



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

After-school Clubs RUNNING

- Tue:** Tag Rugby, Homework
Wed: Tri-Golf, Construction, Games, Homework
Thu: AR Read/Quiz, Homework, Cookery
Fri: Cross Country, AR Read/Quiz, Homework, Cookery

School Trips

- Yr 1: Saltash library
- Yrs 3-6 Zero Gravity

Trip slips to be returned:

- Y4: Bodmin recycling visit
- Rec: Library visit
- Yr 2: Bodmin recycling visit

We spend a LOT of time chasing for consent slips – please help by returning ASAP

Monday 11th

- Rec/Yr 6: Weigh and Measure
- Primary Maths Challenge
- Y1: Library Visit
- Yr 5/6: Zero Gravity Trip

Tuesday 12th

- Yr 3/4: Zero Gravity Trip
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Wednesday 13th

- Parents Evening

Thursday 14th

- Parents Evening

Friday 15th

- Last day before half-term.
- Back to school Monday 25 Feb:
- Yr4: Bodmin
- Yr R: Library

Other

- **Violin lessons** will not run tomorrow, as Nicki is unwell, lessons will be made up later in the year.
- **Parents Evenings:** www.schoolinterviews.co.uk KS1 event code: gkw43 | KS2 event code: t2x5v

Sports News

Netball

Huge congratulations to the netball team who have successfully made it through to the Caradon Netball Finals. They displayed resilience, team work and fantastic sportsmanship, even overcoming injury to finish top of the two tournaments run between our cluster schools.

Thank you to Sarah S who also gave up her time to help oversee the team with Luke as I was umpiring. So proud of you all. - Miss Appleby

The Famous Five

Well done to the following five pupils who have run consistently well at the league runs all season and have qualified for the Cornwall School Games East Cornwall race next Wednesday. Abbie D, Abbie C and Rose C have all qualified from Year 6, Hayden W from Year 5 and Shiloh from Year 4. Well done all and good luck!

Sportshall Athletics Update

Exciting news... I have just heard that our Year 5/6 team has qualified for the Arena Sportshall finals which will be held on 20th March at Saltash. If you remember from last week's newsletter, we had drawn on points with Bishop Cornish, and only one school could go forward to represent the Saltash Cluster in the finals. When we counted up all the event wins, Bishop Cornish had won one more event than our SRG team and would therefore qualify instead of us. However, the organisers of the event have now said that two schools can go through to represent Saltash, so well done to the SRG team – we're off to the finals!

Cross Country League Run update further into newsletter

Curriculum at Sir Robert Geffery's

We have some different approaches to development of learning and an exciting curriculum. Sir Robert Geffery's is always a very busy, but exciting and thriving learning community. Not everybody will know about how things are planned and how what we offer may be different. Over the next few weeks I am going to include information in the newsletter for you. It will be later added to our website and then as we review, you will have a better understanding. Personally I am really pleased that Ofsted and other agencies are keen again to see a broad and balanced curriculum, as we have always made sure that our children have enjoyed a very creative curriculum that also develops knowledge and learning skills. When many schools narrowed their focus and children spent the majority of their day on English and Maths and learned other subjects in this way we continued to deliver a creative curriculum linked to topics and taught by subject experts. The afternoons therefore could not just continue. Trips and visits were extended and not reduced and so much exciting learning happened in different ways.

Our intentions were and remain that children would leave Sir Robert Geffery's with good basic skills in English and Maths but also a thirst for learning and an ability to know themselves as learners and also how to find out more.

How our Curriculum is planned

Children in Year 1 and 2 have the same termly or half termly topic and aspects of English and Maths and the foundation subjects link to make the learning purposeful. Our regular whole school theme weeks enhance this alongside the numerous visits and visitors that provide all with first hand experiences, both on and off the school site.

Topics in the KS1 two year programme start with a key question and the children also participate at the planning stage, discussing what they would like to learn.

Topics over the years have been adjusted to fit in with local and national events, for example WW1 was a new topic in October 2018 in line with the centenary of the war.

In KS2 there is a four year rolling programme and once again it has been adapted to meet local and national opportunities.

