



March 2023

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

What a wonderful Spring term it's been! The children have really enjoyed their art and narrative learning outcomes from their big questions this half term. Do come in and see our art displays this week at the end of the day!

Thank you for your tremendous support for the school. The parent survey was, once again, incredibly positive. We know we'll never keep everyone happy (although we'll keep trying!!) and we will act on your feedback.

It was lovely to see so many of you at Church on Mothering Sunday and we're hoping to have similar numbers at future Services too. I know we were all thrilled to see the children joining in and appreciating their Mums.

We hope you enjoy our Easter photos too that will be loaded onto Class Dojo and Tapestry this week. What a lovely week it's been for Egg Rolling, Easter Bonnets and all things Easter. It's been super seeing the children having such fun and enjoying the celebrations in school. A massive thank you to our brilliant PTFA who have worked so hard and enthusiastically, to raise funds for the school. We really do value the support you give us.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter, that we have some sunny days and that you can spend some quality time with your families. We look forward to seeing you on 17th April for the start of the Summer term.

Best wishes,

Katy Burns Headteacher





VILLAGE PARKING

We recently received a communication from Brixham Police regarding parking around the school. A Torbay Councillor had contacted Brixham Police regarding a Fire Engine, which on 15th March had difficulty passing vehicles at the rear of School. The Police were not called to this incident, but if the circumstances are as reported to the Councillor, it is concerning that emergency services could not navigate through the Village.

The Police will be looking to work with Torbay Council & the Councillor involved about the wider, long term issues of parking in Galmpton.

We reiterate our requests to you all - please park with care and consideration within the Village.

Whilst we realise not all the parking will be school related, please do park further away from school premises and refrain from parking around the Oak tree at the rear of school.

April's Day - February

A huge thank you to all our generous and supportive parents and carers, as well as to extended family members who sent in contributions for April, our Y2 little girl, who is currently in hospital, on the long road to recovery. The final count was £490.63. That's really going to help the family going forward.

Lost Property

Please ensure every item of your child's uniform is labelled. We continually have lots and lots of clothing which can't be reunited with owners and ends up being made available to others.

Y5 Open dates at Secondaries

Y5 Parents and Carers may like to review secondary school websites for all open events to assist with transition plans and preferences. There are lots of dates from March (Torquay Boys & Girls Grammars) through to July.

Cake Sales

FROGs have confirmed that recent cakes sales for YR-Y5 **have raised a whopping £606**. Thank you to everybody for their generosity in the supplying and buying of cakes. FROGs will communicate how the proceeds will be used.



Torquay United Monday ASC

Are you aware that if you are in receipt of Free School Meals, or your child has an EHCP in place, they are currently entitled to a free place on Torquay United's Monday after school sport club. Please contact the school office to book your child on. Any remaining places are then offered out to each class on a rotational basis.

Girls Football Match

10.2.23

Our Y6 girls went to a tournament at South Devon College back in February. There were a number of schools competing. The girls had never played before as a team but showed great perseverance, determination and teamwork, improving with each game, leading to winning one of their matches towards the end of the tournament. They showed great sportsmanship and were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Well Done Team!



SEND Forum

Our SEND parent/ carer forum is a small but committed group who meet regularly to talk all things childhood. This is an inclusive group and children do not need to be on the Special Educational Needs register for parents / carers to access this group. Recent sessions have included; Educational Psychology drop-ins, an input about "masking" from Kate Anthony (school EP), discussion on the school's new behaviour policy and general supportive conversations around food, sleep and transitions. Upcoming topics will include a sensory workshop from the Occupational Therapist and we also have some parents coming to share their learning from the 'Timid to Tiger' course which is a parenting-based approach to managing anxiety in children. Please do get in touch if you'd like any further information or to be added to the WhatsApp group run by parents / carers.

Kind regards

Mrs Fisher



School Uniform

Please do ensure that children arrive into school in correct uniform and jewellery should only be stud earrings. With Summer on the way, please see the details for uniform below.

