

# UPDATES

## The East Anstey Primary School Newsletter



**Early Spring Term 2016**  
**Jan '16      Number 72**

### From the Head

Hello all.

I would like to begin by wishing you all a very happy New Year and hope that you all had a lovely festive season. The holiday already seems like a distant memory as we race into the Spring Term.

#### Spring Term

This is always a short and very full term. There are all kinds of exciting things to look forward to during this Spring. We will have new class topics, school trips, exciting projects (such as the Chorister Outreach Programme – see below), and Easter activities at the end of the term. We are also hoping to start some fantastic musical opportunities as the term goes on. Meanwhile, the classes have settled back into school really well and you will be able to see what we have planned for them later in this newsletter. Clubs are underway again with a varied and exciting range on offer. We are also planning a number of sporting fixtures this term but they are likely to take place when the weather is a little improved. These will hopefully include some home and away football fixtures and perhaps even a mini tournament next half term. There might be opportunities for netball / tag fixtures as well.

#### New Initiatives

We are starting the New Year with several brand new initiatives. The first of these is the Chorister Outreach Programme. This is a musical opportunity for older children to practice and then sing at Exeter Cathedral. This is just one of several musical opportunities that we are hoping to start up this year. We also have plans to enhance our history curriculum (more on this soon) and will be formally launching our Exmoor Link Curriculum later this term.

#### Adventure and Challenge

We are hoping to be able to enter three teams from our federation in the Exmoor Youth Challenge this year. This is a highly challenging event for teams of year sixes and includes full open moorland walking over a sixteen mile course. The event also involves map reading, orienteering and extremely close timings! We will begin some trials and practices as soon as the weather improves so more updates as we get closer to the event. This term also sees the residential trip to Heatree Activity Centre on Dartmoor for year 4 and 5 children. This is always an excellent venue with very exciting outward bounds and adventurous activities including everything from Caving to High Ropes!

#### Winter weather

This is the worst half term for the weather and so as always, could I request that children are well prepared for wintry conditions with coats, gloves and appropriate footwear. If severe wintry weather occurs then please follow the **SNOW CLOSURE GUIDANCE** (previously sent). Please be aware that the systems to find out if the school is open include: the School Text Service, Facebook & Twitter, Radio Devon and the Devon County Website. These are the main systems as staff may not be able to get to the school to update other systems or put notes on the gates. If bad weather strikes during a school day then you will be contacted accordingly.

You will also be aware that after extremely heavy rainfall the lane often floods at the bottom gate area. If this happens we may have to close the area and we would then make alternative arrangements (such as using the top entrances).

Enjoy the term and I look forward to seeing you all during some of our exciting events.

Best wishes

*Tim Gurney*

#### Dates for the Diary:

(Dates may be amended or added)

#### Feb 2016

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>      *Height & Weight*

*Yrs R & 6*

Thu 4<sup>th</sup>

*Football Tournament  
at SMCC*

#### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February HALF TERM

Tue 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Open Afternoon  
Including Pre-School  
Parents Evening 1*

Mon 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Mar 2016

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Photographs*

Thu 10<sup>th</sup>

*Parents Evening 2  
Pre-school Parents Eve*

Wed 16<sup>th</sup>-Fri 18<sup>th</sup>

*HEATREE*

Thu 17<sup>th</sup>

*Multiskills at SMCC  
Years 1 & 2*

Thu 24<sup>th</sup>

*Last Day of Term  
9.30am Easter Assembly  
Easter Activities*

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April EASTER HOLIDAY

#### Apr 2016

Mon 11<sup>th</sup>

*Non-pupil Day*

Tue 12<sup>th</sup>

*Children return to school*

*committed*

*The East Anstey Team*

*caring*

*Mr Gurney Mrs Forder Mrs Yarney Mrs Everett-Kelway Mrs Partridge Mr Deveney Mrs Attwood  
Mrs Loftus Mrs Dennis Mr Yarney Miss Mair Mrs Glasspool Mrs Dean Mrs Buckee  
Mrs Mair Mrs Bateman Miss Cooper Miss Mair Mrs Jones*

*'Part of the Exmoor Link Federation'*

## CLASS 1 (INFANTS) NEWS

Dear families,

Welcome back to school. We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break. The children have come back to school full of beans and ready to go.

As you have probably heard our topic this term is 'Oceans and Seas'. We are learning about the animals that live under the sea, the different kinds of oceans that are around the world and how this habitat is different from other habitats around the world.

We are looking forward to sharing any linked interests that your children may have and welcome artefacts, shells, pictures etc to add to our displays and share with the class. Please don't send in anything important or delicate.

Our Literacy and Numeracy are ongoing of course: this term we have been learning about number, counting, patterns and place value. In Literacy we are writing stories based on a Christmas video and the children have been improving their writing by adding noun phrases, adjectives and verbs.

In our Foundation Stage we are enjoying finding out about fish and sea creatures,

painting, modelling, drawing and writing about them. Mark making is our focus this week and we would love to see anything your children have done. Perhaps drawings, marks or writing that they have tried at home. (Emergent writing is any marks that your child has made and is calling their writing, not necessarily words and sentences.)

