Writers – Bishop Cornish
Thu 1 Feb Apple Store (Yr 4)
Tue 6 Feb Parents Evening
Thu 8 Feb Stem Hub Visit (Yr 6)
Parents Evening
12-16 Feb *Half Term*
Thu 22 Feb Cake Sale in aid of Hillside School
Wed 28 Feb Apple Store Visit (Yr 5)

Piano and Singing Lessons

Mrs Suckling will be starting lessons again tomorrow, Tuesday 9 January.

Landrake Messy Church

Saturday 13 January from 4-6pm at Landrake Chapel.

* Crafts * Games * Stories * Food *