

SIR ROBERT GEFFERY'S SCHOOL – NEWSLETTER

19 March 2018 – Number 667

CLUBS:

Clubs finish this Friday, 23 March.

Netball club will not run this week due to a netball competition.

Dance Club will not be on due to the Spring Fair

THIS WEEK:

19-23 Mar Yr 3: Grp 1 Swimming every day

Tue 20 Mar Residential Meetings:
5.30pm Barton Hall
6.30pm London

Wed 21 Mar House Hockey Competition

Thu 22 Mar Home Learning Exhibition 2.30pm

Fri 23 Mar Maths Masterclass
Grass Track Cycling
2.30pm Spring Fair
3.30pm Easter Treasure Hunt

Sports Relief: Easter Mufti with hat

All mufti donations will go to Sports Relief

Trip Letters

Please, please check your child's book bag every evening as we are sending home letters most days. We do need the slips back ASAP so we know you're aware that the children will not be on school premises at that time.

Uniform Shop

Just a reminder that we do have a school uniform shop on a Wednesday at 3.30pm.

London/Barton Hall Residential

The final payments for these two residential trips are due by the end of March. If you have any queries, please let us know.

Residential Meetings - Tuesday 20 March

5.30pm: Barton Hall 6.30pm: London

The meetings are for parents only. The children will have their own nearer to the visits.

Car Parking

If you are getting out of your car to escort children into school, please use the playground, not the carpark.

If parking in the carpark, please do not use the disabled space as there are those who need to use it and are unable to.

Farm Rota

The farm rota is now up in the office for the Easter holidays – if you'd like to come and visit the animals and help feed them, please write your name on the list.

There are instructions in the office and in the farm shed, should you need them.

Landrake Run

Thank you very much to Helen Ralph for organising our very successful Landrake Run yet again – the amount of work she puts in every year to ensure it all runs smoothly is amazing.

Well done also to all those who ran and thank you to everyone who helped out in one form or another.

Please see the next page for Helen's report.

Spring Fair – Friday 23 March

2.30pm Spring Fair

3.30pm Easter Hunt for children



Volunteers are needed to help serve refreshments and cakes (and again, all donations of nut-free cakes/biscuits would be gratefully received).



Competition



Plant your own garden of Gethsemane in a seed tray – make sure it's named. 50p per entry.



Tea Towels will be on sale at the reduced price of £3 each or £5 for two.



Lamb will also be on sale at the fair also – if you would like a specific cut of meat (leg/rack), please let the office know.

Coming Up

RE Week

We will be welcoming Daya during this week. She is a great friend to our school and leads brilliant Hindu and Sikh workshops.

Warburtons will be leading bread making workshops over today for Year 4 (now postponed as they couldn't make it due the weather), tomorrow with Year 5 and Wednesday with Yr 6.

LANDRAKE 2018 INTER SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY RUN IS A GREAT SUCCESS

On Friday 16 March, the school held its famous annual cross country run, which is now in its 33rd year. The run is a 2 mile course which goes across a variety of fields, through woods and across the famous slope and marsh by the River Lynher. The weather was perfect for the run and 630 children took part from 40 different junior schools in the area.

Congratulations to the 88 Landrake Runners who completed the run and there were some fantastic results from our runners: (sorry if I have missed anyone out!)

Axel B (490) Theo B (535) Poppy C (432) Ben C (459) Lucas C (597) Megan D (588) Oskar D (258) Harry F (583) Eliza F (551) Lauren G (582) Jack K (308) George K (570) Isabella M (458) William R (301) Matthew S (568) Oliver S (561) Shiloh S (420) Eddie T (505) Charlie V (584) Hazel B (536) Samuel B (228) Merryn B (419) Oliver C (440) Jamie D (247) Gracie F (602) Ruby F (274) Alfie G (356) Thomas H (81) Phoebe H (544) Megan HH (534) Olivia J (617) Lottie K (616) Kamora K (615) Ava O (296) Mackenzie P (113) Alice P (267) Edward P (402) Thomas R (181) Hope R (562) Hazel S (547) Oliva T (403) Joel T (149) Ruby W (468) Hayden W (22) Shea W (73) Seren W (394) Harry A (70) Daniel B (229) Johan C (47) Abbie C (171) Lily C (252) Rose C (242) Katie C (580) Leila C (581) Abbie D (251) Owen G (104) Rachel H (428) Jamie H (106) Masie H (572) Taran H (481) Dulcie N (574) Ellie S (456) Rosie S (485) Erin S (370) Archie W (177) Emily A (64) Isaac B (124) Sophia C (384) Katie D (439) Ruby D (51) Hannah D (359) Rhys E (302) William H (134) Toby H (303) Apryl I (138) Tom K (309) Euan L (125) Oliver M (199) Lucy PJ (413) Harry R (543) Lauryn R (406) Alice R (167) Sophie S (365) Rachel S (170) Maddie T (323) James K (255)

