

UPDATES

The East Anstey Primary School Newsletter

From the Head

Hello all.

Welcome to our summer term. I hope you all had a great Easter and enjoyed the fabulous weather. This is always a very important time in the school year with the culmination of a great deal of hard work and learning. It is most definitely a fun time but also the children's chance to show what fantastic progress they have made. As always, I hope to see you all soon and look forward to an excellent term.

Events

Each summer term we have some fantastic events to look forward to. Some of these include: the Exmoor Challenge, (see page 6), sports fixtures and festivals, Oceanfest 17, theme days, trips (including our residential to London), the brand new Junior Lifeguard Award, Bikeability, Junior Life Skills, our sports days, as well as open afternoon, parent's consultations and leaver's event. The year sixes will be also be preparing for their transition to South Molton. More about all of these and other events closer to the time.

Tests

This is the half term where many children take National tests or school versions of them. These tests form only one of the ways that we assess our children. We help the children to prepare themselves for them but also emphasise that children should not get stressed about them. We remind them to simply try their best and never to panic about them. If you do have concerns about the tests or how children are preparing for them, do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher or contact me at school.

Funding

You may well have heard of the current pressures on school budgets in national and local media or through our own communications. Unfortunately we are not immune to these pressures and we continually explore all avenues for fundraising to supplement the school budget. One of these avenues is to bid for grants for projects and you may receive e-mails informing you of current projects and how the fundraising is progressing.

What's New?

Even with tight budgets, we always aim to improve our wonderful school wherever we can. In light of this, parts of the school will be undergoing some refurbishment later this term and into next year. We will hopefully continue to upgrade our windows and look to improve our school grounds through a number of projects. We will be looking to upgrade our sports kits for our teams and are also making some changes to uniform later this term in readiness for September, so watch out for the separate letters and communications over the next few weeks.

Summer weather

Although it has been somewhat chilly this week, very soon the warmer weather will be with us (I am always optimistic). It is therefore time for me to send out my reminder about sun protection as we head into May and would also request that sun hats are sent in when appropriate. Sun cream should be sent in or single application cream applied before school please. Please could you also advise us of any special arrangements? Summer dresses or shorts will be suitable this term and sensible sandals are acceptable. Trainers are to be reserved only for PE please unless in school (black) colour. Many thanks.

Tim Gurney



Summer Term 2017

Apr '17 No. 76

DIARY DATES

Dates may be amended or added

Apr 2017

Sat 29th EXMOOR CHALLENGE

May 2017

Mon 1st Bank Holiday
Wed 3rd Whole School Photo
Thu 4th Local Elections on site
Mon 8th-Fri 12th KS2 SATS
Mon 15th Cricket/Rounders (yr 3/4)
Thu 25th Governors' Mtg 6.15 BN

Monday 29th May - Fri 2nd June

HALF TERM

June 2017

Wed 7th Bikeability 1
Thu 8th Bikeability 2
Thu 8th General Election on site
Fri 9th Junior Lifeguard (Yr 6)
Tue 13th Swimming Begins
Wed 14th Sports Day (provisional)
Thu 15th Lifeskills (Yr 6)
Fri 16th Oceanfest (Yr 5)
Mon 19th Move up day 1 (tbc)
Wed 21st-Thu 22nd Yr 6 London Trip
Wed 28th 'Mix on the Move' (Juniors)
Thu 29th Move up day 2

July 2017

Wed 5th South Molton Music Fest
Fri 7th Open Morning
Tue 11th Last Swim of Term
Tue 11th Parents' evening
Wed 12th Reserve Sports Day
Wed 12th Governors' Mtg 6.15 EA
Fri 14th Business Afternoon
Sat 15th EA Village Fete
Thu 20th Leavers' assembly
Fri 21st Last Day of Term

committed

The East Anstey Team

caring

Mr Gurney Mrs Forder Mrs Yarney Miss Boyce Mrs Partridge Mr Deveney
Mrs Loftus Mrs Dennis Mr Yarney Miss Mair Miss Woollacott Mr Holloway
Mrs Mair Miss Cooper Mrs Rycroft Miss Mair Mrs Jones

'Part of the Exmoor Link Federation'

CLASS 1 (INFANTS) NEWS

Dear Families

Welcome back to school we hope you all had a lovely Easter. We have a fun packed term ahead learning about our new topic 'Living and Growing'. Please see topic overview below.

Could I just remind you of a few routines:

* Chris will be taking Pro-coaching PE sessions on a Tuesday, so the children will need a full PE kit every **Tuesday**. If you are going to buy PE shoes over the coming term or for next term can I recommend a trainer type shoe. We find that Plimsoles don't offer very good support. The weather has been chilly this week so keep a pair of long bottoms in their bags too just in case.

