



# January 2020 NEWSLETTER



## Dear Parents & Carers

A very Happy New Year to you all!

In this newsletter you'll find out about our unique Curriculum, some information about our 'newish' Governing Body and other general information. We have been posting regular updates of events and other news on the 'Newsfeed' since our website went live last June. However, very few parents have signed up

to receive notifications. We try really hard to make sure communication is highly effective, so do please log on to the site and make use of it.

I will use at least one newsletter each half term to update you on any ACE news. We work very closely with our family of schools and I'm sure you would be interested to know how, as a Trust, we collaborate and work in partnership to continually make improvements.

Teachers have updated their class pages so you can see what learning they have planned for this half term too. Do come and see us or speak to Mrs Burns if you feel there is anything else we can do to make communication between us even better. We look forward to lots more lovely events and super learning this Spring term,

*Katy Burns* Headteacher

## KS2 Carols 19th Dec

Children in KS2 enjoyed launching the festive season with a cracking Carol Service at Churston Church on the 19th December.

Thank you to all the children who came and sang their hearts out and also to those Parents and families who joined us. It was a great start to Christmas and a lovely way for our School to join with the Church Community.



## 11+ Registration and Examinations

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight to Parents and Carers, that selective 11+ test examinations are not compulsory and therefore it is at the discretion of the Parent or Carer to arrange tutoring (if appropriate) and registration through the selective schools, eg Torquay Girls / Boys Grammar and Churston Grammar.

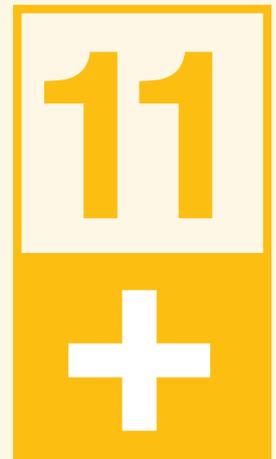
Information on exam dates and the process relating to 11+ exams can be found on the Grammar school's websites. In recent years' exams have been sat after the Summer holidays when pupils return to start their final year in primary school - Y6. Should you have any queries, we would ask you to contact the Grammar schools directly:

**Torquay Boys Grammar School** [www.tbgs.co.uk](http://www.tbgs.co.uk)

**Torquay Girls Grammar School** [www.tggsacademy.org](http://www.tggsacademy.org)

**Churston Ferrers Grammar School** [www.churstongrammar.com](http://www.churstongrammar.com)

**Spires College** [www.thespirescollege.com](http://www.thespirescollege.com)



# Your Local Governing Body

As we begin a new year I'd like to introduce our recently appointed Governing Body. Some Governors retained their roles from the previous joint Governing Body, but we also have some newly appointed members. I am delighted that we now have a committed, enthusiastic, and very capable team in place for the year ahead, including our new Governors who bring leadership experience spanning Education, Safeguarding and Community Work. The Governing Body meet 5 times a year and meetings include both challenge and support for myself and my Leadership team.

The role of the Local Governing Body is a strategic one with three key functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for standards, outcomes, safeguarding and well-being of all.
- Promoting continuous improvement in the performance of the school whilst adhering to the distinctly Christian ethos of the school.

Following good practice in governance, all Governors have taken on an area of responsibility (portfolio) and details of these roles are detailed below.

**Chair of Governors** - Olivia Palmer (Teaching and Learning Portfolio)

**Head Teacher** - Katy Burns

**Vice Chair of Governors** - Lyn Elliott (Teaching and Learning Portfolio)

**Parent Governor** - Tom Blanchard (Safeguarding Portfolio)

**Foundation Governor** - Rebecca Walker (Community Partnerships)

**Foundation Governor** - Yvonne Childs (Community Partnerships)

**Foundation Governor** - Amy Withers (Teaching and Learning)

**Foundation Governor** - Anne Tully (Ethos and Community Partnerships)

**Staff Governor** - Faye Butler (Teaching and Learning)

**Associate Governor** - Nicola Hartley (Teaching and Learning)

**Trust Director** - Phillip Mantell (Ethos and Church School Distinctiveness)

Whilst Governors who are parents are happy to hear your views, they are elected within their own right and are not responsible for representing parental views. However, I know all our Governors want the very best for our children and I am hugely grateful for the dedication and time they give to the School for no other reason than they want to ensure that at Galmpton School, everyone within our community 'Achieves and Flourishes'.



## Attendance Data for the period 04.9.19 – 10.01.20

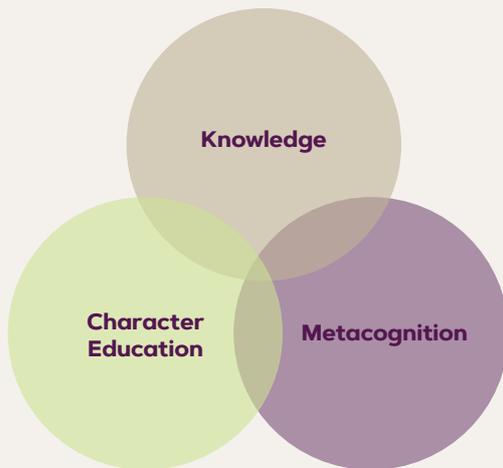
Whole School	95.58
Year Group	% Attendance
Reception	95.39
1	96.41
2	96.79
3	96.10
4	95.13
5	94.79
6	94.54



Well done to Year 2  
who have achieved  
the highest attendance  
since the start of term!