The run was a huge event to organise and without the help of many people the event would not have been such a success – my personal thanks to:

- The 48 marshals who made sure that the children got round the course safely
- Marshalls who helped with the parking – they did a great job!
- Friends of the school for selling refreshments to spectators and providing drinks to all the runners
- Parents that kindly donated biscuits/cakes to sell
- Parents that helped with parking the cars
- Phil Congdon for allowing cars to be parked on his land on Pound Lane
- Ian Carvell for getting the traffic no waiting cones from Saltash Town Council
- Two back runners and the two front “hare” runners which included an ex SRG pupil Drew Clarke
- The local farmers who allow the run to go across their land – Stuart and Penny Maddever, Jonathan and Rachel Pearn, Peter Brewer
- Adults who helped at the finish line for handing out individual ticket results to the runners
- Adults who recorded the top thirty boy and girl finishers
- Adults who helped with registration of the schools
- Peter Ralph for printing certificates, numbers and info sheets
- Julie Curtis – Head teacher and the other members of staff who offered their support on the day
- The school office for answering lots of telephone calls about the run over the past few weeks!
- Thanks to anyone else who I have forgotten that helped on the day

Helen Ralph – Cross Country Organiser

Cross Country

Congratulations to Ruby D, who was selected to represent Arena East Cornwall at the Cornwall School Games Primary Cross Country Final in Newquay last Thursday 15 March. Her parents would like to pass on massive thanks to Helen Ralph and SRG for giving her so much opportunity to run and improve – “this school is the reason our daughter runs and loves it so much!”

PlayPod

Today we have launched our PlayPod. We hope that the children will really develop their play from the many creative and imaginative opportunities that will be available. Dan will be coming every day for the first week and most days next week to support the learning experiences. The lunchtime staff have all undertaken training and are ready to support the development of play. I hope that this will give the children the chance to play and explore as many of you did without the reliance on technology.

The PlayPods in schools over the country have reported that lunchtimes are improved and the impact has been:

- Happy, engaged children
- Significantly fewer incidents and accidents
- Children returning to class ready to learn
- Varied play that promotes imaginative thinking

At SRG, we want the children to be active during lunchtimes and the PlayPod will allow this to happen through taking more risks and managing their own risk. We may initially see a slight increase in bumps and bruises, but we hope this will allow the children to learn their own boundaries, which will help keep them safer in the future.

The children will be able to build dens, dress up, create boats and planes and even pull each other in crates, etc. New scrap will be delivered every few weeks and there will be an information session for parents on **Wednesday 18 April at 3.30pm.**

If you have unwanted dressing up clothes or den building sheets, etc. we can make use of them in our PlayPod.

We will be developing our new play policy over the next few months but we are committed to this because we know how important it is and backed up by research.

Every Child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child.

“All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities.”

Benefits of Play

- The development of a problem solving mind-set.
- Exercise
- Improving resilience through “developing communication skills, a positive attitude, a problem solving approach... the ability to plan, a belief in control, and a sense of humour”
- Developing future adults who are creative and effective in the social and economic sphere
- Helping children’s learning as research has shown they are happier; more engaged and responsive; interact more with each other; and are more engaged with the world around them if they have regular positive play opportunities.
- Satisfying some of the children’s need and want for risk taking.