The children have had their first piece of homework this week. Well done to those children who have managed to get it in. I am looking forward to sharing their discoveries.

Homework will come home on a Friday to be returned the following Thursday. If any children have difficulty completing homework at home I may ask them to take some time in the day to finish it off.

We are now having PE on a Monday and Thursday so your child will need a complete PE kit on those days. A change of socks and some long bottoms are really necessary this term as it is so cold and possibly wet, so please make sure that your child has some.

We have been lucky enough to have a

lovely mum come in to help with 1 to 1 reading in the class. We always love to have parent helpers, so if you are interested and can give some time during the week please pop into the office for a chat.

As usual please keep up the regular reading at home and make sure that books and home/school books come in to school daily.

We look forward to catching up over the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for our open day and there will be parents' evenings after half term. However if you have any concerns or worries or would like to talk to a member of staff then please pop in or make a time with the office.

Kind regards

Mrs Yarney,  
Mrs Attwood,  
Miss Mair  
and Mrs Dennis.

## PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to pre-school for the spring term.

Our main topic this term will be Splish Splash Splosh and we will be learning a broad range of facts about water including; where does water come from? How can we travel across water? Who lives in water? We will be linking with the Infant Class on Wednesday afternoons and joining in with their topic of Oceans and Seas.

Other areas of play and learning will focus on our feelings, speaking skills, the world, people and communities, health and self-care, identifying numerals using number lines, counting objects and number challenges and problem solving, celebrating spring festivals - Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday.

For some things to try at home:

What happens to water when you put it in the freezer?

How do we use water at home?

Sing number rhymes - 5 little monkeys, 12345 etc

Help your child to count their fingers,

Have a treasure hunt to find objects beginning with 's' or 'a',

How do we keep healthy at home?

We will be having an open afternoon on Tuesday 23rd February from 2.30pm and a parents evening on Thursday 10th March from 3.30-5pm.

We look forward to a busy term!

Catherine Bateman, Sarah Cooper and Louise Mair

Thought for this half term...

**Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life...**

(popular)

## CLASS 2 (YEARS 3&4) NEWS

Dear families

Welcome back to the spring term. The class have certainly come back rejuvenated after what was a very full autumn term. It is a short term and there is much to fit in and look forward to.

In literacy we are combining poetry and non fiction in the book 'I am Cat'. We will then move on to an instructional

text of 'How to invent'. We are focusing on independence in editing and self correction, using resources to support.

In maths we are continuing with fractions for the next two weeks, after which we will move onto multiplication and division. Times tables will remain a weekly focus; 4s and 8s for the next 2 weeks.

Heatree will come around very

quickly and the children are already getting excited so if any of you have any questions about it just pop in or contact the office.

I look forward to seeing you all shortly

Dawn Everett-Kelway  
and the  
class 2 team

### School Meals and Pupil Premium

A reminder that school meals are FREE for all children in years R,1 and 2 and we would like to encourage all families to take full advantage of this scheme. All infant children are automatically included in the scheme - no form filling is necessary!

Our kitchen team work hard to provide both a nutritionally balanced and an appetising menu. Do please contact us if you would like further information or to discuss the scheme.

A reminder also to all families to contact us if you think you may be eligible for free school meals. If you are eligible then the school will also receive Pupil Premium for your child(ren) which has many benefits for them, including discounted school trips and visits and other resources within school. Even if your child is in the infant class and automatically receives free school meals it is still important to apply if you think you may be eligible. The application process is quick and simple and can be done via the office or for more information see [www.devon.gov.uk/free\\_school\\_meals](http://www.devon.gov.uk/free_school_meals).

### VACANCIES

We are about to advertise a vacancy for a pre-school assistant at East Anstey Pre-School. If you would like further details please contact the office or see the Devon jobs website at [www.devonjobs.gov.uk](http://www.devonjobs.gov.uk).

We are also still looking for mealtime assistants at East Anstey. Again, contact the office for further details.

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

### Soundboard

## CLASS 3 (YEARS 5&6) NEWS

Happy New Year everyone.

I trust that you had a wonderful Christmas break. The children have returned full of fun and excitement and have delighted in sharing tales of wonderful gifts and special memories - Star Wars a common major hit!

Now, with barely time to look back, the term is already in full swing. The children are energized and already demonstrating that they are up for new learning and exciting challenges that lay ahead. Well done everyone. It is a pleasure to be in your company, once again. Keep up with the hard work.

### Junior Topic

Plans for a junior trip to the Bristol Museum are already underway. The children will be able to view Egyptian exhibits and participate in an Ancient Egyptian workshop. The museum also benefits from an extensive natural world display, which we will have the time to visit whilst there.

### RE

This term we are studying Christianity from the creation story, to places of worship. We will complete the term by looking at the bible, Jesus and the build up to Easter.

### Music

The children have the opportunity the play brass instruments again this term. There are cornets, trumpets and flugal horns for them to play, from which they can choose which they wish to focus on for the rest of the term. We are hoping to produce an Easter treat at the end of the term!

