

Feniton Church of England Primary School Newsletter

'Serving God in our School Community'

*Believing & Achieving
Together to Be the
Best We Can Be.*



We want children at Feniton to be **happy** to learn; show **empathy** and a willingness to support others on their learning journey; recognise that personal **achievement** is rewarding and important; take the time to **reflect** on their actions, beliefs and achievements and that of others, and **trust** that there are people around them who will do their very best to help them be the BEST THEY CAN BE! All of these important values are symbolised by the heart which represents our core value of love. Through God's love for us and for our love for each other we can take care of each other and treat each other as we would want to be treated.



We welcome back all returning pupils and new pupils to classes across the school.

We welcome Mr Sandover, a SCITT Trainee (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) who will

be working in Year 1 with Mrs Geale in the Autumn and Summer terms. We also welcome Mrs Ashdown to our Administration Team in the main office.

This term we sadly say goodbye to Mrs Keen who has been a meal time assistant at our school for 3 years and we wish her all the best for the future.

We also say good bye to Reverend Cate. 6th October will be her last Friday Service at Feniton Primary. We will miss her dearly and we hope lots of family and friends of the school will be able to join us for this service to say goodbye.

Arch Bishop George's Visit



On Wednesday 20th we were joined by Arch Bishop George and his wife June for our act of worship.



Year 4 talked to the school about caring for God's creation and ways in which we can all make a difference and earlier in the week every class watched a video which showed the negative impact of climate change on

the Solomon Islands. The Arch Bishop enjoyed talking to the children and answering some of their questions.

Celebrating Village Life Sunday 8th Oct

Year Six have had the wonderful opportunity to submit their own poetry compositions for the upcoming 'Village Life Through the Seasons' concert, in Feniton Church. Every child participated and have now seen their efforts bound and printed in an elegant booklet. They were very excited to receive a 'golden ticket' each, which allows an adult to enter free of charge for their efforts. Some of the class are even attending to give a recital. What an amazing occasion to showcase their writing and performing talents!

Volunteer helpers.

Please keep us in mind - your help is invaluable and greatly appreciated. We would be very glad of any extra help if anyone can spare some time. Please contact your child's class teacher if you can help.

Lines of Communication

Good communication is very important to us. Here are a few lines of communication which I hope you will find helpful:

1. Teaching & Admin Staff

As the teachers are very busy preparing for the children's arrival in the mornings, if there is anything urgent you wish to tell them, a message can be left with our excellent administrative team who will pass it on. Teachers are usually available at the end of the day for a chat and if you wish to discuss a

more lengthy matter, you can make an appointment via the administrative team.

2. Class Curriculum Letters

These are written by the class teacher and are sent home at the beginning of each term to provide you with a summary of learning planned for the term ahead.

3. School Newsletter & Website

A whole school newsletter is published at the end of each month to keep you informed about what is going on at school and in the community. All newsletters are archived on our website. Our website also contains a lot of useful information about our school and the curriculum, so do visit it regularly to check for updates. The website is having a make-over this term, so by Christmas it should be easier to navigate and will include a calendar of events.

4. Parent Bulletin

This term we have introduced a weekly parent bulletin email. This email is meant as a reminder of upcoming events and will usually be sent out on a Thursday.

5. Senior Management Team

The children know that our door is always open and already this year I have been visited by many proud children keen to show me their work. If a problem arises, please see the class teacher in the first instance, as many concerns can be resolved successfully through discussion. If you wish to discuss any ideas or concerns then please feel free to speak with me. Often a simple chat can solve a potential problem before it becomes one.

Sponsored Commando Challenge

Just 5 days away!

The PTA are organising a fun event for all the children on Friday 29th September. An obstacle course will be set up on the field and the children will have a set amount of time to complete as many laps as they can. Times for each class will be sent home, so that you can come along and support your child/ren. Sponsor forms have been sent home via email and a paper copy.

Please try to collect as many sponsors as possible because the money raised will be funding school resources. Your child will need to return their slip to take part.

The PTA are also busy organising events for this term:

Sun 5th Nov Gifts Galore! The perfect opportunity to pick up some Christmas presents.

Sat 25th Nov St Andrews Fayre. Fun for the children with lots of games, stalls, refreshments and hopefully a visit from Santa! Volunteers to run the Grand Draw would be greatly appreciated.

Further details to come.

Last year the PTA paid for transport for the residential trips and the Year 6 end of year day out; improved the EYFS playground; funded Arts Week, the Science Dome and bought library books. Thank you so much!