Winter Girls and Boys

Grey skirt, A – line skirt / grey trousers
(No turn– ups on trousers)

Light blue polo shirt **(not 'T' shirt)**

Maroon sweatshirt

Maroon/Grey/black tights or
white socks suggested for all

Sensible, black coloured low-heeled
shoes **(not trainers or boots)**

Summer Girls and Boys

Optional blue / white checked summer
dress from beginning of Summer term to
the October Half-term / grey shorts
or trousers

Light blue polo shirt **(not 'T' shirt)**

Short white or grey socks suggested for all.

Sensible, black coloured low-heeled shoes
(not trainers or boots) Black or white
sandals may be worn with socks

Hair

It is requested that hair should be:

- Natural in colour
- Long hair should be tied back
- Extremes of fashion are not acceptable within school, ie shaved heads / tramlines.

PE / Games

A plain white 'T' shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls - preferably slip-ons.

Children in Years 3-6 may also wear suitable warm,
blue joggers/tracksuit for sporting activities.

Attendance

The DfE have been in contact with all schools and academies, highlighting the importance of attendance, instructing all schools to address low attendance.

Our whole school attendance is currently at 95.54% and those children who have lower than 95% attendance will have been contacted and it will have been raised during recent parent teacher meetings.

As you will see from the table below, attendance under 95% is a cause for concern and 90% and less goes from unsatisfactory > serious cause for concern > critical.

Attendance Data for the period 7.9.22 – 24.3.23 (Target is 97%)	
Whole School	95.54%
Reception	94.69%
Y1	96.64 %
Y2	93.71 %
Y3	96.83 %
Y4	95.57 %
Y5	96.00 %
Y6	95.15 %
Well done Y3, you are our half term attendance superstars. Keep it up!	

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days of Attendance	Learning Hours Lost, 8.45am-3.15pm (not including play/lunch times)	
				EYFS/KS1	KS2
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10	10.5
Good	98%	186 days	4	20	21
	97%	184 days	6	30	31.5
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5	39.38
Cause for Concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5	49.88
	94%	179 days	11	55	57.75
	93%	177 days	13	65	68.25
	92%	175 days	15	75	78.75
	91%	173 days	17	85	89.25
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95	99.75
	89%	169 days	21	105	110.25
	88%	167 days	23	115	120.75
	87%	165 days	25	125	131.25
Serious Cause for Concern	86%	163 days	27	135	141.75
Critical	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5	149.63
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5	160.13
	83%	158 days	32	160	168
	82%	156 days	34	170	178.5
	81%	154 days	36	180	189
	80%	152 days	38	190	199.5

Each month reports are generated on attendance and letters are regularly sent to families relating to any low attendance.

Please do be aware that the Local Authority can see each school's attendance. We follow LA guidance and our own attendance policy and, will refer any unauthorised absences for penalty notice once the 10 session threshold has been reached.

Please submit any absence requests to the office for consideration for each date your child will be absent from school – we need to be informed of all absences including funerals, weddings, dance exams etc.

It is the school's responsibility to account for each and every absence in term time and we are reliant on your assistance with this. If there is any doubt whatsoever about absence, enquiries

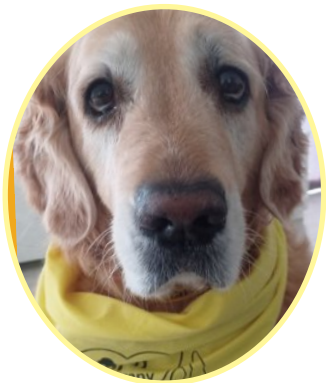
will be made directly to the parent/carer and some form of evidence for absence may be requested – this is always the case if school is notified of absence due to illness prior to or following holiday absence.

If the threshold for a penalty notice has been met, all relevant information is then sent to the LA for a decision on whether they will proceed with a penalty notice. Surprisingly we submitted information to the LA for 6 penalty notices in March alone and for this year to date, there have been 12 referred to the LA.