* Mr Scandrett will be taking PE

and Outdoor learning every **Wednesday** and the children will need a change of clothes and a pair of wellies. They may be gardening or making camp fires so will need clothes that can get muddy and mucky. The children will also need their PE kits for the PE part of the afternoon.

* The children have been brilliant this term bring their reading books in daily but don't forget to check them for letters, artwork, and bits and bobs, as some of them are getting rather full.

Could I remind all parents to ask their children to leave toys at home. We are still getting a few coming in and there is a risk that they will get lost or broken. It's helpful if you have already had the conversation before school

so that the children don't need to get upset at the start of the school day. Thank you for your support.

We are planning on doing lots of gardening, digging and planting this term, and are looking for any donations of compost, seeds and seedlings. So if you have any spares or leftovers from your gardening over the next few weeks, we would very happily offer them a new home.

We look forward to catching up with everyone over the next few weeks but please don't hesitate to pop in or make a time at the office if you need a chat.

*Mrs Yarney,
Miss Mair
and Mrs Dennis.*

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| <p><u>English:</u></p> <p>Jack and the Beanstalk: writing fairytales using descriptive language.</p> <p>The disgusting sandwich: writing a story with humour, using a range of punctuation.</p> <p>Daily phonics and handwriting</p> <p>Regular reading</p> | <p><u>Maths:</u></p> <p>Geometric reasoning: shapes, space and measures. Knowing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.</p> <p>Number Reasoning: counting to 100 in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s. finding one more or one less, ordering numbers and representing numbers indifferent ways.</p> | <p><u>Science:</u></p> <p>Growing plants: what plants need to grow and survive.</p> <p>Identifying different kinds of plants, naming common varieties.</p> <p>Habitats</p> <p>Life cycles of minibeasts.</p> |
| <p><u>Art and Design:</u></p> <p>Using pattern and printing to create a plant collage</p> <p>Investigating the artist Guiseppo Archimboldo. (fruit and veg faces)</p> <p>Still drawing /observational art</p> <p>Making healthy salads and fruit smoothies</p> | <p>Living and Growing</p>  | <p>PE:</p> <p>Mr Scandrett: Tennis and racket skills</p> <p>Pro – Coaching chris.</p> |
| <p><u>History:</u></p> <p>Charles Darwin</p> <p>Life in the past</p> <p>Sailing now and then</p> <p>Being a naturalist</p> | <p><u>Geography:</u></p> <p>Where are the Galapagos islands?</p> <p>What wildlife can be found there?</p> | <p><u>Foundation Stage:</u></p> <p>The Foundation stage will be joining in with most of the class activities at their appropriate level. Additional activities will include:</p> <p>Gross and fine motor skills; threading, handwriting, playdough, sorting.</p> <p>Story telling through, role play, Small world.</p> <p>Writing and mark making linked to our class story.</p> <p>Phonic, reading and listening activities</p> <p>Number recognition, counting and adding activities</p> <p>Painting and making, junk modelling etc.</p> |

Infant Topic Overview

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to Pre-School and our very busy Summer Term.

Our topic title for this term is - 'Growing'.

We continue to learn more about life cycles continuing our work from last half term. We plan to create our own Garden Centre, learning more about plants and the planting of seeds. The children are interested in animals so we are hoping to base our teaching around the growth and care of these. The children have been enjoying the mud kitchen and we will also implement muddy 'forest school' style activities once a week! As always we continue to work closely with Class 1, meeting at least once a week for adult-led activities and free play. We plan to meet with Miss Mair and the Foundation children every Thursday afternoon.

Book bags - A polite reminder to all of our families to please return book bags and contents regularly. The children are encouraged to choose a new reading book daily. We complete a comment in the communication book regularly; the communication books are kept in your child's tray or in the book bags. Please feel free to write in the book any notes of progress or comments you wish to share with us.

Parent & Toddler group - Open to all 0 - 4 years. Every Monday morning (term time) 9.30am start in the Pre-School room. Come along for a play, a chat and a cuppa!

Key Person - Each child is allocated a member of staff to be their Key Person. Please feel free to approach Louise, Chrissy and/or Sarah to talk about progress you have noticed at home or any concerns you may have.

Some things to try at home -

- Make a story den. Build a quiet area in your home using a blanket or cardboard box. Encourage this space as a quiet area. Can teddy whisper when he enters the den?
- Mini-beast hunt, creating a 'home' for a new pet found.
- Counting actions together e.g. walking up steps
- Sounding initial sounds to your child during instructions e.g. 'p' 'p' 'push' the door.