Census Day

Thursday 5th October is National Census Day when we submit information including the number of children receiving universal free school meals at school. School funding is partly determined by the information we provide, so please could you help by ensuring that your child (Rec, Year 1 and Year 2) **does have school dinners** on this day, if at all possible. Last year all but a few

children had a school lunch.



Let's see if this year we can make it every child. Many thanks.

Harvest

This year our **Harvest Festival Service** will take place at 9:15am on Tuesday 26th September in the school hall. Reception Rangers will present the donations to Rev Cate and all parents and friends of the school are invited to join us.

As in previous years, we would be grateful for donations of fresh produce and tins/packets. The harvest gifts will be distributed to local people with the help of our Year 6 children.. A big thank you to Sainsburys who have donated free carrier bags to help with the distribution.



Whole School Priorities

This year we have set ourselves the following Whole School Targets for Learning:

- 1.To further develop a **cross curricular approach** to teaching maths and writing using the story telling curriculum and adapting Maths No Problem, so children **understand the purpose** of what they are being asked to do.
- 2.To increase **Independent Learning Skills of reflectiveness and responsibility**.
- 3.To further improve the quality of Scientific Enquiry and achieve a **Silver/Gold Science Mark**.

4. To further improve the quality of teaching in Maths with a focus on the **teaching of fractions**.

5. To **achieve above National and Devon %** of children achieving the expected standard and **above the expected standard** in EY, KS1 and KS2 and

Individual Learning Targets on class newsletters

You will find individual targets for your child attached to the back of the class newsletter which came home last week. Please discuss these with your child. These targets will be discussed at parent meetings and new targets will be set each term. The same targets for Writing and Maths will be recorded in the front of the children's exercise books for reference in lessons. Once the target is achieved, the teacher will move your child on to the next step.



Residential Visit Meetings

Meetings will be held on the dates below at 3.30pm in the classroom for parents and children to learn more about the residential visit planned for the year.

Mon 2nd Oct - Year 4

Tues 3rd Oct - Year 3

Wed 4th Oct - Year 5

Fund Saver Work Day

Saturday 14th October

Everyone is invited to help on this day. The more of us there are the bigger difference we can make! The school will be open all day for parents / friends of the school to pop along and offer their help for just an hour or longer. There will be something for everyone - tidying, gardening, painting plus some more specialised jobs - tarmac patching, installing wooden / metal railings. Please volunteer

some of your time to help save our school money.



Road Safety

Road safety does form part of our school curriculum throughout the year and in the next couple of weeks all children will have a class session to remind them about road safety.

A useful website for parents of Rec/KS1 children is:
www.dft.gov.uk/think/education/early-years-and-primary/parents

Mr Wright, our crossing patrolman does a fantastic job, but please can we all help him by parking off the zig-zag lines; driving slowly past the school. We also ask all parents to be vigilant outside the school gates and, if your child walks alone or with friends, please remind him or her to keep safe.

Anti-Bullying

At Feniton bullying is not tolerated and staff do all that they can to encourage children to follow our golden rule 'treat others as you would want to be treated'. In support of this we start the year with an anti-bullying campaign in each class. The children spend time discussing friendship and how to manage issues which may arise. We teach the children what it means to be bullied and what they should do if they are feeling bullied.

Facebook

A reminder that photos/videos taken at school events should not be published on social networking sites. This is because it is impossible for the school to check all photos for suitability and safeguarding.

Photos published on the school website and other organisations social media pages will have been checked by the school and permissions will have been given. We are very fortunate at Feniton that we have good lines of communication and parents feel they can pop in and chat through any concerns / issues as soon as they arise. We strongly encourage parents to continue to contact the school directly.



Contact Details - If you think your contact details, address landline, mobile or email has changed please come and check at the office that the school

has the most current details for you and your children.

Dinner Money - The cost of a school meal for children in KS2, Years 3-6 is £2.30.

For children in Reception and KS1 the school provides a free school meal for every child. For parents in FSU it is helpful if you can provide the teacher with a list of meal choices for the week.

School lunches and class visits can be paid for using the online system Tucasi. The link for this is on the home page of our website and guidance notes are available too.

Healthy Snacks

Many thanks to everyone for supporting our promotion of healthy snacks for morning playtime. Please can you ensure that all drinks bottles and snack boxes are clearly named.

Nut allergy

We ask that children do not bring nuts to school for morning break or lunch because we do have children with serious nut allergies in school and it is important that we provide

a nut-free environment. This includes chocolate nut spread.

Arriving at School

We would like to remind you that the school day **begins at 8:55am**. Children should arrive at school from 8:50am.



As well as monitoring levels of attendance, this term governors will also be monitoring the number of pupils who arrive late to school. Hopefully this will be very few!