We would take this opportunity to remind you that we have scheduled non-pupil dates to fall straight after the Summer half term holidays. These dates may make holidays more accessible to our families.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Well, what fun we had. The children thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day. We read 28,366 pages for our Grand Read, smashing our target of 10,000! We managed to raise **£1594.19** in sponsorship, plus **£681** on go fund me ... a massive **£2275.19** in total. Thank you to everybody for your hugely generous fundraising activities for the Bristol Children's Hospital Charity.



OBI THE THERAPY DOG

We had our first visit from Obi the Therapy Dog as part of the "Paws and Read" scheme. Everybody enjoyed themselves and there were lots of lovely smiles during the sessions.



YR Art Gallery

Reception class held their own art gallery event, showcasing their amazing 'Eric Carle' inspired art work. It was really lovely to have so many parents and grandparents in class and for them to have a go at some of the techniques and skills that the children have learnt.



Y6 Art Enquiry

'How can I paint a botanical watercolour that would be worthy of being included in Darwin's journal?'

Some fabulous artwork from our Y6's who have enjoyed the learning and absolutely surpassed themselves in producing botanical watercolours.



Honey the Lamb's Visit to YR

Reception class were really fortunate to have a visit from 3-day old baby lamb Honey last week. We have been learning all about signs of new life so this was a really nice experience for the children. They asked lots of questions and found out lots of information about lambs. Thank you so much to Laila and Tracy Ryan for bringing Honey in to visit us.



Y4 Churston Library Visit

We went to learn how the library is organised. We all chose a book that we signed out using our new class library card. To fit in with our learning about writing a story with a villain, a Librarian read an excerpt from *The Demon Dentist*.



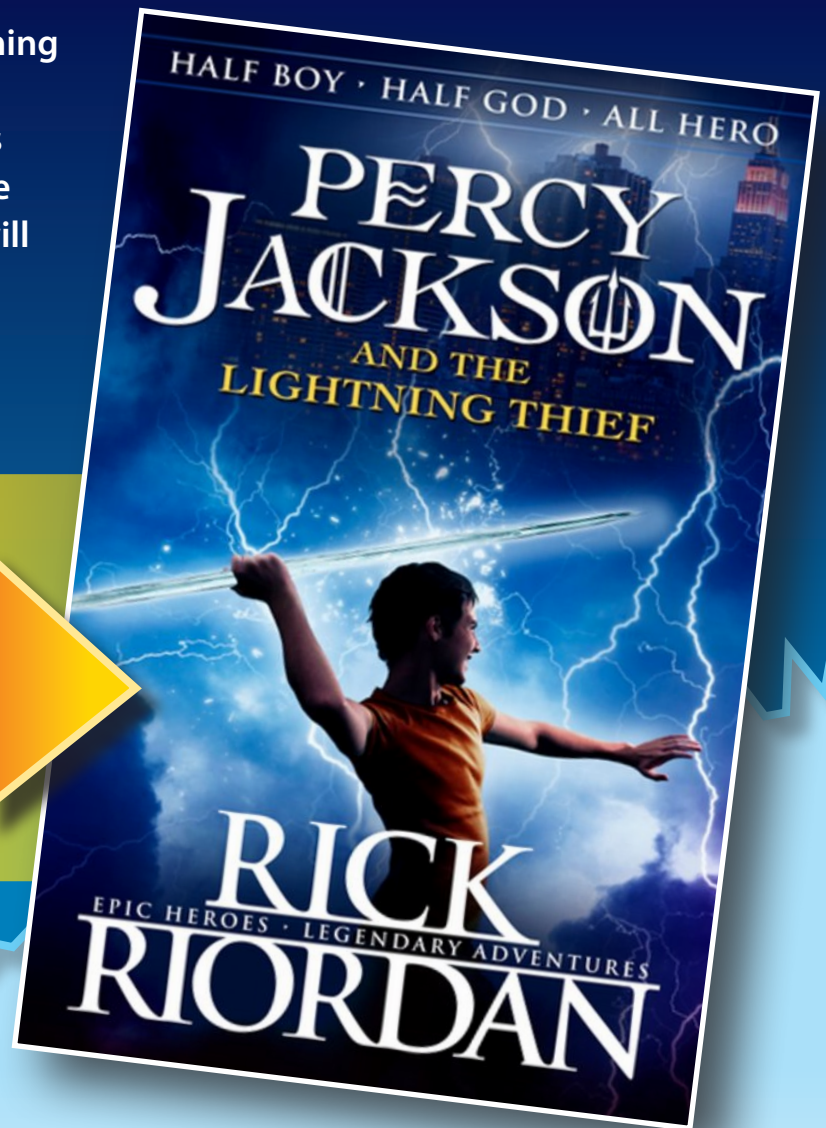
.....▶ **CALLING ALL** ◀.....