We actively teach children to be involved in their learning and this is developed through the school. One consistent thread is the embedded learning reflections and dialogue between pupils and teachers in the form of self-assessment. This has been well used since 2005 and helps pupils to become really involved in their own learning. Peer assessment is also used regularly in all subjects.

The school has been involved in the development of thinking skills and learning skills for many years. All children take part in learning forums and school evaluation is supported in these sessions. During these sessions children have developed and reviewed learning charters, learned about Building Learning Power and share ideas with children in their own key stage. In every lesson the children are introduced to a learning question and these include a Bloom's Verb and a Building Learning Power skill. Subject specialism teaching in KS2 results in children being taught by all four teachers and so a common topic approach means that the skills developed are planned carefully but with common language and outcomes. Writing in the morning links with this.

To make sure that teachers are not de-skilled in teaching all areas and to give children a variety of learning we also have regular theme weeks.

Theme Weeks held annually

Autumn 1	Humanities and Citizenship
Autumn 2	DT resulting in Christmas Bazaar where items are made by children and sold as a business enterprise

Spring 1	Science Week
Spring 2	RE Week
Summer 1	Health Safety and Fitness
Summer 2	The Arts Outdoor Learning

Unique aspects of our curriculum

Outdoor Learning

With our extensive grounds that include a farm, forest school areas and field every child has an hour a week session developing outdoor learning skills in the afternoon

We use our minibus to build in off- site learning regularly, the visits list for 2018-2019 lists the trips undertaken show such a wide range and can be seen on the website.

Music

We are fortunate to be able to offer a wealth of musical opportunities. At present Mr Hambly, who trained with us through school direct, is our coordinator and now works part time delivering music in school. As an ex-Marine Bandsman, his passion has resulted in him writing a school anthem and other songs for special occasions ie. the Opening Song for the Cornwall Youth Games. Children in Year 4 have a weekly brass lesson using the school set of instruments. We also have a class set of ukuleles and drums so that class sessions can be held.

Singing is strong and every child participates in a Christmas Musical at Christmas and we have a second play for Year 6 in the summer term. Due to the talent and commitment of our staff, and we have a girls' choir, a boys' choir and a school orchestra. Peripatetic lessons are held weekly in drumming, violin, brass, piano, clarinet, flute, saxophone and guitar.

Scholarship places are available and funding is available for those who are eligible because of low incomes. Music is a school priority and a real strength of the school.

ICT

We pride ourselves in the quality of the hardware we have that is regularly updated and constantly used. We are fortunate to have many laptops, computers and ipads and will be having chrome books in the near future. All rooms have a clever touch board and can access the hardware easily. The school opens the ICT suite at 8am every day, where school staff support learning and homework it is also staffed daily till 4.30 where a home learning club operates. At lunchtime, once again the suite is also open and again support for learning is given.

Knowing that children can be highly engaged using and enjoy ICT based activities, the governors have supported their access to educational sites outside the school day as well as within.

Mymaths

Education city

Mathletics

Spellodrome

Tables Rockstar

Purple mash with 2 simple software

During the past two years, we have taken up the opportunity for teachers and pupils to participate in Apple Store workshops and now have 10 spheroballs that are used for programming. ICT is also an enrichment session on a Friday afternoon, where children get another additional opportunity to develop their skills.

Art

The school has a kiln and many art resources for the children to use. The talent of the staff members who work with the children ensures the skills are taught and developed before a final product is created. For example a Poppy Wave can be seen displayed in the Bible garden of the school. Canvases line the walls of the corridors and the art related to the topic of the term is well displayed for all to see.

The displays in the classrooms are vibrant and enhance our environment and from the time you enter the school building the high quality of display reflects learning of our pupils.

PE

PE has always been a strength of the school as we have always thought that a healthy body aids a healthy mind.

We held an Active Mark Gold since 2004 and have not looked back since as we have now become a Platinum Sports School Games Awarded School

These are not just badges because the PE curriculum inside and outside school hours is phenomenal.

We offer extracurricular activities in netball, gym, football, sportshall athletics, basketball, dance and cross country running.

Because all staff run an activity and did before PE funding, we also have additional support from outside coaches to extend further.

