



WOOLACOMBE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 01

September 2017



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year, I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and managed enjoy some sunshine!! The children have had an excellent first week back looking super smart and well turned out on the first day, especially our new children starting in Reception. WELL DONE everyone.....we are very proud of you.



We finished the end of last year on a high with some fantastic KS1 and KS2 end of year results. Our Year 6's, whom we are incredibly proud of, achieved some amazing SATs results. This year our school results are considerably above national results across every subject for the percentage of children achieving Age Related Expectations (ARE) and above at the end of KS2. We have also increased the percentage of children achieving at a higher level, working at greater depth. The percentage of children working at greater depth is also considerably above national results. Please see the table below.

Subject	Reading		Writing		Maths		Combined Reading, Writing & Maths
	Age Related Expectations	Greater Depth	Age Related Expectations	Greater Depth	Age Related Expectations	Greater Depth	
2017							Age Related Expectations
Woolacombe School	100%	40%	96%	28%	100%	48%	96%
National	71%	25%	76%	18%	75%	23%	61%

Welcome to Woolacombe School

We would like to welcome some new members of staff this year. Miss Harriet Narborough is our Year 2 teacher covering Mrs Seddon's maternity leave and Miss Rebekah Hester is our Year 5 teacher. We also welcome three student teachers who are completing a Schools Direct programme and training in school all year to become teachers. Mrs Rachael Moore, Mrs Helen Courtney and Mr Mark Badham-Doyle will be working across the school in different classes but will be mainly based with Year 4, Year 1 and Year 3 for their placements in the Autumn Term. We hope all the new staff settle in to our wonderful community and enjoy the start of term.

Staffing Classes 2017-2018

Age Group	Teacher
Woolacombe Nursery	Mrs Verity Lewin and Mrs Allie Barnett
Reception	Mr Tristan Walters
Y1	Mr Sam Abell
Y2	Miss Harriet Narborough (Mrs Dee Seddon will support for the first half of term)
Y3	Mrs Sam Simpson
Y4	Miss Annie Challacombe
Y5	Miss Rebecca Hester – Mr Ossian Pleasance
Y6	Mr Polak - Mr Ossian Pleasance

We also have specialist teachers in:

NUMBERS COUNT & MATHS INTERVENTION: Romy Walker & Naomi Overney

LITERACY DIFFICULTIES TEACHER: Mr Ossian Pleasance

READING RECOVERY TEACHER: Kate Madden

MUSIC & ART: Clare Russell

SPANISH: Naomi Overney

P.E: Laura Martin

Leadership Structure

As you are aware, Mrs Sandy Brown retired at the end of last term as Executive Head Teacher. She is continuing her National Leader of Education Role one day per week for Woolacombe Teaching School. I am now the substantive Headteacher for Woolacombe School and Teaching School. Mr Dan Polak, our year 6 teacher, is the Deputy Head at Woolacombe School. Mr Damian Railston is Head of School at Combe Martin and Mr Gary Bladon is the Head of school at Bampton C of E Primary School. Our three schools form the South West Schools' Federation. Mrs Angela Fernyhough is the Director of Teaching and Learning across our federation and Raksha Greenbank is our School Business Manager also working across the Federation.

LSA Provision across the School

Maggie Parker (Reception), Michelle Gammon/Sally Lee (Year 1) Cate Roy (Year 2) Nigel Martin, Josette Arnold, Nicola Oliver and Angie Ellis (working across KS2). As LSA's they are providing specialist intervention working across the school. Josette Arnold and Julie Kerry will also be providing 1:1 SEN support in KS2 with specific children. Josette Arnold will continue to lead the morning club (with the support of Cate Roy) and after-school club with Maggie Parker.

Nursery Team

Claire Holt, Karen O'Toole, Julie O'Reilly, Danielle Adams and Natasha Drake work alongside our nursery teachers Mrs Verity Lewin and Mrs Allie Barnett.

Admin Team

We have a fantastic administration team: Carolyn Irvine, Sarah Thornborough, Kathy Pike, Liz Duffield and we welcome Laura Martin who is now part of the team too. Most of our admin team have reduced their hours this year so will be working in the office across the week on different days.