SUPER-KEEN READERS!

Would you like to meet other children your age to discuss brilliant books?

Every month, we will be running an online book club, for all pupils in **Years 5 and 6** across our trust. Each session will be around 30-40 minutes and will include fun quizzes, sharing our best bits and discussing our favourite characters.

Our very first meeting is on **Monday 20th March** at 6.30pm and this is the book we'll be talking about!



CLICK HERE
on **March 20th** at **6.30pm**
to join our online bookclub!



academies for character and excellence

Galmpton Primary School

Calendar Dates 2023

Weds 29th March	Egg Decorating Competition (all pupils) KS2 Easter Card Competition
Thurs 30th March	Easter Celebration Day - Egg Rolling from 9.10am and then Stalls 3-4pm
Fri 31st March	KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade, 1.30pm – please come and watch the children meander around the Village and then ... Easter Service, 2.15pm. Parents/Carers welcome to attend
Fri 21st Apr	Y5 leading Act of Worship – Y5 parents/carers invited to attend
Fri 28th Apr	Y2 leading Act of Worship – Y2 parents/carers invited to attend
Fri 28th Apr	SEND Parent/Carer Forum, 9.00am - 'Timid to Tiger' course information, a parenting based approach to managing anxiety in children – all welcome to attend
Fri 5th May	King's Coronation Afternoon Tea (on School Field weather permitting)
9th – 12th May	Y6 KS2 SATs week
Fri 12th May	EYFS leading Act of Worship – EYFS parents/carers invited to attend
15th - 26th May	Y2 KS1 SATs week's
Fri 19th May	Y6 leading Act of Worship – Y6 parents/carers invited to attend
Sun 21st – Fri 26th May	Y6 Bude Residential
Fri 26th May	Y3 leading Act of Worship – Y3 parents/carers invited to attend
12th – 16th June	Y1 Phonics Screening week
Thurs 15th June	Class Photo's (Tempest Photography)
Fri 16th June	Y1 leading Act of Worship – Y1 parents/carers invited to attend
Fri 23rd June	Y5 leading Act of Worship – Y5 parents/carers invited to attend
Fri 30th June	EYFS leading Act of Worship – EYFS parents/carers invited to attend
Sun 2nd July	Galmpton Gooseberry Pie Fayre
Thurs 6th & Fri 7th July	Y6 to Y7 Transition Days at Secondary Schools
Friday 7th July	Y4 Act of Worship – Y4 parents/carers invited to attend.
Tues 11th July	School Sports Day (in case of bad weather, 18th July backup date)
Sat 15th July	Summer Fayre

2023 School Holidays & Non-Pupil Dates:

Mon 3rd – Fri 14th Apr	Easter Holiday
Mon 1st & 8th May	Public Holidays
Mon 29th May – Weds 7th Jun (inc)	May Half Term Holiday & Non-Pupil Days
Tues 25th Jul	End of Academic Year