



# Newsletter

SPRING 2018 – NUMBER 5 – THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

## Dear Parents and Carers

This half term has really run away with us; it's a while since my last newsletter and lots of things have been happening in our schools.




We are really pleased that all our nursery children are in the same area of the school following the re-fit of Sycamore Class. The children and staff are revelling in the new surroundings and enjoying the new resources. The atmosphere is calm and very welcoming. Because of this, we are all but full, with over 100 enrolled at nursery. Here are some of the children learning about "over and under"! Check out Facebook for more.



## Things to do in May Half Term

- The go-to website for all community services in Devon is 'Pinpoint'. It has recently become more mobile-friendly.  
[www.services.pinpointdevon.co.uk](http://www.services.pinpointdevon.co.uk) Just type in the category you want eg: activities or services, then type in 'Parents and families'.

- If the weather is not so kind you may want ideas for inside play. Check out the toy libraries in Exeter. It is only £6 to join for the year and this covers both libraries. You just need to turn up with the money, complete a simple form and then choose toys to take home with you. There are activities for children up to age 11. They have a good supply of outside toys. Toys are priced individually from 30p to £1.20 for larger items.
- The Merry Go Round is based in the Scrapstore on the edge of Belmont Park.  
[www.mgrtoylibrary.org/merry-go-round](http://www.mgrtoylibrary.org/merry-go-round)  
The Scrapstore is fantastic for everything arts and crafts if you want to get creative with your children this holiday.
- Ideal for Whipton, 'The Beacon Centre' has just opened its new toy library on Fridays (9.30-12.30). It's called the 'Spinning Top' and will be open throughout the year including school holidays.

## Morning Registration Times – a reminder

A few people have said they are confused about our changes to registration times. These are the changes:

- School starts in the Infants at 9.00am and in the Juniors at 8.50am. This is no different to what we have been doing.
- We have shortened the registration period to ten minutes. That means registration closes in the infants at 9.10am and in the juniors at 9.00am. If children arrive after those times they will be marked as an unauthorised absence.
- If a child builds up a number of unauthorised absences, we will pass that information on to the Education Welfare Office who could take legal action if improvements are not made.

## KS2 celebration assembly

There will be no celebration assembly this Friday in KS2 because of the Y4 residential. It will be held on the first Friday back after half term.

### Reading for Pleasure

I am one of those people whose surname is very appropriate. I read a lot. I read for work and I read for pleasure. I read books, my Kindle, Private Eye, surf magazines, newspapers, the lot. I want the children in our schools to get the same pleasure from books as I do, so after half term we will be introducing four exciting and engaging reading for pleasure sessions per week. Teachers are already planning the activities their children will be doing and I have set aside quite a bit of money in the school budget to improve the book-stock in our libraries and classrooms. I will be taking a group of children to the schools' library service on the Tuesday after half term to choose some books. In the meantime, I have a task for you all: I would like to receive as many photographs as possible of families reading. The possibilities are endless – reading books at home, reading labels in the supermarkets, dad reading the paper, mum reading a Hayne's Manual, reading up a tree/at the beach/in the park. In fact, photographs of any sort of reading. Simply email your pictures to [admin@whiptonbarton.org](mailto:admin@whiptonbarton.org) and put either Infant Reading or Junior Reading in the subject line. I will then make displays of these in both schools.



### Breakfast Club

Mrs West has been struggling to keep numbers up for our weekly breakfast baps. It's a real shame as not only is it a great start to Wednesdays, it's a nice social occasion. Unfortunately, we are losing money on this and so will either have to stop completely or go to once a month. I will put confirmation on Facebook after half term.

### Positive response to uniform

Since I reminded you all about uniform, I have noticed an improvement, so thank you for that. It is important that we keep this up and the office will be calling parents of any children who come to school without uniform.

### Cake Sale for St Petrock's

A group of boys in KS2 have been working with Mrs Hirst on a project to support the charity St Petrock's in Exeter. They decided that they wanted to raise money to buy sleeping bags. Their first venture, which they organised themselves, was a cake sale. It was a success and we are all proud of their efforts. Well done boys!



### OPAL lunchtimes

You will have all received a letter inviting you in to share in the fun of our lunchtimes on the field. We are offering parents/carers/grandparents etc another opportunity to join their child for an extended lunchtime on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June from 12.20-1.30, to see first-hand just how stimulating our lunch times have become. You will also have the opportunity to order a school dinner to eat with your child on the field, or to bring your own lunch along with you. Lunchtime will begin at 12.20 for all children, including the Year 1 and 2 children. If you would like to order a school lunch for yourself, please book in the school office by the morning of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June and the cost will be £3. It would be good to see lots of you there. You will also see that we have identified two climbable trees on the field and the children will know the rules about this. After you have enjoyed your time on the field, we would be happy for you to stay behind and give us a hand tidying things up. On our weekend tidy, we had three parents: Mr Holland, Miss Trout and Mrs Bamsey. Big thanks to them and all the staff who helped out then.

### OFSTED Meeting for Parents

You will remember that I said we would hold a meeting to inform you of what we will be doing following the recent OFSTED inspection in the Junior School. That meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 9.00am in the Junior School Hall. There will be tea and biscuits...

**Have a great half term; I hope the sun shines on you! Don't forget the reading photographs!**