In 2018-2019 we have offered basketball with the Plymouth Raiders, tag rugby with Plymouth Albion, cheerleading with Zero Gravity and tri-golf with a professional from St Mellion and the take up is always high.

Coming Up Next

Enrichment

Humanities

More about teaching of Maths and English

RE

Learning is a partnership

Do make sure that you come and do bring your child with you to talk to the teachers during our Parental and Learner's Consultations. If you have not booked there is still time before Wednesday.

Books and reading

Although we still have guided reading sessions, we are also using class texts to introduce different books to children. We are fortunate to have many half and whole class sets. Cat is amazing at organising, finding and sorting this. The books we have been using this half term have been linked to our topic and writing. It has been good to see children's progress when we look at accelerated reader. Our accelerated reader programme has certainly helped the children develop skills and also our end of KS2 reading data has shown the progress made by those who are using and quizzing regularly. Thank you to all parents who are encouraging and reminding children to read regularly and to quiz at home and school. Hearing reading, sharing books and discussing vocabulary and the text is one of the best and most important things you can do.

KS1 Library Visits

The first visit last week gave all children in Year 2 the opportunity to go to the library and find out more. It was planned as part of our motivation of reading, library skills and finding out more about books.

Well Done

Another Sporting Success

Well done to the netball team who have qualified for the Caradon Round having won the Saltash Area Tournaments.

Miss Appleby has ably coached our teams for the past few years and her skills have led to many successes. We are fortunate to have someone with passion in this area.

This year she has also organised the tournament for all the schools and her attention to detail has stood out. It is not only our netball players that have benefitted but all our local primary schools.

Church Anniversary

Tuesday 30 April is the 750th anniversary of St Michael's Church. They will be holding a service on Sunday 28 April, please make a note of this date in your calendars as we would like children to be there, in uniform, to be part of the service.

Headlice – Reminder to check regularly

A good time to check over half term!

Look at the link below for more helpful information.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Sentences of the Week

She felt as if she was on top of the world and a glow of happiness spread through her.

Kitty tried to smother her laughter, but it exploded as a snort.

Farm Rota

Please come and write names on the farm rota – we need the animals to be fed and watered over half-term – they like to have visitors. The rota is on the wall just inside the office

AWARDS

Be the best you can	Kate B	Phonics	Charlie D
Courtesy	Leyvyn S	Player of the Week (netball)	Rose C
Demonstrating Values	Zac J	Positive Attitude	Daisy HH
Eco	Erin S		Edmund F
Effort	Ruby P	Progress	Oskar D
	Libby C		Gracie N
	Shea W		Nyana E
	Lillie A		Victor H
	David B		Rachel H
English	Isavella B		Keira B
Excellence	Evie P	Reader of the Week	Katie C
	Taran H	Reading Star	Millie S
	Harry A	Resilience	Daisy I
Friendship	Beth B		Jack K
Good Learning	Joshua G		Ava O
Good Manners	Callum C		Melody E
Great Progress	Theodore S		Jess B
Growth Mindset	Ewan G	Role Model	
	Samuel M	School Ambassador	Theodore S
Helpfulness	Tilly G	School Role Model	Harry F
Home Learner	Edie C	Spelling Bee	William W
Literacy	Poppy T	Star of the Week	Nathaniel K
	Sidney W	Thinking	Tom H
Mathletic Points	Poppy H	Writer of the Week	Shepherd W
Maths Progress	Abbie C		Johan C
Maths Superstar	Charlie O		
	Alfie B	Piano Award	Megan HH
Perseverance	Alice P	Singing Award	Seren W
	Fleur B		

CROSS COUNTRY CLUB NEWS!

Twenty-two children from the cross country club took part in a cross country league race held on 8th February 2019 at Lanhydrock Park, near Bodmin. The conditions were hard, with children running against strong winds. There were some fantastic results, many of the children achieved personal bests and Abbie C (Y6) won the Year 5/6 girls race. Thank you to the parents who transported their children and their ongoing support with their children.