Federation Administration Team and Teaching School

Carolyn Irvine is also our financial administrator across the federation and Jacqueline Robilliard is our personnel and HR administrator across the federation. Lucy Bull – who is based at Bampton – is our EVCO (Educational Visits Coordinator) across the Federation and she organises and leads all of the residential trips we run over the year. Georgina Parsons is our SEND administrator working across Woolacombe and Combe Martin. Carole Gentle is our teaching school administrator and is based in our teaching school room above the Nursery. Jacqueline Robilliard also works for the teaching school one day a week.

Catering Team

Karen Turner, Sarah Burrows, Rachel Stone and Natasha Drake

Cleaning and Caretaking Team

Adam Phillips (Caretaker) Alan Hart and Susan Clark (Cleaners)

Curriculum and Topic

Harmony and Conflict



This terms whole school topic is 'Harmony and Conflict'. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities and experiences planned including an 'Evacuee re-enactment day' for Year 2 at Woody Bay. Reception and Year 1 are starting this topic with a focus on 'Super Learner' behaviours, linking Harmony and Conflict with super heroes, fictional and real. KS2 will be exploring the impact of the two World Wars through the eyes of children, animals, men, women and even trees! They will be also looking at how the World Wars link into the chronology of England, the World and also how Woolacombe played a crucial part in the D-Day landings.

European Languages Day – Tuesday 26th September



As a whole school we will be celebrating European Languages day. The European Day of Languages is a time to celebrate the 6,000+ languages spoken around the world, promote language learning and have some multilingual fun! Children will be working across the school learning about the geography and culture plus experiencing the food, dance, music and languages from a range of different European countries.

National Poetry Day – Thursday 28th September

National Poetry Day will take place on Thursday 28 September 2017 and this year's theme is "Freedom", which links in very nicely with our topic 'Harmony and Conflict'.



It also allows children to listen to, enjoy, discuss, respond, read, write and perform a range of poetry in many different forms.

Woolacombe School Values - BELIEVE, BELONG, BECOME

During the first half of the Autumn term our focus through our whole school SMSC – Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education, will be - To ensure all children have an understanding of what it means to **believe** and the ability to build positive relationships through **Compassion** and **Tolerance**.

This term we are focusing on '**Believing**' from our school values and linking this with the British Value - **Tolerance** and a core value of **Compassion**. This will be delivered through whole school assemblies, daily class collective worship and PSHE/SMSC lessons.

Class News

In this section of the newsletter, I will share learning from different classes across the school. It is an opportunity to share and celebrate the children's learning every week. All the children have had a fantastic start to the term, settling into their new classes and getting to know their new teachers. Here are a few highlights from this week!



Year 2 demonstrated excellent collaborating skills while they worked on their Year 2 Class charter.

Year 4 made prototypes for a mole to aid the Dunkirk evacuation.



Parents – Parent Voice, PTFA and Parent Workshops

Parent Voice

During the last Parent Voice in July I informed parents about the following –

- Sharing SWSF Vision and Values
- Celebrating successes
- What have we been focusing on this year?
- Changing times – leadership and staffing structure
- Feedback from holiday questionnaires

Please click on the link below to see the presentation shared during the meeting, it is also on the Parent Voice page of the school website. –

<http://woolacombe.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Parent-Voice-July-2017.pdf>

Date of next Parent Voice – Friday 13th October – Teaching School Room – 9.15am

Feedback from the Holiday questionnaires

In July, I sent out a questionnaire regarding school holidays. To help support and improve attendance, our governors had asked me to send out the questionnaire to gauge whether a proposed change to our holiday structure would be something that our parents would be interested in and if it was a viable option to put forwards for consultation. Thank you to those parents who took the time to fill out the questionnaires, I really appreciate your feedback. The feedback suggested that changing the current structure of the school holidays was not an option that our parents strongly wanted. Just over 50% of the responses were against changing the holidays and just under 50% of the responses were for changing the holidays. I fed back the information to the Governors during our last Full Governing Body meeting in July.

PTFA



Many thanks to all the parents for your support with fundraising last year. We had many very successful fundraising events last year. Fireworks BBQ, Gift Evening, Quiz Night, May Fayre and many cake and hot dog sales over the whole year. We really appreciate your support.

We have just purchased over £2000 of new equipment for the children to use from a PE Grant and cake sale profits including; £900 of new Gymnastics Mats.

