



Dear Parents,

This week is our Literacy focus week across the school and we will be focusing on all aspects of teaching and learning in Literacy across the school. A big school focus this year is how we teach Spelling to ensure that teachers, LSA's, children and parents have a greater understanding of what makes a good speller and the appropriate strategies to support this. We believe that - **'A good speller is someone who makes increasingly accurate decisions when spelling unfamiliar words.'** This definition of a good speller is something we will be sharing over the next few weeks with children and parents through our parent workshops. Please see below



- **Wednesday 27th Sept** – KS2 Reading, Spelling & Grammar Workshop and open morning –9-10.30am
- **Tuesday 3rd October** - KS1 Parent Phonics, spelling & reading workshop and open morning – 9-10.30
- Reception Class Parents – Phonics and Reading Meeting – 6pm
- **Wednesday 4th October** – Reception Class Parents Open morning – 9 am

Curriculum and Topic



HISTORY - In our 'Harmony and Conflict' topic this term, we are looking at what life would have been like for children living here during the Second World War. On Wednesday 27th September the children in Year 2 will be taking part in a dramatic re-creation of a World War 2 Evacuation and will be experiencing traveling on the Woody Bay steam train! They will return to Morteheo Village Hall, which will be set up as a 'Billeting Hall' to receive our evacuees!

MUSIC - We have a wonderful opportunity for our Year 4-6 KS2 Choir children to take part in the Chorister Outreach Programme. The programme aims to instill and develop the joy of singing among children, by offering specialist teaching input, continuing support and high-quality performance opportunities. It also aims to raise levels of access, achievement and aspiration, and to encourage and develop collaborative projects for singing for both pupils and staff. Over the 1st half of the Autumn Term the children will receive three outreach workshops delivered by Chorister Outreach practitioner, Andrew Downton. Each outreach vocal workshop will usually last for approx. one hour and started last week The programme will culminate in a large scale, transformational performance at **Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 14th October, 2017.**



Last Friday 22nd September our Year 3 children had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Bioblitz based at Lee Bay. They had an amazing day!



The Bioblitz was run in partnership with the Marine Biological Association and Coastwise North Devon. The children participated in a bug hunt around the village hall, woodlands and stream, a rocky shore ramble and additional activities including scientific drawing and learning how to use large microscopes!

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.



To develop the children's understanding of compassion we are supporting the local food bank for this year's Harvest festival charity. Our school councilors from Year 4, 5 and 6 had a brilliant time



when they visited the Ilfracombe Food Bank on Friday to understand the work the charity does to support families in our local community. The children will bring back the information to their classes and each class will receive a letter with further information about how we will be supporting this charity as a whole school for harvest.

Parents – PTFA and Parent Workshops

Cake and Hot Dog Sales



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

Year 4 will be selling cakes this Friday!

PTFA Fundraising Events

- **4th October – TBC** – a Christmas craft workshop for parents
- **13th October** - At Sea - the Beaford Arts performance in the Village Hall –7pm
- **4th/5th November (TBC)** - Fireworks evening on the Meadow
- **16th November PTFA Christmas Gift Evening** - Twicken. Helen Gray is organising the Gift Evening this year. If you are able to help in anyway please email Helen directly on the email below.
Helen Gray - helen@woolacombechristmas.co.uk.

Parent Workshops

We have some Literacy based parent workshops and open mornings coming up. The workshops enable us to share how we teach reading, phonics and spellings so you are able to support your child at home better. This is then followed up by observing the teachers teach these sessions so you can see the theory put into practice. The workshop and open morning will help you understand more about how your child learns, which will enable you to support them better at home. Please see the workshop dates below –

Wednesday 27th Sept – KS2 Parent Reading, Spelling & Grammar Workshop and open morning –9-10.30am

Tuesday 3rd October - KS1 Parent Phonics, spelling & reading workshop and open morning – 9-10.30

- Reception Class Parents – Phonics and Reading Meeting – 6pm

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Congratulations



Well done to the children who took part in the Gliddon and Squire Cross Country Run on Sunday. They all ran brilliantly and we are incredibly proud of you all.

You can still enter into the North Devon Gliddon and Squire League. There are six races over the winter and it only costs £8 to enter. Please see the website for further details.

<http://northdevonxcleague.weebly.com/>

A few Reminders

After School Clubs

There are still spaces available for some of our after school clubs. Please check the website and ask in the office for more details.

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%.



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

21st

- Cornwall Trip Parents Meeting – 3.20pm

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

- Yr 3 – Residential Trip to Cornwall

3rd

- 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**