Year 3/4 Girls: Bea T (13) Shiloh S (24) Poppy C (41) Sienna B (60) Effie S (70)

Year 3/4 Boys: Oskar D (29) William R (63) Joseph A (75) T (77) Ben C (78)

Year 5/6 Girls: Abbie C (1) Abbie D (5) Lily C (23) Alice P (36) Merryn B (43) Ruby F (45)

Year 5/6 Boys: Hayden W (14) Shea W (17) Tom H (18) Owen G (24) Johan C (26) Tom R (42)

Eco – battery recycling

Coming home tonight are boxes to fill with used batteries – all instructions are on the box!

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

18-22 Feb	Half Term
Mon 25 Feb	Yr 4: Bodmin Recycling Centre Reception: Library Visit
Tue 26 Feb	Yr 2: Bodmin Recycling Centre Yr 4: Bikeability L1
Thu 28 Feb	Cake Sale (nut free cakes please)
Fri 1 Mar	League Run
Mon 4 Mar	Football Match: vs St Neot
Fri 8 Mar	Landrake Run
Wed 13 Mar	Marine Biology
Fri 15 Mar	Race Night at the Village Hall
Mon 18 Mar	Football Match: vs Lifton
Wed 20 Mar	Yr5: Jnr Life Skills – Fire Station
Thu 21 Mar	Cake Sale (nut free cakes please)
Fri 22 Mar	School Disco: KS1: 5.30-6.30 KS2: 6.45 – 8pm
Mon 25 Mar	Football Match: vs Windmill Acad.
Thu 28 Mar	Maths Masterclass Yr 3/4: Farm & Countryside Day
Mon 1 Apr	Football Match: vs Darite
Thu 4 Apr	3pm: Home Learning Exhibition
Fri 5 Apr	NSPCC Assembly 1pm Easter Service
8-22 Apr	Easter Holidays
23Apr-10May	Y3 swimming every morning
Wed 24 Apr	Quadkids
29Apr-3May	Yr 5: Barton Hall Residential
Mon 29 Apr	Football Match: vs Delaware
Mon 6 May	Bank Holiday
Mon 13 May	Football Match: vs St Neot
Wed 15 May	Yr 1/2: Cricket Match
Thu 16 May	Cake Sale (nut free cakes please)
Mon 20 May	Yr 6: St Dennis Recycling
Tue 21 May	Yr 5: Cricket Match at Duloe
Wed 22 May	Sports Day
Thu 23 May	Maths Masterclass
27-31 May	Half Term
Mon 3 Jun	Inset Day
17-21 Jun	Yr 6: London Residential
Wed 24 Jul	Last day of school
Thu 25 Jul	Inset Day
Fri 26 Jul	Summer Holidays

Found

Camera bag (with lens and SD cards) – possibly left at Christmas plays. Come to the office if you think it might be yours.

Landrake School Run

Friday 8th March 1.30pm

The school are holding their famous school run, which attracts over 600 junior children from over 30 different schools in Cornwall, to take part in running the 2 mile course which takes in the famous salt marsh and many hills! All monies raised go towards buying equipment for the school and benefits all the children, not just those who regularly attend the cross country club. We need parents to help with marshalling the course, help with parking, serving refreshments to all the runners and spectators and help at the finish area. A separate letter will be sent to all parents asking your help. You would need to be available from 12.15 – 14.15. If you need any information about the event, please contact Helen Ralph via the school office, who is organising the event.

Saltmill Park

February Half Term: Multi-Sport Club on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st from 10am to 3pm. The club is for 8-12 year olds and is £15 for each day. There is a link on our Facebook page to book and pay. [Facebook Saltmill Park](#)

- We also have a daily after school drop-in activity where everyone is welcome to come along for a kick around with their friends from 3-5pm. Only £2 per player.
- Parents and grandparents: Walking Football every Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm, only £3 each.
- Sling Swing Activity in our function room for new mums. This is at 11am on a Tuesday
- Finally if you work shifts or drive taxi's or buses, or just fancy a day time kick around Tuesday's from 11am to 2pm is an informal drop in for grown-ups and only £2 per player.

This summer we hope to offer a **free** school holiday activity that includes a healthy meal and this will be specifically for 8-13 year olds who are eligible for free school meals. I'd be delighted if you're keen to promote this to those children directly, or allow me to do so in whatever way works for all parties.