### Science

The children have already begun science learning for this term: discovering more about Charles Darwin and the significance of his theory of evolution. We shall be using this as a spring board in to learning more about the main animal groups and their life cycles. This will be followed by a study of plants, during which the children will explore the function and life cycle of flowering plants, requirements for life and growth and the transportation of water. At the end of the term, our attention turns to forces and how gears, pulleys and levers can be used to exert a large force, which will link very nicely with our History topic: discovering the engineering prowess of the Ancient Egyptians.

### PE

PE will take place on a Monday and Thursday. Chris from Pro- Coaching, will lead football and Mrs Everett-Kelway will lead gymnastics

Full kit is required each week, with plenty layers for warmth, especially as winter has finally decided to arrive. Could I please remind families to make sure that all clothing is named, as we are often inundated with unclaimed kit! Thank you.

### PSHE

This term, we will learn more about managing feelings and recognising what strategies can be used to resolve conflicts. We will also help children to recognise and explore their worth as individuals, identify unacceptable behaviours and challenge stereotypes. Within this theme, we will work in teams considering what it means to be British and what it means to promote British values.

### Home Learning

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and due in the following Tuesday.

Mathletics will form the core resource for math's home learning. This will be used, most weeks, to consolidate skills taught in school. The children are also encouraged to practise their times tables regularly, in preparation for our weekly times table quiz (very popular with the children.)

English home learning takes a variety of forms:

- Writing opportunities linked to a sequence of learning in school;
- Reading individual books regularly, either independently, to an adult or both;
- Follow-up guided reading tasks, which generally require children to read part of the selected text;
- Termly spelling lists, which the children are requested to practise at home, as well as at school.

The children will continue to have science or topic homework that will be research or project based. These tasks are very popular with the children, and often result in fantastic pieces of work.

As you can see, there is much to look forward to. I hope to see many of you at a number of up-coming whole school events. However, should you wish to come into school before then, you are very welcome.

With very best wishes for the term ahead.

Nic Forder,  
Elspeth Dennis,  
and Dave Yarney

### BOOK REVIEWS

We are still looking forward to receiving book reviews from families - perhaps a favourite book from your childhood or one that you like to share with your own children.

Mrs Forder has set the ball rolling with a review of 'The World According to Humphrey' on the back page of this newsletter.

Now it's over to you!

### 2015/2016 TERM DATES

#### Spring 2016

Tuesday 5th January to Thursday 24th March  
Half-term - Monday 15th to Friday 19th February  
Non-pupil Days: Monday 4th January

#### Summer 2016

Tuesday 12th April to Wednesday 20th July  
May Day Holiday - Monday 2nd May  
Half-term - Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June  
Non-pupil days: Monday 11th April

## Changes to Home Time Arrangements

We are making some changes to the home-time routine from Monday 18th January for both the school and the pre-school. We would like to invite families onto the playgrounds to receive their children at the end of the day - the bottom gate will be opened from 3.25pm to allow access. Children will then be released from Class 1 and Class 3 once their parents/carers are identified. Pre-school families should go onto the pre-school playground to collect their children.

We hope this will make things safer and more convenient for all, without the need for families, especially those with younger children, to be waiting on the main road.

### Clubs

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

#### After school clubs: (3.30-4.30pm)

**Monday:** Football (juniors) *Procoaching*

**Tuesday:** Music *Mrs Everett-Kelway*

**Wednesday:** Singing *Mrs Yarney*

#### Lunchtime clubs:

**Monday:** Football (infants) *Procoaching*

**Thursday:** Craft *Mrs Attwood*

We would be grateful if all families could return their slips, even if their children are not attending any clubs so we can be clear on home time arrangements.

We are always keen to expand the range of clubs on offer to the children. If you, or anyone you know, have hobbies or skills which you think might be of interest and you would be willing to run or help out with a club, please contact the office.

### House Points



Totals so far this term

**Ruby** 171 points

**Sapphire** 146 points

**Emerald** 162 points

**Amber** 153 points

### Spring Term Achievers

#### Weekly Achievers

**Class 1 Achiever:** *Beryl*

**Class 2 Achiever:** *Frank*

**Class 3 Achiever:** *Reuben*

## Notices and Reminders

- If sending money in to class, please put it in a named envelope stating what it is for to make sure it is allocated correctly.
- Most payments (e.g dinners, trips etc) can now be made online via Tucasi. We would encourage parents to use this system where possible - If you would like a reminder of how to register for online payments please contact the office. Payment can also be made by cash or cheques (payable to Devon County Council unless otherwise advised).
- Please label all uniform as it is easy to mislay items even in our small school.
- Please remember to let us know by phone or note if your child's normal after school transport arrangements will not apply. This is particularly important when after-school clubs are running.
- We would be grateful if parents could avoid using the staff car park (including visitor space) during the morning and afternoon drop off/collection to allow safe access for the school buses.
- Children can be left in school from 8.45am onwards. If you do arrive earlier than this please stay with your children until that time.

Thank you!