We now have two more Netball

Posts (6 in total) for small-sided games, beanbags, handballs, volleyballs, netballs, stopwatches, tennis balls and some fun foam multi skills balls.

The rest of last year's fundraising is going towards purchasing new play equipment for the adventure trail for the whole school to use and an improved sound system for our whole school events.

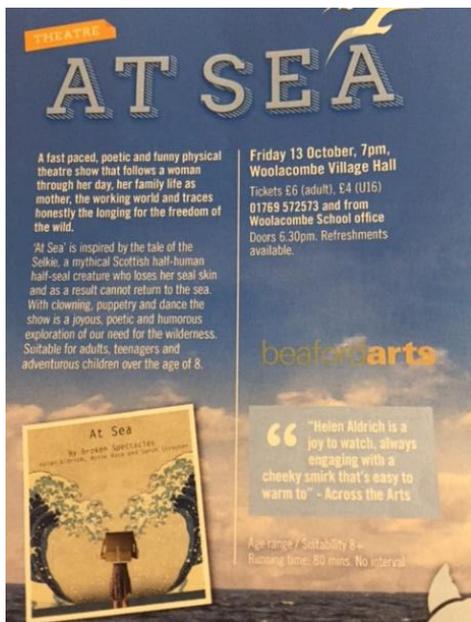
We are starting up the cake and hot dog sales again on a Friday, so please watch out for more information regarding the this in an email this week. **Class 6** will be starting us off with a **Cake Sale on Friday 15th September after school.**



CAKE AND HOT DOG SALES

AUTUMN TERM

Class	Date	Cake/Hot Dogs
Class 6	Friday 15 th September 2017	Cake Sale
Class 5	Friday 22 nd September 2017	Hot Dogs
Class 4	Friday 29 th September 2017	Cake Sale
Class 3	Friday 6 th October 2017	Hot Dogs
Class 2	Friday 13 th October 2017	Cake Sale
Class 1	Friday 3 rd November 2017	Hot Dogs



We also have our first PTFA fundraising event coming up very soon on **Friday 13th October at 7pm in the Village Hall**. We are really lucky to be able to host a Beaford Arts Theatre performance for children and families called 'At Sea' and our Choir will be starting the performance off with 'a song from the sea'. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £4 for children under 14. Beaford Arts and the PTFA split the ticket sales 80% - 20%, with the PTFA receiving the 20% of the tickets sales and any money raised from refreshments. The Tickets are available from the school office and flyers will be sent out next week with more detailed information about the event.

We hoping to hold a **PTFA meeting on Friday 15th September at 9.15** in the Teaching School room. A more detailed calendar of fundraising events will be made available after this meeting. We would love to see new faces at the meeting, no commitment is needed, just support and ideas are very much appreciated and valued.

Congratulations

Nipper Nationals 2017

Woolacombe Surf Life Saving Club Nippers became National Champions, winning the National Nipper competition in Holywell Bay back in August. Congratulations to all the children from Woolacombe School who took part, there were some amazing individual and team performances. The behaviour from every Nipper was impeccable and the team spirit was amazing, which is something to be really proud of. This was also noted by Sandy Brown, who was Chief Referee.

This year Woolacombe Surf Life Saving Club have done really well to encourage additional people to join along with parent helpers. SLS really helps the children work as a team as well as make new friends at school and at other schools, locally and nationally. If you are interested in joining the club, please ask me, Nicola Oliver or Michelle Gammon for more details.



A few Reminders

Holidays and Attendance



We are only one week into the term and already there have been a significant number of holiday requests for holidays during term time. As you know there is much concern regarding the link with attendance and children doing well at school.

- Children who attend school for at least 95% of the time do better than those who have absence rates below this figure. This is true of our school too.
- We have a significant proportion of children who have difficulties with their learning and do not have 95% attendance.

As a reminder please refer to a letter from Peter Walker (Devon Local Authority) for you to read regarding schools authorising absences and time away from school, which can be found on the school website. This is the guidance that we get as a school and have to follow.

