

17.6.22

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term and Non-Pupil Days - what a sunny week we've had! First, I want to say a huge 'Thank you' for all the kind messages of congratulations for the new role I will be taking up in September as Director for Vulnerable Pupils and Inclusion. Many of you have been also chatting to Mrs Corline at the start and end of day and congratulating her as she will be taking up the Interim Head teacher role. We are continuing to work closely each week, so that we have a smooth transition ready for September.

Jubilant Jubilee

Before the break, we had our Jubilee Party and I'm sure you'll all agree it was brilliant to back together as a whole school again. From the incredible super bloom, phenomenal singing, awesome decorations with crowns and flags, to the delicious cakes from the bake off - the whole event really was terrific.

The cake sale made £336 for our work with Jay's Aim, and this will enable us to keep our publicly available 'Defib' at the front of school safely working, so it is ready, should it be needed.

The children were incredibly proud of their fundraising efforts and a huge thanks to parents for not only baking cakes but also buying so many slices too! Our Y6 House Captains and School Council Reps were certainly kept busy serving cake during the afternoon and were incredibly responsible in these roles.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

This week, children right across the school have been busy with so many enriching learning activities taking place. In addition to in class learning we've also had 2 exciting visitors in working with pupils: Dynamo Cricket Club leading professional coaching and the 'Mini Police' who are working with groups of older pupils, after a tough round of letters of applications and nominations.

In addition to the work of the children, the grown-ups have been busy planning more exciting events for the summer term. Next week we have the Y6 residential to PGL (which I'm joining for the evening and overnight on Monday) and EYFS Induction morning, welcoming in our new children and parents for next year.

Local Governance exploring our Curriculum

We've also welcomed in our Local Committee Governance and Ethos Members to Ellacombe.

As Headteachers, we meet regularly with this group who support and challenge us to ensure we're providing the very best education for all pupils. Following on from our formal meeting a few weeks ago, this week they joined us for an afternoon looking at the curriculum offer at Ellacombe.



After hearing lots of the theory of what makes a strong curriculum, they were so pleased to see children's learning in action in classes. They were so impressed by the children's reflections on Bible Stories in Y3 RE and the historical enquiry skills in Y6 looking at the events during Windrush. They then saw the artistic debate around famous typographers, in Y5 Art. They had the opportunity to hear from pupils and see children's workbooks and art journals where they were amazed by the levels of progression in children's skills.

Attendance

Just a reminder that we've had our 5 non-Pupil days and additional week enables families to take a well-earned holiday outside of the 'peak' half term instead of having days off at the start of each term. We have had an increase in parents asking for the school to authorise holidays in term time and we simply cannot. Children have already missed so much learning and are working so hard to get back on track. It is disappointing that some children will then be out of school for whole weeks or even fortnights away from the learning in class. This can make children fall further behind and miss out on the enriching curriculum and experiences. Every day in school with their teachers and friends really does count and I would ask that parents do not take their children out of school except for medical appointments or other urgent and unforeseen events. If you have any questions regarding this, please do contact Mrs Walsh, our administrator who leads on attendance and our policies around this.

Sports Day

We are delighted that we will be having a 'normal' Sports day event up at Warberry field this year, after several years of Covid disruption. This is on Tuesday 5th of July and will have the 'normal' format of KS1 in the morning and KS2 in the afternoon. We will be sending more information home soon but please pop this on your diaries. A reminder that PE kits for lessons, and sports day should be:

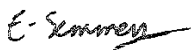
- Plain white T shirt or polo shirt
- Black or navy shorts.
- Plain trainers or plimsolls

Branded or brightly coloured sportswear is **NOT** part of uniform and can be very expensive. Children should not be wearing these as part of their PE kits. Jogging bottoms / leggings are far too hot for this time of year, please ensure pupils have shorts.

I know how much the cost of food and other essentials is having an impact, if you are struggling with uniform please do chat to the ladies in the office or any other member of staff, if you need a little help.

Have a fabulous weekend, enjoy the sunshine but a reminder about sun cream, sun hats and lots of water. We really do want children to be sun aware and keep themselves healthy, so they don't miss out on any of the fabulous things happening in school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Semmens
Head of Academy