



PAYHEMBURY PRIMARY POST

Newsletter 15 – 6th January 2017

01404 841291 Website: www.payhembury-primary.devon.sch.uk

The next few days

Monday 9 th January	-	
Tuesday 10 th January	-	
Wednesday 11 th January	-	
Thursday 12 th January	-	Staff training @ Honiton Hospital 4-6pm
Friday 13 th January	-	

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! It's great to be back even though the children seem more tired than before the holidays.

I hope you aren't suffering the January blues, this is a short term and we only have 5 weeks left till half term break.

This week I have had the opportunity of observing the teaching and learning within our schools. I try to regularly visit each class and observe a lesson. This week I have seen two literacy lessons. The children are clearly making good progress and I have seen some great teaching. It's an opportunity for me to give points for development and to identify collectively our strengths within school. We are always striving to improve our practice to ensure the children receive the best education possible.

Please can I remind parents of our start times in the morning? We have a member of staff at the crossing point at 8.50am and registers will be taken at 8.55am. Registration closes at 9.10am. Any pupil arriving after registers have been taken but before 9.10am are marked as late, anyone arriving after 9.10am will be considered to be absent without authorisation. It is very important that late arrivals go straight to the office to get their registration mark.

At the end of the day please can parents wait on the school playground and not on the path outside school? To ensure the safety of everyone at the end of the day children are to be collected from the playground.

Just a reminder that there are no clubs next week due to staff training.

Next week seems fairly quiet but I may speak too soon. I hope you all have a lovely weekend, let's hope the rain stops today.

With regards,

Penny Hammett

Star of the Week - Well Done To....

Willow Reception - Henry Holding **Year 1** - Theo Hammond
Ash Class Year 2 - Isobel Cann **Year 3** - Hattie Mullin
Oak Class Year 4 - Rose Kilbride **Year 5** - Laura Campbell **Year 6** - Harlan Doble

Notices to Parents

Admission to Primary & Junior Schools for 2017/2018 - the application facility for places in Primary & Junior Schools for the 2017/2018 academic year will **close at midnight on 15th January 2017**. Parents are invited to apply between those dates and express three preferences via the on-line application facility at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline Applications **cannot** be made online after the closing date. Hard copy forms will have to be requested via the Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Clubs - Clubs forms have been sent home tonight. Please note there will be no clubs next week. Clubs will start back w/c 16th January 2017. For clubs where there is limited space, priority will be for those children who were unable to attend last term.

Data Collection Information - Next week we will be sending out forms with regards to data collection information required for the next Pupil Census on 19th January 2017. Please can you complete and return as soon as you can. Many thanks.

Letters sent home this week

- Basketball Letter and consent form for Years 4/5/6
- Clubs forms
- Change 4 Life - Food smart pack
- School Sports Crew Training Part 2 Letter (previous participants)

Dates for the Diary

2016/17 Academic Year

15th January - Closing date for applications for Primary School Places
17th January - School Sports Crew Training Part 2 @ King's School 4-5.30pm
13th-17th February - Half Term
20 - 23rd February - Bikeability
16th March - Heights & Weights for Reception children
24th March - Red Nose Day
31st March - Last day of Term
18th April - First day of Term
29th-2nd June - Half Term
5th June - Non-Pupil Day
21st July - Last day of Term
5th September - First day of Term
23rd-27th October - Half Term
21st December - Last day of Term

Pre-School

We would like to welcome Henrietta Young to Pre-school. Henrietta started this week and all the children have been so kind in helping her settle in. Well done to everyone.

Mrs George

Governors

Governor visits to our schools

While much governor business is conducted in Full Governing Board or Committee meetings, no governor can hope to fulfil his or her role effectively without regular visits to our Federation schools.

A visit will always be planned, agreed with the Executive headteacher or Head of School, and will have a stated purpose. For example, a governor with a 'premises' brief, such as health and safety, will periodically conduct a walk-around to identify possible risks and to check that agreed improvements have been made; or the Safeguarding governor may visit to check that the annual safeguarding audit is on track for timely submission.

Many governor visits are linked to the annual School Development Plan (SDP): one of the key roles of governors is to monitor the implementation and progress of this plan. For example I recently attended two staff meetings dedicated to 'work scrutinies' where each teacher in turn shares children's work books in a particular subject (in this case writing), with the aim of improving and standardising, across both schools, the written marking and feedback given to children. This enabled me, as a governor, to see one specific step being taken towards Raising Standards, one of the SDP objectives.

It's important to note that most governors do not have professional expertise: if we visit a class in progress, we cannot, and would not seek to, make a judgment about the professional competence of teachers. That is for others to assess. We can and do look to see whether and how planned activities are taking place, and we will ask questions, of both staff and children.

Finally, particularly for those governors who are neither staff nor parents, visits give us the opportunity to get to know, and become known to, staff and children across the Fort Federation.

Nick Thwaites

Foundation Governor; Teaching & Learning Committee

News From St. Mary's Church Payhembury

Sunday 8th January – Café Service, 10.30am