Nowadays children are often prevented from learning about risk and as such all staff have been trained in risk benefit.

Risk Benefit Assessments

“Safety must be considered at all stages of play provision but... inevitably, there will be risk of injury when children play, as there is risk of injury in life generally. We must not lose sight of the important developmental role of play for children in the pursuit of the unachievable goal of absolute safety.” – The HSE

So, in line with the guidance from the UN, Play England and the HSE SRG aims to provide children with: “challenging, exciting, engaging play opportunities, while ensuring that they are not exposed to unacceptable risk of harm”. The primary methods for holding these two objectives in tension with one another are risk benefit assessments. These documents are simple to understand, and focus on reducing or eliminating the following:

1. Serious risks
2. Risks that by being eliminated do not reduce the benefits of play
3. Risks that are not foreseeable by the children

Having spoken to many schools with Play Pods and explored the positive impact of the Pod, we are really pleased to be giving our children this opportunity.

Do come on **Wednesday 18 April** to find out more.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

THIS WEEK:

Mon 19 Mar	Able Writers
	<i>POSTPONED Orienteering – St Stephens</i>
19-23 Mar	Yr 3: Grp 1 Swimming every day
Tue 20 Mar	Residential Meetings 5.30pm Barton Hall 6.30pm London
Wed 21 Mar	House Hockey
Thu 22 Mar	Home Learning Exhibition 2.30pm
Fri 23 Mar	Maths Masterclass Grass Track Cycling 2.30pm Spring Fair 3.30pm Easter Hunt

Sports Relief: Easter Mufti with hat

NEXT WEEK:

26-29 Mar	Yr 3: Grp 1 Swimming every day
Mon 26 Mar	KS1 Newquay Zoo Trip Songfest
Tue 27 Mar	Yr 5: 12 th Night at Plymouth Uni Yr 4: Book Event: David Lawrence
Wed 28 Mar	Yr 6: Science Show at Saltash.net
Thu 29 Mar	1.00pm Easter Service
Fri 30 Mar	Residential final payments due Good Friday
<i>Fri 30 Mar – Fri 13 April – Easter Holidays</i>	
16-20 Apr	Yr 3: Grp 2 Swimming every day
Wed 18 Apr	3.30pm PlayPod parents' info
Fri 20 Apr	Biathlon
Sun 22 Apr	Big Dig
23-27 Apr	Yr 3: Grp 2 Swimming every day Yr 5: Barton Hall Residential
30Mar-4May	Yr 3: Grp 2 Swimming every day
14-18 May	SATs Week
21-25 May	Yr 6: London Residential
28May-1Jun	<i>Half Term</i>
Mon 4 Jun	Back to School
Wed 13 Jun	Sports Day
Fri 22 Jun	Summer Fair
Fri 13 Jul	Speech Day
Fri 20 Jul	1.15pm Leavers Assembly

Solar Meter Reading this week: 62,614 kW



LOST PROPERTY

Green M&S cardigan – labelled Alice G.

School and Community Farm Big Dig

The farm is run for the benefit of all children so that they can learn and understand the responsibilities of keeping and looking after a range of animals. We also grow vegetables and flowers in raised beds and a poly tunnel.

We are having a **Big Dig Sunday** on Sunday 22 April from 2 – 4pm.

Would you like to come and help? We need to move soil and have a good clean up after the winter.

There will be hot chocolate and cake for all. Marshmallows will be toasted as well.

Please wear wellington boots as it can be muddy!

Also, if you have any free time to help feed our donkey, Polly, the guinea pigs, chickens and Biscuit the pony at weekends and during the school holidays, please call into the office for more information.

Easter Service

Our Easter Service will be taking place in St Michaels Church at 1pm.

You will be able to sign your child out from the church after the Service.

PE kits will need to be taken home that day.

Thursday 29 March: Menu Change

1. Fish fingers with chips
2. Bean and Potato Burrito
3. Jacket Potato

SONGFEST TICKETS

Tickets for the Saltash Songfest concert on Monday 26 March are available from the Hall for Cornwall box office and can be bought online - www.hallforcornwall.co.uk or by phone - 01872 262466.