



Dear Parents,



Welcome Back

Welcome back to a great start to the term, we hope you all had wonderful Summer Holidays and enjoyed some sunshine!!! The children looked really 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.

Welcome to Woolacombe School

We would like to welcome some new members of staff this year. Mr Dan Polak is our Year 6 teacher and Mr Sam Abell is our Year 1 teacher.

We also welcome three student teachers who are completing a Schools Direct programme and training in school all year to become teachers. Miss Kate Thornborough, Miss Sophie King and Miss Annie Piert will be working across the school in different classes but will be mainly based with Year 4, Year R and Year 2 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 and Classes 2016-2017

Age Group	Teacher
Busy Bees	Robbie Fortune/Verity Lewin
Reception	Mr Tristan Walters
Y1	Mr Sam Abell
Y2	Mrs Dee Seddon/Mrs Naomi Overney
Y3	Mrs Sam Simpson
Y4	Miss Annie Challacombe
Y5	Mr Ossian Pleasance/Mrs Gail Holmes/Ms Clare Russell
Y6	Mr Dan Polak
Interventions	Mrs Romy Walker and Ms Kate Madden

We also have specialist teachers in:

NUMBERS COUNT & YEAR 6:	Romy Walker
READING RECOVERY TEACHER:	Kate Madden
MUSIC & ART:	Clare Russell
SPANISH:	Naomi Overney
P.E:	Laura Martin
IT Teacher:	Georgina Parsons

Leadership Structure

Mrs Sandy Brown is our Executive Head across our South West Schools' Federation. I am Head of School here at Woolacombe School, Mr Damian Railston is Head of School at Combe Martin and Deputy Executive Head of SWSF across our Federation and Mr Gary Bladon is the Head of school at Bampton C of E Primary School. Mrs Angie Fernyhough is the Head of Early Years across the Federation. Raksha Greenbank is our School Business Manager working across the Federation.

LSA Provision across the School

Maggie Parker (Reception), Cate Roy (Year 1) Carly Morgan (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. Nigel Martin, Josette Arnold, Carla Davies 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 Danielle Adams) and after-school club with Maggie Parker.

Admin Team

We have a fantastic administration team: Carolyn Irvin, Sarah Thornborough, Kathy Pike and Liz Duffield.

Catering Team

Karen Turner, Sarah Burrows, Rachel Stone and Natasha Drake

Cleaning and Caretaking Team

Dan Peters (Caretaker), Danielle Kershaw, Alan Hart and Jean Hart

Curriculum and Topic

Terrible Tudors!

This terms whole school topic is 'The Terrible Tudors'. We have lots of exciting experiences planned including a trip to Dunster Castle for KS1, Torre Abbey for KS2 AND Arlington Court for Reception.

Roald Dahl Day- Tuesday 13th September 2016

Woolacombe School is celebrating Roald Dahl Day on Tuesday 13th September 2016 – please ask class teachers for more details! Get inspired – dressing up tips for Dahlicious Dress up Day!

Dressing up tips – Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity

<http://www.roalddahl.com/charity/fundraising-and-events/dahlicious-dress-up-day/dressing-up-tips> – has a 10 minute wonders section to create a last minute costume!

European Languages Day – Thursday 29th September

As a whole school we will be celebrating European Languages day. 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.

A Few Reminders

Holidays and Attendance

We are only a few weeks into the term and already there have been a significant number of holiday requests 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. As we are a community which depends on tourism for its income, I know sometimes you need to holiday outside of 'official' holiday times. This makes applying the policy difficult for SWSF coastal schools. I do know that holidays can also provide wonderful learning and life experiences, some children can naturally 'catch up' but many end up with big gaps in their knowledge when they miss the teaching input.

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 or email 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.



KS1 Universal Free School Meals

All KS1 children are entitled to a free school meal and we want every child to take one. Please can all of our children take up this opportunity.

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.

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

Head of School

Dates for your Diary

September 2016

Monday 5th September – Term Starts

- 5 Meet The Teacher – Year 2 Dee Seddon 2:30 pm
- 6 Meet The Teacher Week – 2pm – Year 3 (Sam Simpson) 2.30 pm – Year 5 (Ossian Pleasance)
- 7 Meet The Teacher Week – 2.30 pm – Year 4 (Annie Challacombe)
- 8 Meet The Teacher Week – 2.30 pm – Year 1 (Sam Abell) 2.30 pm – Year 6 (Dan Polak)
- 9 Meet The Teacher Week – 2.30 pm – Reception (Tristan Walters)
- 12 Ilfracombe Academy visit (Sharon Marshall) – Year 5&6 Pupils 2:45 pm
Ilfracombe Academy – Year 5&6 Parents' Meeting 3:15 pm
- 13 Football Tournament - Roald Dahl Day
- 15 Individual School Photographs – Tempest
- 16 Yr 5/6 – Tag Rugby & Football Friendly Matches v Ilfracombe Juniors 1:30 pm
- 19 Maths Focus Weeks
Year 2 Day Trip to Dunster Castle
Maths Focus Weeks
- 26 Beaford Arts working with Year 4 1:15 pm
- 27 Maths Day – Workshop(9.00-10.00)Open Morning(10.00-10.30) 9:00 am
Stephens Shield XC practice 1:30 pm
- 29 European Day
PTFA AGM 2:30 pm
- 30 Beaford Arts Visit – Year 3 (am) and Year 4 (pm)

October

- 3 Beaford Arts Visit -Year 3 1:15 pm
- 4 Parents' Meeting – Paignton Residential 3:30 pm
Parents' Meeting – Cornwall Residential 4:00 pm
- 6 KS2 Trip to Torre Abbey, Torquay
- 7 Year 6 – Big Bang STEM Event 7:00 am
- 10 Literacy Focus Weeks
Beaford Arts Visit – Year 3 (am) & Year 4 (pm)
- 11 Yr 4 Cornwall Residential
Yr3 Paignton Residential
Reception Class – Phonics & Reading Workshop 6:00 pm
- 12 KS1 Phonics & Reading Workshop (9.00-10.00) & Open Morning (10.00 – 10.30)
- 17 Parent Consultation Week
- 18 Harvest Festival – St Sabinus 1:30 pm
- 19 Stephens Sheild XC – Torrington – KS2 selected pupils
Year 2 (selected pupils) – Mini Red Tarka Tennis Competition 9:30 am
- 20 Class 1 Trip to Dunster
KS2 Reading, Spelling & Grammar Workshop (9-10 am) & Open Morning (10-10.30)

21st – 1st Nov – Half Term

- 31 Professional Day