Additional Pre-School Dates for the Diary -

Parents evening 27th June 2017, Pre-school Open Morning 6th July 2017

Sarah Cooper, Chrissy Rycroft, Louise Mair and Mia Jones

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

With the spring sunshine and the signs of new life all around us brightening up our days, we are reminded that this is the season to really get stuck into our grounds projects. Through the colder months we have been busy planning and gathering research data into how best to utilise our outdoor space.

Raised flower beds are almost completed and will be positioned and filled within the next fortnight. Any donations of compost or top soil would be most useful. Our bug hotel structure is built and in place. It now requires furnishing with any donations of old plant pots, hose pipe, garden canes, guttering and wood.

Many thanks for your contributions. Please keep them coming!

Our summer sports programme is underway focussing on kwik cricket this half term, before moving on to racket sports and rounders. There is the potential of entering a cricket tournament and a regional athletics competition depending on our abilities over the next few weeks. An exciting opportunity for cricket fans will also be revealed shortly.

Our intra house tournament continues as we close in on the Sainsbury's school games award. This is a new initiative this year, which recognises and monitors our sporting education and progress throughout the year.

See you all on the side lines

Mr Scandrett

CLASS 3 NEWS

Welcome back everyone. I trust that have all had a wonderful Easter break. And what a beautiful one it was too, to be blessed with such amazing spring weather. This is of course the final term of the school year and is set to be as action-packed as the rest.

National Tests

We begin, as is customary, with national tests. This is an opportunity for the children at the end of KS1 and 2 to be formally assessed on the fantastic progress they have made throughout the year. They are rigorous and fairly intensive, particularly for pupils in KS2, but I can confidently say that the children will be more than ready. This is, of course, only one way that as a school we measure the children's development. At East Anstey, we pride ourselves in nurturing the whole child and preparing them for later life, when they will be called upon to demonstrate a range of skills, experiences and have the confidence to show others that they can work to a high standard in which ever avenue they choose: national tests form only one part of the big picture. None the less, we aim to get the children as ready as we possibly can. As such, preparations have been underway for sometime and a final booster programme is now in place to enable children to polish off last-minute skills in readiness for test week. Further information will be made available for your reference, shortly; however, should you wish to discuss any matters regarding arrangements and how this will affect your child, then please do not hesitate to come in and speak with me.

Events

The summer term is also traditionally the term where we are able to take advantage of the best of the weather. We can look forward to Sport's Day, the

Exmoor Challenge, Business Afternoon, which was a great success last year; school trips and the London residential. I can also announce that, for the first time, we will be able to offer the chance to participate in a national life saving award, which will take place at Putsborough beach, under the tutorage of fully qualified life guards.

And let's not forget that this is also the time of year where we make preparations for the next stage in the children's school life, which for some means a change of year, Key Stage and for our year 6s: a change of school. I do hope that you are all able to join us for the final event of the school year: The Leaver's Assembly, where we can all give them the send off that they so richly deserve. Tissues at the ready- and that's just for me!

Learning

There is much to be excited about in terms of the curriculum too. We begin a new topic with the junior children, studying early man: from stone age to iron age. This will include finding out about settlement and man's impact on the land. The children will discover how man became successful and the important role that tools and agriculture had on rapid growth. We will look closely at houses and homes and in particular the structure and design of traditional round houses. As we are fortunate enough to live in a location that is rich in historical sites associated with this period of history, we hope to get out in the field and see it for ourselves, first hand.

In science, closely linked to the over-arching topic, the children will take part in the study of materials - in particular, changing states - and will delve into the world of light, making connections with astronomical clocks

and the wonders of Stonehenge.

With the summer comes the growing season. With this in mind, all of the children will be busy completing our raised beds, with Mr Scandrett, and will soon organise the planting. Many thanks to Mr Scandrett, who continues to have a significant impact on the development of our outdoor learning environment. With the help of the Eco club, steered by Mrs Yarney, all of the children very much look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour.

PE will take place on Tuesday and Friday, as before. Outdoor learning will be delivered on a Friday also. Many thanks to you for helping your children organise themselves to be appropriately equipped for all learning outdoor environment - a marked improvement on the Autumn term.

Clubs

We have a full programme of clubs to look forward to:

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Eco Club | Pupil Council |
| Archery | Multi-skills |
| Band | Recorder |

Thank you to everyone, who continues to contribute to the full life of the school. We are always looking to broaden the range of clubs that we can offer. Should you happen to be a budding sportsman or have an interest in the creative arts - or something completely different - we would love to hear from you.

