

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the last term of the year and, for many of you, your last term with Woolacombe School.

This is a gorgeous term full of sporting opportunity and chances for us to get outside and make the most of the warmer weather.

Please remember sun cream and water bottles to ensure children aren't caught out by our hotter days. I'd also like to remind you about stationery. Every child should have a ruler, blue handwriting pen and a glue stick, please. All fancy colours and stationery are welcome, of course, but please make sure your children have these essentials as I've been giving out a lot from my personal stash!

You must keep your child reading into secondary.

You are entering one of the hardest transitions when it comes to getting your child to read. If your child is a voracious reader, fabulous. If not, the transition to secondary is normally when children use homework as an excuse to scale back. When I was an English teacher, I always knew who read just from reading their writing.

Reading is almost everything to good learning. Educational research rarely agrees on much, but unambiguously- the more you read, the easier you find school. It's the one thing I recommend (other than times tables) to improve mathematicians. Its reach is much further than many anticipate. The calmness; the processing of new information; the broadened world view; the stamina; the vocabulary; the enjoyment. All good reasons to read. So, pick the books well and talk to me if you're struggling to get your child to read. It is worth drawing a line in the sand and insisting on. Some need to be taught to love to read. Some need to be re-taught!

Coming up we have trips! To Lundy (hopefully), to Oceanfest, and a very long coastal walk finishing at the school. There are lots of sporting tournaments so summer is usually full of letters home to inform you of kit requirements etc, so please keep an eye out!

And we also have SATS in a few weeks. I know how excited many of the children are by the prospect of a second breakfast and a different week. They are working at a fantastic level, so have nothing to fear. Keep them calm by:

- Not overdoing practice (if you're doing any at all).
- Not telling them they need to get a certain score. They are working as hard as they can and will get what they get. I couldn't be prouder of them.

If you need to talk to me and can't catch me at school, please email d.polak@alumnismat.org. I will always get back to you quickly.

Finally, thank you so much for the support and enthusiasm you have had for our work this year. It's such a pleasure to teach your children and I feel very lucky to work in a job where I am always delighted to be at work. Your children's humour, determination and strong sense of moral purpose have been palpable this year. It's such a special class.

Thank you,

Dan Polak
Deputy Head Teacher