



Newsletter

SPRING 2018 – NUMBER 4 – WEDNESDAY 28TH MARCH

Dear Parents and Carers



At the time of writing, nearly 70% of you have downloaded the Marvellous Me app and are now beginning to receive messages about the marvellous things your children are doing in school. Don't miss out if you are one of the 30% who are not yet part of what we are doing. Don't underestimate the power of parental approval!

PSA Update

The bingo was a great success last Friday; we had more people in the hall with their eyes down than I've ever seen before. The PSA had good feedback from the night and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We made a profit of £391.00. The PSA would like to thank all the children and parents who kindly donated items or money on the non-uniform day which helped make some amazing prizes. Well done and a big thank you to all involved. I'm always impressed by how many people stay behind afterwards to help clear up.

Parents' Evenings – keeping you informed

We had a good take-up for parents' evenings in both schools, although not all parents who signed up showed up. Our teachers have made efforts to rearrange missed meetings, so if you have not yet seen your child's teacher, please see them to arrange alternative times. Interestingly, in the Junior School OFSTED Parent View responses, 25% (7 people) said that we didn't inform them about how well their child is doing in school. As well as Marvellous Me, we have two parents' evenings a year, two written reports, access to teachers every morning and will, in the

summer term, be giving you access to your child's termly assessment information in KS1 and KS2. These are all ways in which we keep you up to date about how your child is doing.



Apple – Free Easter Holiday Activities

The Apple Store in Exeter is running some amazing [coding sessions](#) during the Easter holidays. If your child fancies learning coding with some droids RB-D2, BB8 or Sphero, learn how to make a movie or story-telling on iPads, then simply book a free session. All sessions can be booked on the Apple website. Go to <https://www.apple.com/uk/today>, click to find the store location and then scroll down to find the sessions you want.

School Lunches

As you know, we've launched a new menu for after Easter; giving the children more of what they want but still maintaining high nutritional values. I've noticed a few positive things about lunchtimes in the junior school recently. They are quieter and there is on the whole, less mess on the floor. However, there is still a lot of food waste – children simply not eating what they have been given. I will be looking at this after Easter. We have an industrial size compost unit which at the moment cannot cope with the amount of food waste. I have spoken to Mrs West in the kitchen and she will ensure that children are not given too much food, but we will in future be a little more insistent that children finish their food. I'll give you more information next term.

Even more to do at lunchtime!

As part of our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) work, we have just taken delivery of the next batch of equipment for the children to use at lunchtime play. We have five colourful wheel-barrows on the field (and are shortly to be receiving two, four-wheeled trolleys)



and an assortment of high-quality trikes and scooters in the Infant School. As you can see from the photographs, they are already proving a huge success.

Dogs on site

We have had a couple of reports about dogs coming onto the school site with parents recently, particularly a black springer spaniel seen off its lead. Our policy is for no dogs to be on site at all, I'm afraid. That's not because I'm not a dog-person, it is because we have 495 inquisitive children and I do not want to run the risk of a child being bitten. That and an aversion to dog-poo. Thanks for your cooperation.

PE Kit

We have noticed that an increasing number of children regularly do not have their P.E. kit in school. It is part of our school policy that all children change into their full P.E. kit. This is a white, or house team coloured t-shirt, black shorts or legging/tracksuit bottoms. They also must have trainers/pumps. P.E. kit should only be taken home at the end of each half term, unless it gets particularly dirty. If your child uses their P.E. kit for an after school club, then they must either change back afterwards or bring their kit back in the next day. So on the second Monday back after Easter (23rd April – St George's Day: he always had the right kit!) we will be having an assembly where all children need to



change into their P.E. kits - staff included, and we will have a good look at what proper PE kit looks like. Mrs Crocock is going to gather spare kit in various sizes and put it in individual draw-string bags. Any child without kit will be given the kit from the bag and their shoes put in the bag for safe-keeping. The kit will then be exchanged for the shoes at the end of the session. At Whipton we value our P.E. lessons and being healthy. It is vitally important that children are prepared and can take part fully in their lessons. The two photographs show you what proper kit looks like!



And finally

Have a lovely Easter break. I hope the weather perks up and Spring finally lifts everyone's spirits. We look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 17th April (not Monday as that is a staff training day).