All that remains for me to say is have a lovely Summer term. I hope to see you all at the many up-coming events. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

With very best wishes

Nic Forder and team

Roadworks - Local Arrangements



Please be aware that there is a planned road closure from outside the bottom gate of the school up to Barton Cross. This starts on **Tuesday 2nd May** and is likely to last for at least a week. We have been assured that access to the school will be maintained but we will all need to be very careful with restricted parking and turning areas etc. The work is for emergency BT Openreach cabling (see letter attached) - we haven't received the plan or suggested diversion route.



Please can we also remind you that there is no parking available at Henley (next door) as the area needs to be kept clear at all times for extended building works on the property.

STAFFING

We said a very sad 'goodbye' to Tracey Glasspool last week. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her back to help with various projects in school, especially as our very own 'visiting author' once her book is in print!

We will be welcoming Mrs Carlene Read to the admin staff shortly and she is looking forward to becoming part of the Anstey family.

We have also welcomed Natasha Lovell, our student teacher, to the Infant class this term - she writes

Dear parents,

My name is Natasha Lovell, you may, or may not, have already seen me on site before the half term break. For those who I have not met, I am a student from Exeter University completing the second half of my PGCE in class 1 until July.

Whilst at the school, I will be throwing myself into all aspects of teaching and learning, and am very much looking forward to working with the children and staff. As part of the evidence on my course, I would like to take some pictures of the children's work and sometimes the children, where appropriate (names will not be included). If you would rather your child not be photographed, then please do not hesitate to contact the school or speak to myself.

I look forward to meeting you all,

Natasha.



SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

Vouchers are available in stores until 2nd May and our collection box is in reception. We will start counting up shortly so do have a rummage in purses and wallets for any strays! We can accept vouchers up to the end of June, but would ask that you send them in as soon as possible please.

Many thanks for your continued support.

2017/2018 TERM DATES

Summer Term 2017

Wednesday 19th April to Friday 21st July
 May Day Holiday: Monday 1st May
 Half-term: Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June
 Non-pupil days: Tuesday 18th April and Monday 24th July

Autumn Term 2017

Wednesday 6th September to Friday 15th December
 Half-term: Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October
 Non-pupil days: Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September

Spring Term 2018

Thursday 4th January to Thursday 29th March
 Half-term: Monday 12th to Friday 16th February
 Non-pupil days: Wednesday 3rd January

Summer Term 2018

Tuesday 16th April to Wednesday 25th July
 May Day Holiday: Monday 7th May
 Half-term: Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June
 Non-pupil days: Monday 16th April and Friday 27th July

Thought for this term...

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

Thomas Edison

Clubs

Our after-school and lunchtime clubs for this half term are as follows:

After school clubs: (3.30-4.30pm, except archery 3.30-4.45pm)

Monday: Eco Club *Mrs Yarney*
Tuesday: Sports (juniors) *Procoaching*
Wednesday: School Band *Mr Taylor*
Thursday: Archery *North Devon Archery Academy*

Lunchtime clubs:

Tuesday: Sports (infants) *Procoaching*
Friday: Recorder *Miss Boyce*

House Points



Totals so far this term

Ruby **59 points**
Sapphire **68 points**
Emerald **48 points**
Amber **56 points**

Summer Term Achievers

Weekly Achievers

Class 1 Achiever: **Arthur**
Class 2 Achiever: **Rosie**
Class 3 Achiever: **Hugo**

EXMOOR YOUTH CHALLENGE

If you have been following our school blog or Facebook, you will perhaps be aware of our preparations for the Exmoor Challenge. This event is a sixteen mile, circular walk across part of the moor starting and culminating at Dulverton Middle School. The event, organised by the Rotary, will see around six hundred competitors and takes place across some really challenging terrain.

Our year 6 children take part as part of a curriculum module and this year we have two teams entered across the federation. Anyone completing the course receives a medal but teams are also battling the clock between checkpoints and trying to avoid penalty points to feature well in the final rankings. We have been practising over the last few weeks and would like to thank Graham Turner for his logistical support and assistance with first aid, together with staff and parents who have given up their Saturdays to help.

The event takes place this Saturday (29th) at the middle school with our teams getting underway just before and just after 09.30. Do come along if you would like to cheer them on (great refreshments available and the moor on your doorstep) but I am sure you will also join me in wishing them the very best of luck for the challenge.

Tim Gurney

What is working and what isn't? Please use the Soundboard below, pick up the phone or come in and see us. All suggestions and issues are important to us and we will work together to resolve any problems.

We hope you are finding the website useful, but any requests or suggestions for content etc would also be very welcome.

Please cut this out and return it to school with any comments/suggestions/questions etc.

Soundboard