



## Kennall Vale School

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# Newsletter

14.09.16

Dear Families,

It was really lovely welcoming all the children back on Wednesday last week, the school came to life again after the two training days we had earlier in the week. I enjoyed hearing about all your exploits; I loved meeting our little Reception Piskies and helping them settle and I'm thrilled to be back again with a great team of hardworking and dedicated staff.

We welcome Harry to Morgawr Class and Amelie back again from her year away sailing the Mediterranean.

I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful summer but equally that you are excited for the term ahead and the opportunities that will be opening up for your children either as they start school for the very first time or as they embrace a new school year. As always we try hard to make sure you get good, current and well communicated information. You will shortly receive class newsletters with information specific to your child's class. My newsletter is sent home fortnightly, on a Wednesday and we use text messages and email should we wish to get anything to you quickly. Please ensure Mrs Richards has your current email and mobile number. Our website is also rich in information and is regularly updated so do have a look. All newsletters are posted in the site.

You can't have failed to see our new **minibus** in the school carpark. We are absolutely thrilled with it and the opportunities it opens up to the children not to mention an end to the whole volunteer driver thing! I have to say though, I was highly displeased with Mr Chirgwin; he spent much of his training day driving it around! I would like to thank Dave Jephcott, our Chair of Governors for his hard work in securing us the right model at the right price; it was by no means straightforward.



The children all look very smart in their uniforms. Thank you for your effort in ensuring they do! It says so much about the school and I really believe it is an important discipline and prepares children well for secondary school and beyond.

**Mr Chinn**, as you will now know, has taken up a post as a coach for Plymouth Argyle. Whilst I am really thrilled that he has been offered such a tremendous opportunity, we are



very sorry so see him go. We will be giving him a 'farewell' however, because he has already left us, it is likely to be an evening event.

I would like to conclude my personal letter by thanking very much the parents of our last year's Year 6 children, who kindly presented the school with a beautiful apple tree. It has a plaque with the names of the ten children who left us in July and will be a wonderful reminder of their time here at Kennall Vale with us. You can see it from the carpark in the wild garden area.

In the short term, I have employed Mr Kevin Barnes, who will essentially cover Mr Chinn's duties. His background is sport and he has worked as a teaching assistant for many years in a variety of settings. He will be based in Bedruthan class.

### Phonics

Following the success of our two phonics sessions last year, we thought we would make this a regular event, given that the feedback was so positive and, most importantly, the standard of reading and writing improved rapidly, over a very short period of time. The next session will be on for parents of children in Piskies and Cormoran will be on **22<sup>nd</sup> September at 3.45pm in the hall.**

### Assemblies

Each Friday we have a whole class led assembly. Once a term we invite families to attend. Dates for those assemblies can be found in the diary dates section further down. They are an opportunity for the children to showcase some of their work and to talk about what they have been learning.



**Congratulations....** to Oak from Piskies Class for his beautiful manners at lunchtime in the dining room. He will be awarded the **Courtesy Cup**. Captain's Table resumes this Friday.

### Parent Consultations

We have three evenings a year dedicated to meeting with parents and carers in order to report on progress, discuss targets and indeed anything else that maybe important. The consultation in the autumn term largely offers feedback on how well your child has settled in to their new year group and to discuss targets for the term. The spring consultation will focus on progress and teachers will be able to give you some indication on attainment in the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SAT's. The summer meeting is less formal and is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's new teaching team in the following September. The autumn parent consultations are during the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> October. You will be able to select an appointment time. If you are unable to make any of the allocated time slots, please see the class teacher and we will accommodate you. We do appreciate that some parents work late or on shifts.

### An exciting opportunity for Morgawr Class

On 26<sup>th</sup> September Morgawr Class will be given the opportunity to learn some Chinese, specifically Mandarin for an hour every week. This is an exciting opportunity to broaden



pupils' horizons, to extend their language skills and to learn about a very different culture, yet one that is in the forefront of business and commerce. Mandarin is one the most widely spoken languages in the world.

### Dinner Money

The kitchen operates completely separately from school. This means that it is the kitchen that has responsibility for balancing the books. The administration becomes quite difficult when money is late or the incorrect amount is given. Please could I ask that all dinner money is placed in the lunch box provided in each class every Monday morning in a sealed envelope? Please state clearly on the envelope name of pupil, lunch choices for the week and amount paid. In this way we can hand monies straight over to the kitchen. School lunches are **£2.25 per day**. Any credits will be carried over as change cannot be given.