Cross Country

Mrs Kilbride our lunchtime sports coach will be running cross country club this year. Feniton School has an excellent reputation for its running achievements and we want this to continue! The club started last week and the first competition is being held at The Kings School on Tuesday 26th Sept.

Uniform

It has been great to see every child so smartly dressed, especially with so many pairs of new shoes!! Uniform is black shoes or sandals. Trainers are not to be worn unless for agreed medical conditions. In event of 'shoe failure' a short period will be given to allow time to get to the shops. Wrist watches and stud earrings are the only types of jewellery allowed and these must be removed during PE. **Please, please, please** check that you have named all items of uniform - including PE kit.

Holiday Requests

A reminder that School Governors may not grant any leave of absence

during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

If parents wish to take their child out of school then they need to make a formal request to the school as far in advance as reasonably possible. A decision will be made under the law applicable at the time of the absence. The decision rests with the Governing Body and, if it is not granted, or the child is absent for a period longer than has been authorised, it counts as an unauthorised absence. A parent can make a request to the school in writing on the appropriate form available from the office. The Governing Body is likely to regard as "exceptional



circumstances" when:-

- a) A parent, grandparent or other close family relative is seriously or terminally ill and the holiday is likely to be the last such holiday, with the relative concerned.
 - b) There has recently been a death or significant other trauma in the close family and it is felt that an immediate holiday might help the child concerned better deal with the situation.
 - c) The holiday is a one off, never to be repeated occasion which provides a unique educational experience and can only take place at the requested time.
- Please note** that if absence during term time is taken without the permission of the school then it is likely that the child's unauthorised absence will be reported to Devon Education Welfare Service. In certain circumstances it may be decided to issue a fixed penalty notice to each parent or, if attendance is generally poor, to prosecute. Children with an absence rate of 90% or below are considered persistent absentees by the Education Welfare Officer and the circumstances for absence will be investigated.

Requests

Colouring books, crayons, pens which could be used in the quiet area of the playground at lunchtimes. Thank you!

Book People Book Fair 9th and 10th November

The children will be running a book fair in school on these dates. Please come along and browse the selection of books. This year we are using The Book People Company and Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to school in the spring term. Last year this successful event raised over £400 for school books.

First Aid

If a child has a bump to the head at school, the first aider will contact parents by telephone if they have any concerns. If the bump is minor, a letter will be sent home at the end of the day in accordance with our policy. Also, please ensure that



all inhalers / epi-pens are returned to school in date.

Headlice

The school nurse advises that families should inspect children's hair carefully and currently recommends the use of Headrin if any headlice are suspected. Children with headlice should return to school the morning after treatment. Even if no headlice are found, please maintain a weekly check. Where persistent problems occur, the school nurse is happy to advise.

Flu Immunisation Programme

Parents of Years Rec - 4 should have received a parent pack from school detailing a government programme of flu immunisation which is being introduced to schools this year and will be carried out at Feniton on Thursday 9th Nov. Please

read the information and make an informed decision about your child's vaccination and return the consent form to school.

Friday Family Worship

These are at 3pm on Fridays. Parents and friends of the school are welcome to join us in our act of worship. There is usually a contribution from a class and a chance to celebrate achievements with the presentation of certificates and trophies.

Feniton School dates back to 1841 when it was founded by the Patteson Family of Feniton Court and was situated in the old village. Buckerell School combined in 1948 and two years later Gittisham School combined. Our school was built to accommodate the growing numbers and the school was opened by the Bishop of Exeter on Thursday 26th October 1967.

This term we are celebrating Feniton Primary School's 50th birthday of being on this site. On Wednesday 1st November we are planning a colourful, fun birthday party with a swinging sixties theme for the whole school!

**Amanda Parsons
Head of School**

Dates for your Diary

September

Tues 26th Harvest Festival @ 9:15am
Fri 29th Sponsored Commando Challenge

October

WB 9th Parent Evening Meetings

Half term - 23rd Oct - 27th Oct

Tues 31st School Photographer (individuals and family groups)

November

Wed 1st Happy Birthday Feniton Primary
- Swinging Sixties Day!
Sun 5th Nov Gifts Galore!
Thurs 9th & Fri 10th Book People Book Fair
Fri 10th Service of Remembrance
Fri 17th Children in Need
Sat 25th St Andrew's Fayre

December

Tues 12th KS2 Carol Service @ Talaton Church 2pm
Fri 15th No Family Service

Christmas Concerts

FSU: Mon 18th 9.30am
KS1: Mon 18th Dec 2pm & 6:15pm
KS2: Tues 19th Dec 2pm & 6:15pm

Wed 20th Christmas Lunch
Thurs 21st Last Day of Term