



# Newsletter

AUTUMN 2017 – NUMBER 4 – THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER

Dear Parents and Carers

## Harvest Assembly

We will be holding our federation Harvest Assembly on Friday this week, so there will be no Celebration Assembly in either school. As you know we are collecting for St Petrock's and Exeter Foodbank. You can see a combined "wish list" from Exeter Foodbank and St Petrock's on our facebook page. I would be very grateful if you and your children could gather as many items from the list as you can manage and bring them into either school reception tomorrow (Thursday) or Friday morning at the latest. I will then display these for the children to see in our Harvest Assembly. Unfortunately, as we are having a combined assembly, there will be no room for parents. Sorry!

## Buggy Park

I've just heard today that the Buggy Park in the Infant's has been "un-manned" on a couple of occasions. My apologies for this. I have now sorted the issue and there will be someone there every day to keep an eye on our future pupils!

## School Attendance

We have recently analysed our attendance data and there are some actions we are taking as a result. I'd like to let you know what these changes are. Firstly, a reminder that holidays in term time can't be authorised. Absences of any description during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances through the completion of an S2 request. If you do choose to take your child out of school, you run the risk of a legal meeting and/or fine. In some cases this can lead to court and further prosecution. Remember, those children who are in school more than 95% of the time are on average significantly ahead of those children who are in school less than 90% of the time.

We have also noticed that punctuality is an issue for some children. Register opens at 8:50am for the Junior school and 9:00am for the Infant school. Children arriving up to fifteen minutes after this time will be marked late in the register. Any child arriving more

than fifteen minutes late will be marked as U in the register, which is the equivalent to a half-day unauthorised absence. That means the registration period for both schools is fifteen minutes after the beginning of morning school.

**All parents should be aware that poor attendance could lead to prosecution and/or a penalty notice (currently £60 per child, per parent).**

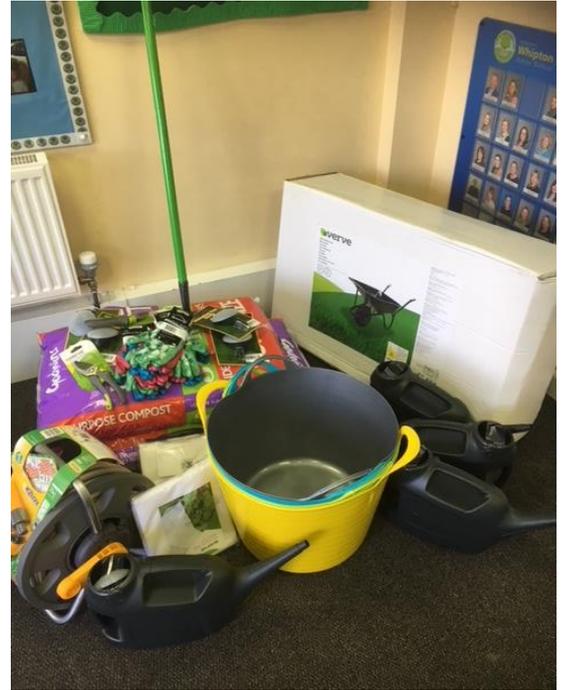
## Sickness Bug

Many of your children were struck down by the D and V bug that tore through both schools before the break. I'm usually immune to this sort of thing but it got to me too. As I mentioned last half term, the school has had a deep clean of key areas and all rooms have had an anti-bacterial "bomb"; we employed a commercial cleaning firm to do this work. We also ensured that all toys have been disinfected and all play-sand removed and replaced. I've spoken to the children about the need to wash and dry hands after using the toilet and I hope you can reinforce this with them.

## Outdoor Play – Wellies at Whipton

We have been sending out little snippets of information about how we are planning to change our lunch times, initially for the junior children and then for the infants later in the year. From 14<sup>th</sup> November, all children who bring named wellies in to school in a named bag will be able to play on the field at lunchtime. We are gathering lots of "loose" resources to aid the children's imaginative play and they will also be free to play in the woodland area. We have a couple of surprise treats up our sleeves as well, but more on that later. In the meantime, make sure your children have their wellies ready to go.



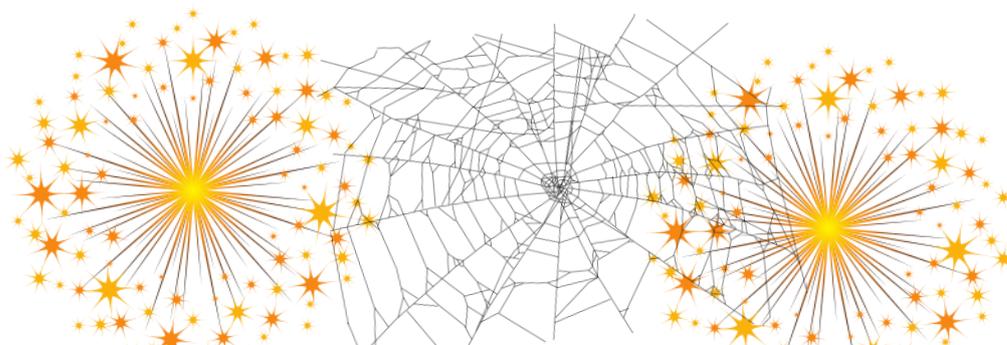


## Green-fingered PSA

Above are a couple of pictures showing two of the ways our PSA has helped make our schools brighter and more attractive. The first is a collection of plants for Leah's Memorial Garden. The second is a collection of gardening equipment for use by the Gardening Club. Remember, every time you support a PSA event, you are helping to raise money for these "extras" for our children. Look out for upcoming PSA events on our Facebook page.



It seems to have been a long time coming, but our new nursery building is almost complete. The building itself is done and the safe play surface was laid this week. Our lovely new furniture arrived yesterday and is currently being assembled. There has been a bit of a delay with the final landscaping and with the covered area above the safe play surface, but this should be sorted soon. We are looking forward to moving our youngest children into the new building. Once in and settled, we will be arranging a grand opening to give everyone who would like to, an opportunity for a look round.



## PSA Disco and Movie Night – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Movie night in the infant hall for infant children and families: 4:30-5:30 Doors open 4pm. 50p per person and a choice of three movies with the majority vote on the night. Snacks and drinks to be sold.

Disco in junior hall: 4:30-5:30 for years 3&4 and 5:45-6:45 for years 5&6. £2 each which includes drinks and goody bag on leaving. Junior library will open for parents and siblings to wait and purchase drinks and snacks.