## Our ACE Curriculum



**Crafting a curriculum with a blend of knowledge, character and metacognition.**

Academic success remains a priority but its achievement comes from all of life's lessons and fulfilling every possible potential. Our commitment to achieving excellence through knowledge acquisition should run parallel to the development of children's character to prepare them for later life. We want our children to be compassionate and active citizens within their Communities. In order to develop knowledge and character education, children need to continually think about themselves as learners. They need to reflect on their learning, understanding their errors, misconceptions and successes and be aware of how they are learning. We call this metacognition.



Our Trust currently consists of Galmpton and four other schools: Totnes St John, Collaton St Mary, Shaldon and Redhills Primary. We are also currently working within Management Partnerships with Brixham C of E Primary School and Berry Pomeroy Primary.

As an Executive Lead within the Trust, Mrs Burns works a half day at both Berry Pomeroy and Totnes St John's Schools supporting Headteachers in those schools as part of the 'not for profit, charitable Trust's work.

On Friday mornings, all Headteachers meet at our training rooms at Totnes St John's. We are incredibly lucky to have central offices where our business, HR and Finance teams, our director of Education, Claire Platt and our CEO, Cheryl Weyman are based. These new premises are used by all staff in the Trust who attend the training rooms for professional development. Our ACE Trust have a detailed professional development plan and Galmpton Teachers benefit from the many expert Leaders and Educationalists that are brought in as Consultants or whom are ACE employees.

One of the many advantages of belonging to a Trust is the school improvement work we do together and Galmpton has undoubtedly benefitted from joining the Trust and the expertise, experience and commitment of our ACE Leaders and wider team.

# Attendance

## Your child's punctuality is important

Our main focus this spring term is to reduce the number of lates and improve attendance. Thank you for all for all your efforts in helping to work towards our target.

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 10 minutes late every day is equal to 33 hours lost in 1 year
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year
- 19 days lost a year through being late means 90% attendance
- 90% attendance through school life is equal to a whole year of school being missed

We currently have 30 children with attendance falling below 90% and this is a real concern. As parents ourselves, we completely understand that sometimes children are poorly, but some of our groups of children have the poorest attendance rates compared to other local schools. Our poorer attendance at Galmpton continues to 'pull down' all our many other successes and this is incredibly frustrating as many of the absences are not due to illness.

The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and our aim is to have an attendance figure in excess of the national average of 97%. Our attendance figure for the year to date is 96.15%. We must improve on this figure.



Attendance is reported and categorised into:

### Green

100%, excellent attendance.  
Just **36 pupils** fall into the **Green** category.

### Amber

95% or above, good attendance.  
Only **106 of our pupils** are categorised as **Amber**.

### Red

Below 95%, categorized as persistently absent and therefore below the expected level.  
Unfortunately, **79 of our pupils** are currently ranked **Red**.

We would hope that both Amber and Red will be improved. Parents whose children fall into these categories will receive regular communication from school, be it directly from teachers or myself.

At our March parent evenings (dates to follow) I will be meeting with any parents to see how the school can support pupils with persistent absence.

*Mrs Burns*

# UNIFORM

A friendly reminder that parents are asked to comply with our school uniform standards. There has recently been some confusion, particularly surrounding footwear and hair styles which we have clarified below. We have also created a 'Uniform' tab under the 'Parents' section on our website for future reference if/when required.

## 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.

***We will only allow boots during adverse weather conditions***

## 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.

## Summer Term - 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.

## 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.



## Coffee morning

In December Children in Years 3 and 4 held a coffee morning to share their learning about Syrian Refugees and as an ending to their learning journey about becoming a global citizen.

Children raised a fantastic £233 which will go directly towards supporting refugees to assist in rebuilding their lives. Special thanks to the children for making such tasty cakes to sell as well as being fantastic waiters and waitresses. Many thanks to all the Parents / Carers and family members who came to support our event and gave so generously to this fantastic cause.



# Galmpton Primary School SPRING TERM DATES

# 2020

- Fri 24th Jan** FROGs launch cake sale, 3.15pm
- Mon 3rd Feb** Whole school eucharist
- Fri 14th Feb** FROGs Valentine's Disco,  
KS1 3.30-4.30pm  
KS2 4.45-5.45pm  
(tickets on sale from 3rd Feb -  
12th Feb and NOT available  
on the night)
- Mon 17th Feb  
– Fri 21st Feb** Half Term Holidays
- Fri 20th Mar** FROGs Easter Fayre 3.15-5pm
- Thur 26th Mar** FROGs Egg Rolling KS1 & KS2, 9am  
FROGs KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade, 2.15pm
- Fri 27th Mar** Last day of Spring Term,  
2.15pm finish
- Mon 30th Mar  
– Mon 13th Apr  
(Inclusive)** Easter Holidays
- Tues 14th Apr** Pupils return to school –  
Summer Term



Peace

Compassion

Friendship

Trust

Forgiveness

Responsibility