

New Year Resolutions!

Spring Term 2019 no 4



Message from Mrs Carter, Head of School

Dear All,

We are all settled into the new term here and, as ever, the children have already been really busy. Our Year 6 Leaders are getting to know their new jobs for the term, the Class Councils have met to put forward ideas to improve our school and raise funds and we've already been celebrating a good range of achievements in our celebrations assemblies.

We have some great opportunities lined up for the children this term. Year 2 are working with a range of partners - South Devon College and the James Dyson Foundation as well as a local engineering business, to design new and useful inventions. Their designs will be entered into the 'Young Leaders Engineering Awards' for a chance to have their design made into reality.

Year 1 are developing their links with the elderly within our community and will be writing letters to residents at Primley House. Much research has been done on the mutual benefits of building cross generational relationships so it will be interesting, if not heart-warming, to see this in practice.

Year 5 are well on the way to coming up with some new ways to use their persuasive skills and raise funds for their residential trip due to take place next September. Hold the date for an **Easter Market on Thursday April 4th** and an Easter Hat Competition too!

We are also looking forward to seeing our Dance Troupe perform at the Dance Festival and our choir perform at the Riviera Centre as part of the Torbay Schools' Festival of Performing Arts.

There will be opportunity too to register for the Torbay Half Marathon challenge. This has been a significant money raiser for the school in previous years. We were the most represented school at the event last year so we hope to see more children and families taking part and having fun this year to beat our record!

Best Wishes Mrs Carter

Your help and support is required...

The issue of parking around the school and the issue of transporting children to and from school has been a growing concern for me and for other members of our school community over the past few months.

Double yellow lines, no parking zones and the yellow zig-zags are all designed to keep our children safe. Parking or stopping in these areas **is illegal and dangerous.** It seriously restricts the view of children and adults trying to cross the road. It also means that drivers on the road cannot see pedestrians waiting to cross.

We have had at least 3 near misses that I know of in the last weeks of last term and the beginning of this one, including an incident where a driver mounted the pavement almost knocking a mother and child over! They were both quite shaken. I do not want any of our children to end up in hospital seriously injured or worse due to a lack of thought and care by parents of our school.

I have also been extremely disappointed and embarrassed by the response from some of our parents towards our parking attendants and police officers who have been at the school trying to address the problem and prevent our children being hurt. Neighbours of the school have also been verbally abused. This is wholly unacceptable and I ask that all members of our school community are respectful to all others in the wider community in line with our school values.

I would like to remind everyone that we do have parking permits available for the car park next to the library which allow a good amount of time for dropping off and picking up. Please ask at reception if you would like one.

I hope to see some improvement in the parking situation over the coming week.



Welcomes

We have some new faces around the school and some familiar ones who we welcome to new roles within the academy ...

Tracey Watt, who has been working as part of our Wellbeing Team and assisting in our nurture provision, The Nest, will now be leading that provision going forward. We are very pleased that the great work will continue and develop as she takes the helm.

Robert Capp, has also joined the Wellbeing Team and will work across years 1 and 2. He will also be assisting in The Nest during the afternoons. He comes with a wealth of experience and skills to share.

We also welcome **Alison McMinn, Charlotte Hudson and Sarah Beaufoy** to our team of Mealtime Assistants working across the school to help children throughout their lunchtime.

Well done Barracudas

We were delighted to receive this email from a member of the public ...

Hello,

I just wanted to say how well behaved the class were today at Paignton Leisure Centre. My wife and I were in there this afternoon with our little boy ... who is just 3. He had an excellent time playing with the children when they all came into the play area after their swimming class. In particular there was a boy called Connor who ... really looked after Jack amongst all the other children. They were a really good example for the school.

Thank you year 5 and Connor for being such great ambassadors for our school

Wellies

As part of our Early Years provision, children access our outside area and enjoy playing in the mud kitchen and splashing in puddles of rainy days.

We are in need of wellies suitable for nursery to reception age (children's size 7-11) and would appreciate any you have that your children have grown of.

If you have any you no longer need, please could you drop them off at the office.

Many thanks.



Clubs

We have spaces on the following clubs:

Mon - Music Yrs 1&2
Tue - Netball Yrs 5&6
Wed - Basketball Yrs 3-6
Thu - Taekwondo - Yrs 2-5
Thu - Tag rugby Yrs 1-3

Booking forms available from the school's Reception

Bikeability...

.... isn't Just for Children!

Torbay Council and Paignton Academy are now running FREE cycle training for parents. If you would like to know what we teach your children and how to ride safely with them, this is for you!

We will also be running women-only courses under our forthcoming 'Pedal' for Women programme.

For more details please contact highways@torbay.gov.uk



Reminders!

- It would be great to see all children in correct uniform in the new year. Just a reminder that leggings and trainers are not part of our uniform requirement - your support with this is very much appreciated.
- Children are actively encouraged to bring water bottles to school to use throughout the school day. Juice / squash may be provided as a lunchtime drink only.
- A number of pushchairs are being left in the porch by our main reception area. They are becoming a hazard. Please take them home with you or leave them to the side of the school building. We cannot accept responsibility for any items left on school premises.

Key Dates For Your Diary!

February

18th - 22nd - Half Term

March

7th - World Book Day

7th - 12th Book Fair

8th - Red Nose Day

13th / 14th - Parent consultations

27th - Unsung Heroes Spring Term Celebration

April

4th - Easter Market

5th - End of term



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