



## Weekly Newsletter

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**Newsletter No: Spring 10**

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**15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

### **Class Structure**

Earlier this year we sought parent and staff views on proposed new class structures to commence in September 2017. Considering both feedback and ideas from this consultation, the Governors and Senior Leadership team have discussed the future of class structures fully.

It was agreed at the full governing body meeting last night, and on recommendation from the Senior Leadership Team staff, that it is in the best interests of the school and our pupils to proceed with plans for Reception, Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 for September 2017. We have also decided that the current Year 4 and Year 5 would remain as single year groups in September as Year 5 and 6 respectfully. This is with understanding that in September 2018, if pupil numbers increase as anticipated, that the current Year 4 would split into 3 groups to join the current Year 3s as three classes of Year 5 and 6 mixed.

As a school we still believe that mixed age class teaching has real strengths educationally. Our decision to leave Year 5 and 6 as separate year groups for 2017-18 academic year was helped by the well thought-out responses from parents. Your feedback was really helpful in aiding us to give additional thought to how to manage the change and lessen the impact of change on these two year groups. We will ensure that we also manage the change carefully for the other year groups who will be in mixed age classes.

The governors and staff would like to extend our thanks for the thoughtful and helpful ideas and feedback we received from many parents in making our decision. Please do get touch if you need further clarification.

### **Nits**

We are finding that the warmer weather is bringing back the nits so please get in the habit of combing hair with conditioner and a nit comb every week. We do have a more detailed method of nit combing if you would like a copy.

### **Multi Skills**

Banyan Tree Class had a great time yesterday morning when they attended a PE multi skills event organised by the KEVICC pupils. They all really enjoyed it. Thank you KEVICC! The students were really helpful and are a credit to the school.

### **Clubs**

Construction Club, Story Club, Chess Club and 11 Plus familiarisation are not on tonight.  
Craft Club, Running Club, Choir, Shear Soccer are on tonight.  
Table Tennis and Art Club that are on tomorrow are still on.

Next week is the last week for all our clubs, except running club which ends this week, however Shear Soccer will still be on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Leechwell Gardens New Play Structure**

The official opening of the new play structure in Leechwell Gardens will be on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 3.30 until 4.15 pm. It will be opened by the Mayor of Totnes, Cllr Eleanor Cohen and guests. Miss Smith's school choir have been invited to sing at the ceremony. All parents and children are very welcome to attend.

### **Staffing news**

We have more wonderful news to share – Mrs Luff is expecting her third child in August so we are now currently advertising for 3 teaching posts for September.

1 full time permanent teacher (to replace Mr MacKenzie) in KS2

1 full time temporary teacher for one term (to cover Mrs Bickerstaff's maternity part 2) in Y1/2

1 part time (3 days a week) temporary teacher for 10/11 months (to cover Mrs Luff's maternity leave) in Y1/2

If you know a fantastic teacher who might be interested in any of these posts, then please let them know to contact the school for more details.

### **Flame Tree Class Fairtrade Conference KEVICC last week**

Last Wednesday Year 5 attended the annual Fairtrade Conference at KEVICC. The theme was chocolate! Isak, a grower from Kuapa Kokoo in Ghana (who supply Divine Chocolate with cocoa) spoke about his farming – the techniques, the fairtrade system and his everyday life. It was fascinating. The children were involved in quizzes, chocolate tasting, question and answer sessions and poetry writing. It was a great morning; we all learnt a lot and came away with many ideas of how to raise the profile of Fairtrade within our school community.

### **Grove School Wild Wings Orchestra performance**

The orchestra is going to perform an excerpt from "Swan Lake" and "Don't Worry, Be Happy" at 2.45pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Parents of children in the orchestra are invited to attend as well as anyone who wants to watch and enjoy the music.

### **The PTA Thursday Cake Sales**

23<sup>rd</sup> March – Willow Tree Class

30<sup>th</sup> March – Lime Tree Class

27<sup>th</sup> April – Banyan Tree Class

4<sup>th</sup> May – Ginkgo Tree Class

11<sup>th</sup> May – Maple Tree Class

18<sup>th</sup> May – Flame Tree Class

25<sup>th</sup> May – Snowbell Tree Class

Please deliver your cake donations either to class or reception. With the weather getting warmer, watch out for the return of the ice lollies.

### **Easter Hamper**

Next week Kellie Bishop will be selling 'lucky squares' to win the scrummy new hamper. It is packed full with chocolate eggs, an Easter story and lots of arts and crafts activities to keep your little ones busy over the Easter holidays. Lucky squares are £1.00 each and will be drawn during the Carob and Beech Tree classes praise assembly on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Good luck!

### **The Governors and Leadership team**

We have recently monitored ICT and it was great to see ICT being used in so many different ways across the school. From talking with the children and analysis of last year's learning walls, it seems we have comprehensive coverage of the new computing curriculum and that this is firmly embedded in the learning we do. All of the children spoke enthusiastically about their ICT experiences, with the following general themes repeatedly coming up regardless of the age:

1. The children like learning in different ways and respond positively to learning carried out through iPads, laptops and tablets. These experiences allow them to view their learning in different ways and practice essential skills (especially in numeracy and literacy).
2. The children spoke enthusiastically about coding / controlling which means we have a healthy coding curriculum within the school. Children love the ability to create and manipulate.
3. Children saw their ICT learning as important, especially with regards to skills you might need as an adult. They also spoke enthusiastically about eSchools and appreciated having a home-school link (KS2 only).

**Praise Assemblies**

Praise assembly this week is Maple Tree Class on Friday at 2.45pm. The next praise assembly is Snowbell Tree Class on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2.45 pm.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

**Messy Church**

Saturday, 25th March 3.30-5.30 at St John's Church, Bridgetown  
Big Bags of Money. We want to know what you are good at!!!"  
We Looking forward to seeing you there.