

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

*Sad Exciting News, New Administrator!, Governors, Sensory Garden, May Day Fair, Cricket Coach and 20 is Plenty*

### Sad Exciting News

Miss Wilson is sadly leaving us as the end of this term. Excitingly for her, she has acquired a teaching post in a British School in the United Arab Emirates. It's an amazing opportunity for her but she's been torn by her enjoyment of teaching here and loyalty to the school. You might find her either in tears or with a big smile in her last few weeks here. As you probably know, Megan was a pupil here and a student teacher before joining us as a teacher two years ago. We are really sad to see her go but do understand her reasons. She leaves a big gap and big shoes for her successor to follow. The recruitment process for a new teacher started today and we hope to have an appointment made by the half term break.

### New Administrator!

I'm very pleased to inform you that following interviews on Wednesday, we have appointed a new School Administrator: Marie Farrelly. Marie will be starting with us straight after half term on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. She will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Rosie Downham will be the Assistant Administrator and will continue to work in the office on Thursdays and Fridays. Marie comes with a lot of experience that will help us establish new systems such as moving away from paying by cash. We are all confident in our new office team as I'm sure you will be too. It's an exciting opportunity to make some very positive moves forward.

In the meantime, I am continually grateful to Rachel Johns and Rosie Downham who are still stepping into the breach to cover the office in the absence of a school administrator. Rachel will continue until half term on Mondays and Tuesdays. Sarah Creedy from the Local Authority will continue to fill the gap on Wednesdays with her knowledge of finance. Rosie is continuing on Thursdays and Fridays.

### Governors

Governors have been busy again this week. On Monday, Catherine Denning, Richard Whiffin and Gemma Nalder from the APMC (Action Planning Monitoring Committee) met to review school progress. On Wednesday, Richard and Jenny Hersey helped with the interview process. Today, Elaine Ward, Jenny Hersey and Dave McNee from the Teaching and Learning Committee met to review various policies and to offer challenge for further school improvements. For example, we will be exploring our policy on homework and will soon be seeking your views. Thank you as always to governors for their time, expertise and commitment to our school.



### Sensory Garden

You will have noticed by now there has been some work done during the Easter holidays on the new Sensory Garden area. Mrs Fordham along with the help of Mr Fordham have cut and dug in the green manure that has been growing over winter to fertilise the soil. As the area is all about our senses, there is a fun rain water catchment system made from recycled plastic bottles, sections to touch of grass, pine cones, bark chippings and shells. There are wooden cookies on strings and a game to encourage fine motor skills.

Mrs Fordham is actively trying to seek plant donations from local garden centres for the main planting as there are currently only a few small plants. If anyone can help with supplying plants that are of interest i.e. touch, sight, smell, sound and taste please leave them inside the Nature School base camp fence along with a note of who has left them. The sooner we get planting the better, making another fantastic addition to the school!

Many thanks to Mrs Fordham for all her wonderful work. The Sensory Garden presents a fantastic first impression of our school as well as making an intriguing and engaging addition for the children.

### May Day Fair on Monday

The PTFA fair, complete with Maypole dancers, takes place on Bank Holiday Monday after the weekend from 11.00-4.00. Please come along to the village hall and support either by visiting or if you have a spare hour, by helping out. Also, the PTFA café at the fair is still in need of cakes so if you are able to bake a few and take them down for sale, it would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you there.

### Cricket Coach

On Tuesday Robins took advantage of the Devon cricket coach, Andy Buzza, for some more high quality and fun lessons. Andy also worked with Y5/6s to help train them for a Kwik Cricket Devon competition that is planned for next month.

### **20 is Plenty**

**Please drive carefully through the village, especially at drop off and pick up times when there at least 112 children walking around the area. Any accidents would just be the worst tragedy ever, so please take care. Thank you.**



Dates for your Diary (*this calendar will be updated over the course of the term*)

Date	Event
Monday 7.5.18	May Day Craft Fair at the village hall with maypole dancing 11-4
Friday 11.5.18	Swimming for Kingfisher and Year 1 in the afternoon
Monday 14.5.18	Year 2 statutory KS1 testing week for Reading
Monday 14.5.18	Year 6 statutory KS2 test in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
Tuesday 15.5.18	Year 6 statutory KS2 test in Reading
Wednesday 16.5.18	Year 6 statutory KS2 test in Maths (Arithmetic and Reasoning I)
Thursday 17.5.18	Year 6 statutory KS2 test in Maths (Reasoning II)
Friday 18.5.18	Swimming for Kingfisher and Year 1 in the afternoon
Monday 21.5.18	Year 2 statutory KS1 testing week for Maths
Friday 25.5.18	Swimming for Kingfisher and Year 1 in the afternoon
Monday 4.6.18	First day back for children after the half term break
Friday 8.6.18	Swimming for Swift and Year 2 in the afternoon Year 4 Primary Olympics Event at NAC (finishing in time to make it to the leisure centre for swimming)
Monday 11.6.18	Year 1 statutory Phonics testing week
Friday 15.6.18	Swimming for Swift and Year 2 in the afternoon Year 5 Sporting Spectacular at Forches Cross
Tuesday 19.6.18	Sports Day in the morning
Friday 22.6.18	Swimming for Swift and Year 2 in the afternoon
Friday 29.6.18	Swimming for Swift and Year 2 in the afternoon
Friday 10.7.18	Whole school reward trip to the River Dart (last day of the term)