### A Special Invitation

Many of you will be aware that, during the summer holiday, Miss Wright volunteered to work in a refugee camp in Greece. She was based in the Oinofyta Refugee Camp near Athens, teaching children of all ages. The photograph shows Miss Wright with the class she taught each morning. Last term she organized a sponsored run and through your efforts we raised a staggering £775, which was used to purchase two air conditioning units for the school and nursery – with temperatures close to 40 degrees, these were greatly appreciated! Miss Wright would love the opportunity to talk to you about the work she did and how Kennall Vale is hoping to continue to support the Oinofyta school, which is a lifeline for so many displaced and traumatised young people and their families. Miss Wright will be giving a talk in this Friday's assembly for the children, sharing stories and photographs and answering questions, and parents are invited to attend if they would like. In addition to this, she will give a talk for parents on 19<sup>th</sup> September at 3.45pm in the school hall. **Please note that the parent talk will not be suitable for children to attend, as Miss Wright is hoping to speak more frankly about some of the experiences she had.**



### School Council

New School Council representatives will be elected this week. We will begin work on achieving accreditation for becoming a Rights Respecting School, largely through our work to support refugees. The response Miss Wright received was so moving and the work she did so invaluable, we feel we cannot simply turn our backs on this. Another aspect we would like to develop through the School Council is debating. We held our first debate last term. It was expertly staged with the help of Mrs Welch and Mrs Medlin and served to enrich speaking and listening skills in addition to other vital skills necessary for good and effective debate such as being analytical, drawing conclusions, being open minded, showing tolerance and respect, voicing an opinion and so on. If you would like to be involved please let me know.



### Data Sheets

Data collection sheets will be sent home next week. Please scrutinise contact details, it is vital that we have all your current information including an **email address** since this is our preferred method of communication. Please sign and date to confirm any changes and return to Mrs Richards by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

### Late Log

On the recommendation of our Education Welfare Officer we need to keep a late log. Any pupil that arrives after 9.00am will have to come through the main entrance; all other entrances will be locked for safeguarding purposes.

Parents/pupils will need to indicate the time of arrival and reason for lateness so that this can be monitored, over time lateness is cumulative and can in some cases amount to a significant loss of teaching hours, it is also our experience that children who arrive late can become quite distressed which impacts the rest of their day.

### Records

I need to ensure all records are up to date. If either one or both parents are in the forces please let us know. A small amount of funding is available to the school for each pupil from a forces family to ensure that mobility does not become a barrier to learning and achievement. We track all forces pupils to ensure that they are making good progress.



### Dates for your diary

Date	Event
19.09.16	Parent Assembly: Miss Wright
21.09.16	Open Evening at Penryn College for Y 6 pupils from 5pm-8pm
22.09.16	Phonics Session for families at 3.45 pm in the school hall
28.09.16	Year 2 SAT's information for parents at 3.30 pm.
Week Beg 17.10.16	Parent Consultations from 3.30pm-6pm (Mon, Tue, Wed and Thur)
31.10.16	Staff Training Day – school closed
04.11.16	Morgawr Class Assembly
11.11.16	Cormoran Class Assembly
18.11.16	Piskies Class Assembly
25.11.16	Bedruthan Class Assembly
05.12.16	Piskies Christmas Play at 1.30pm
06.12.16	Cormoran Christmas Play at 1.30pm
07.12.16	Morgawr Christmas Play at 1.30pm
08.12.16	Bedruthan Christmas Production at 6.15pm
TBA	Christmas Shopping Day and Santa!
TBA	Christmas Parties – all classes
15.12.16	Break up for Christmas

**I received this message from Penryn College to be communicated to all parents and carers of children in Year 6:**

'It has been brought to our attention that the date and time of our **Open Evening** has not been published in the County's Admissions Booklet. Could you let your Year 6 students know that Penryn College's Open Evening is on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 5pm – 8pm**'.

And finally...



Over to the children.....

**I couldn't send my first newsletter of the new year out without including some of our lovely new Reception Piskies!**



**Ethan and Freddie having fun with construction! Below, Libby, Stanley, Oscar, Robin, Freddie and Elowen are enjoying drawing.**

Kind regards,

Louise Northern

