

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another busy and exciting academic year and a special welcome to all of our new children in foundation and in other year groups throughout the federation. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to all of their families and remind everyone that we operate an 'open-door' policy and would ask that you come in and discuss anything with us that might have an impact on your child's learning. Appointments can be made to see teachers or anyone from the leadership team at a mutually convenient time.

As we come to the end of our Erasmus+ robotics project you can rest assured that we have not sat back but have been successful in securing a further Erasmus+ project with an associated €432,499 to fund it. This project is entitled 'Mathematics for the Million – Mathematics for my World.' We will be working with schools from Cyprus, Denmark, Hungary, Lithuania and Spain and also Marjons in Plymouth. This will be a fantastic 3 year project involving the children, staff and parents to enable us to create a generation of inspired and well-equipped mathematicians.

This project will also support our School Development Plan where we are focusing on maths and and personalizing learning to enable all to make outstanding progress. We will be using the growth mindset approach to further embed that 'can do' attitude which sees our children ready to seize every opportunity.

As if that wasn't enough we are also going to ensure we remain at the cutting edge of educational research and will be working alongside the University of Plymouth as one of their partnership schools. This enables us to have our very own researcher in residence.

Both schools are also in the process of applying for our Artsmark Award to recognize our commitment to the broadest and richest curriculum for everyone.

The federation is also piloting a new approach to recognizing positive behaviour and children are earning 'dojos' which are tallied on an electronic platform. It is early days but the feedback from children has been very positive. As they earn their dojos they can cash them in at certain levels for a reward or bank them and earn an even better award.

We will keep you informed of all of these exciting initiatives.

During our first 2 weeks this term each class is re-visiting how we learn and how we can improve our learning behaviours. This is being done through a mini project on British Values and we would love you to discuss these at home with your children. They are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

For the first half of the term we are focusing our homework around spellings, maths (particularly knowledge and manipulation of number bonds and times tables) and developing the love of reading, spellings and mathematics.

Jane Byrne  
Executive Headteacher.

Best of luck to our Year 6's heading off for a week of adventure at the Dartmoor Training Centre.  
Fingers crossed for good weather. We know they will be well fed as chief cook Mrs Byrne will be in residence!!

A very warm welcome to Lace-Jean, Rosie, Matthew, Sophia, Ned, Joel, Bethan, Holly, Xenia, Stella, Gwen, Marlie and Jacob who have joined us in Reception. We also welcome two new student teachers, Mrs Micklewright who will be working with Miss Fownes in Year 2 and Miss Knight who will work with Mrs Vosper in Year 3 and 4.

Do remember that we are an **Open School** and staff are available to see you at a mutually convenient time to discuss any issue - early discussion often prevents a small issue becoming a huge problem. Please see Beverley in the school office to make an appointment.

Class teachers will be sending home their own welcome letters, detailing curriculum topics for the term, homework expectations and PE information.

For the benefit of our new parents and as a reminder to others, our weekly newsletter comes out every Friday and is the main source of communication between home and school, so please take the time to read it and keep up to date with what is happening.

Some general reminders for the start of term:

- Parking is always a contentious issue, so in the interests of good neighbour relations and as a courtesy to local residents, please do **not** park opposite the school or at the entrance to Seldons Close when dropping off/collecting children – please park in the Square and walk up to school
- Please check book bags/e-mails regularly for letters etc
- Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named
- Children need to take water bottles home daily to be refilled/washed
- Information is usually sent out by email and text, so please keep us informed of changes to contact details. Data Collection sheets will be sent home within the next few weeks.
- With approximately 50% of children departing by school transport, it is really important to let us know about any changes to going home arrangements. To avoid confusion, we will adhere to normal routines unless we have heard to the contrary from **you**.
- PE kit (black shorts and red t shirt for KS2) should be in school at all times, jewellery to be removed, and hair to be tied up. KS1 do not change for PE.
- Remember 30p for Flapjack Fridays!
- We are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL** – please support us with this. It would also be appreciated if sesame seeds could also be avoided.

#### After School Clubs – Autumn Term 2017

Our after school activity clubs start on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September** and finish on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. We have had unprecedented demand for some Clubs and we will, unfortunately, have to disappoint some children. For those who are on waiting lists, we will contact you should a place become available. All children have been advised of places in clubs and there is a list on the office door. Currently, we still have spaces in Netball Club and Dance.

#### Local News

Saturday Morning Music School, which takes place at the Ariel Centre, KEVICC, Totnes is having an open day this Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September from 9.30-12.30. Parents are invited to come along with your child(ren), take part in any of our groups and generally have an opportunity to see what we do and how we do it. And it's FREE!

SaMM offers children and young people an amazing opportunity to play and make music in groups and ensembles - it is fun, is great for social interaction and improves literacy and numeracy. You don't have to play an instrument to take part - a bit of enthusiasm is all that is required!

Please feel free to contact us on [admin@sammtotnes.org](mailto:admin@sammtotnes.org) for more details.

#### The Voice Kids

The Voice Kids is returning to ITV in 2018 and is looking for super-talented singers aged 7-14 who have what it takes to take over the Voice Kids Stage.

Applications for the second series are now open and can be submitted via <http://www.itv.com/thevoicekidsuk/apply>. Applications must be submitted by a parent/legal guardian and auditions are set to take place this September and October.

#### Diary

11-15 Sep	Year 6 to DTC
Tue 26 Sep	Open Evening @ ICC for Year 6 Parents and students** Note date change
Mon 2 Oct	Meeting @ Ugborough for Year 6 parents to meet Principal of ICC

Mon 9 Oct	Year 6 – Junior Life Skills @ Ivybridge Leisure Centre
Mon 16 Oct	Individual/Sibling photographs
14-18 May 18	Year 6 SATS Week & Year 4 to Grenville House
Fri 25 May 18	Sports Day and Summer Fair (TBC)
Fri 29 Jun 18	Year 5 “5-4-5” Dartmoor Walk
11-13 Jul 18	Year 6 Production at Watermark
Fri 20 Jul 18	Year 6 Princetown Walk and BBQ at Mrs Byrne’s

**Term Dates 2017/18**

23-27 Oct 17	Half Term	Thu 29 Mar	Last Day of Spring Term
Fri 15 Dec 17	Last day of Autumn Term	Mon 16 Apr 18	First Day of Summer Term
Tue 2 Jan 18	Occasional Day (School Closed)	Mon 7 May 18	Bank Holiday
Wed 3 Jan 18	First Day of Spring Term	28 May – 1 June 18	Half Term
12-16 Feb 18	Half Term	<b>Tue 24 Jul 18</b>	<b>Last Day of Summer Term</b>
Mon 19 Feb 18	Non Pupil Day	Wed 25 Jul 18	Non Pupil Day
		Thu 26 Jul 18	Non Pupil Day
		Fri 27 Jul 18	Occasional Day