Under normal circumstances as a Federation **we will not authorise** holidays during term time. Whether or not we can authorise holidays which you consider to be 'exceptional circumstances' depends on a number of factors. Before you fill out a form or book a holiday please make an appointment to come in to speak to me about the requested absence for your child. During the meeting we will look at:

1. Your child's attendance so far this year - this needs to be above 95%.
2. Your child's attendance last year – if they are lower than 95% we will examine the impact on their progress through school.
3. Your child's academic attainment and progress throughout their time at school – your child needs to be on track in their learning as time away from school will be more detrimental to their learning.
4. Whether or not your child will be in the middle of an intervention at the time of the holiday – if they are doing an intervention to address a specific need, for example, Numbers Count I will not be able to authorise an absence as the intervention is costly to the school and your child may not be able to do it again.
5. The time of the year the intended absence occurs – There are key times of the year when we will not allow absence like assessment week in May.
6. Whether or not the reason for absence is exceptional.

Please note:

Please do not book holidays in term time as they cannot be authorised. If you do not arrange a meeting the absence or holiday will not be authorised. Cost as a factor in booking a holiday is not considered to be an exceptional circumstance.

I hope this helps explain the process which we use to determine authorisation of holidays in SWSF schools. We will always try to be sympathetic to your needs as a family, however, as a school we must put your child's educational needs first.

Attendance Letters

Attendance letters are sent monthly to parents if a child's attendance is below 95%. One day absent from school due to illness in the first few weeks may cause a child's attendance to fall below 95%, so please do not be alarmed if you receive a letter. It is important we make you aware of your child's attendance, whatever the reason for the absence, especially if it falls below 95%.



KS1 Universal Free School Meals

All KS1 children are entitled to a free school meal and we want every child to take up this opportunity.

On line Ordering

We will be moving to online ordering for school dinners and morning and after school club provision but we are not quite ready to roll this out yet. We will inform you when we move across to this sometime over this half of term.

Lunchboxes



Please make sure children collect their lunchboxes every day after school and especially on a Friday so lunchboxes are not left out over night or across the weekend.

Mornings

All teachers are involved in briefing meetings each morning in the staff room until 8.40am. Children can come into classes before this time but as the classroom will be unsupervised can we please ask that you stay with your child until the teacher arrives from the staff meeting. You are welcome to bring your child into the classroom at the beginning of the day as it is an important part of transition.

Harvest Festival

Please note change of date for our Harvest Festival – it will be **Tuesday 17th October at 1.30pm** – not 28th September.

Finally – if you do have any problems or you wish to ask a question, please do not hesitate to speak to us. We are here to help you and your family and by working together we can ensure the very best for your child.

I am looking forward to another great year ahead. Please look at the diary dates below to keep up to date with events over the year. The online website calendar will be updated regularly.

Gail Holmes

Gail Holmes

Headteacher – Woolacombe School and Teaching School

Dates for your Diary

SEPTEMBER

- Monday 4th Sept** – **Term Starts**
- Meet the teacher meetings all week
- 11th - Individual and Class Photographs
- 15th - PTFA meeting – Teaching School Room – 9.15 am
- 20th - Year 2 Mini Red Tennis – Tarka Tennis
- 22nd - Year 3 – Bioblitz – Lee Bay
- 26th - European Languages Day
- 27th - KS2 Parent Reading, Spelling & Grammar Workshop and open morning –9-10.30am
- Year 2 trip to Woody Bay
- 28th - National Poetry Day

OCTOBER

- Oct 3 – Oct 6
3rd - Yr 3 – Residential Trip to Cornwall
- KS1 Parent Phonics, spelling & reading workshop and open morning – 9-10.30
 - Reception Class Parents – Phonics and Reading Meeting – 6pm
- 4th - Reception Class Parents Open morning – 9am
- 6th - Year 6 ‘Big Bang’ at Great Torrington School @ 8:45 am – 3:00 pm
- 12th - Heart Start Training- Village Hall – TBC
- 13th - Parent Voice – 9.15am – Teaching School Room
- PTFA - At Sea – Beaford Arts and Choir performance – 6.30 for 7pm start
- 16th – 20th - Parent Consultation Week
- 17th - Harvest Festival – 1.30pm St Sabinus Church
- 18th - KS2 Stephen Shield Cross Country
- Year 3&4 Mini Red Tennis – Tarka Tennis
- 20th - **Break up for Half Term**
- Oct 23 – Oct 27 - **Half Term Week**
- Monday 30th Oct - **Professional Day**

More dates are on the Website and will be included in next week’s Newsletter.