



# An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

Dear Parents

We escaped the worst of the weather last week, but there is of course a chance that we could face extreme conditions that threaten the need to close the school. This is a **very** rare event, but when it does happen one of the problems we face is the number of telephone calls made to the school. Please avoid ringing at such times – there is a strict procedure that I would need to follow to inform the local authority and this would trigger an announcement on all local radio stations. Additionally, any school that has needed to close is listed on the county website at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/current-school-closures/>. We would also make an announcement on the front page of the school website. Should we need to close during the day it is again essential that parents avoid contacting the school as much as possible. We will need the use of the phone ourselves so would immediately text parents. Announcements would again be made on the radio and websites and the office staff would contact parents directly where necessary. Hopefully we won't need to take such action, but fore-warned is fore-armed. Thank you.

Last Monday I wrote with one of my fairly frequent No Entry to Ferndale messages, reminding parents of the need to avoid driving into the school road at drop-off and collection times. This is important for the health and safety of your children as well as out of respect for the local residents. On Tuesday, the very next day, we received a complaint about the thoughtless double parking and blocked access at the top of the close.



I have to say that I am very disappointed about this and I would like to reiterate the need that everyone follows this request in full – as we'd say to the children *follow instructions with attention and thought*. This is a key statement in our Marlborough Manners which, along with *show good manners all the time* and *take care of everyone and everything* are designed to keep everyone happy and safe. The children know this and a good example set by parents helps us enormously, as well as saving me the personal embarrassment of having to pacify justifiably irate neighbours.



In any case, with all due respect, the trouble of driving into the cul-de-sac and then turning in a restricted space and driving against other traffic taking due care for pedestrians (the vast majority of families who do walk at least from adjoining roads if not from home) can save hardly any time on a more considerate approach, such as parking on Swanpool Road and enjoying a unique lakeside walk to or from school. It is also healthier for children – physically and mentally!



## Lighthouse-keeper of the Week

Our lighthouse, awarded at celebration assemblies, is beginning to show its age and will soon need replacing. Until we get a new trophy we're asking anyone who brings the present trophy home for the weekend to 'leave their mark on it' – a simple motif or signature is enough to record their term as lighthouse keeper of the week – and, when it's fully covered, it will be time to update our light-house trophy.

This week, Coby and Charlie, both in y4, shared the lighthouse-keeper of the week.



<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>



## Marlborough Mariners

Those of you who have been at the school for some time now may recall the *Marlborough Mariners*. If more recent members of the school family know anything of the mariners, its probably through an obscure page on the website that we have kept open: “the name *Marlborough Mariners* was chosen by a group of parents who met in autumn 2011 to develop the school's *parents' forum*. Essentially, every parent of a child at Marlborough School automatically becomes a member of this forum or, as we work in partnership together taking our children on a voyage of learning and discovery, 'mariner'. Parents can chose to be as involved as much or as little as they wish in the activities and events the mariners arrange.” Nothing has in fact changed following this decision, and all parents are still 'ex officio' members of the Mariners! With the challenges facing our school and its community status still before us, the need to sustain good lines of communication, the value of fund-raising activities and the importance of meeting socially, the role of the Mariners could well be extremely significant in the life of the school. This is a fair way ahead, but on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March I'll be holding a Headteacher's Coffee Morning to discuss how we can strengthen the relationship between home and school through the Mariners, involving everyone who wants to without leaning too hard on any individual. Please put the date in your diary!

## Assessment and Tests

I mentioned in the class meetings with parents at the beginning of the school year the challenge that children face in the new national assessment tests particularly and that this was very noticeable in last year's experience. This was a nation-wide experience as the expectations were raised and the current year group cohorts are being tested on a more rigorous 4-year programme of study that has only been running since September 2014. That said, Marlborough's results demonstrated that we did need to look at the way we are preparing for the SATs. We have always steered clear of testing for testing's sake, but so as to support children fully and to provide ourselves with helpful information have been looking at an on-line assessment programme to check progress and discover any gaps in learning. Parents of juniors may have heard that the children have been following some test programmes on computers in recent weeks. As we set up the system it is a little more intrusive than we would ideally like, but we do believe that we have found a method of diagnosing children's needs that in future will be very unobtrusive. From the information we gain, it will be easier to inform parents of ways you can help to support your children, but we do need to work through the base level tests first. These have already proved useful to teachers as they provide not only a standardised score, but identify the areas of learning where children need more support. We will be able to tell you more about the whole process and our future annual plan in coming weeks. In the meantime, please be assured that the computer system we are using is not too onerous or stressful on the children: they have risen to the challenge and seemed actually to have enjoyed their computer sessions.

## Uniform and Dress Code

We would like to remind everyone of the school's dress-code as recently a few pupils have come into school without appropriate PE or outdoor wear or sporting a range of non-uniform colours and labels. Full details of the uniform can be found on the website. We'd like to remind infant parents that, for practical and health reasons, tights and long trousers are not uniform items for the infants (children find tights particularly awkward when changing for PE). Obviously, at this time of year when temperatures plunge, if children really do feel the cold outdoors they can bring jogging bottoms to wear, although usually, as they're always on the go, a coat will suffice.



Last Week				Total		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Fox	27	7	1 <sup>st</sup>	Fox	14
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Freeling	24	5	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Freeling	8
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pelham	23	4	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Walsingham	8
4 <sup>th</sup>	Swiftsure	22	3	4 <sup>th</sup>	Swiftsure	6
5 <sup>th</sup>	Walsingham	22	3	5 <sup>th</sup>	Chichester	5
6 <sup>th</sup>	Chichester	19	1	6 <sup>th</sup>	Pelham	5

<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>



Thank you for supporting the poppy appeal in November ...  
Marlborough School raised £141.92



**FEBRUARY HALF TERM AT THE ROYAL CORNWALL MUSEUM**



Join us for our Free Half Term activities. As part of the museum's exhibition, *Mexico: The Cornish Connection*, come and join us for our Mexican 'Day of the Dead' themed activity—the Mexican festival where families gather to celebrate their dead. Create colourful 'Day of the Dead' puppets and learn about traditional *Dia De Los Muertos* celebrations in our beautiful Mexico-inspired exhibition. No materials required, just bring your creativity.

Drop in sessions run each morning from **10.30am – 12 noon Monday 13<sup>TH</sup> February to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

Normal admission applies, **children FREE.**

For further **PRESS** information, please contact Sophie Meyer in the Royal Cornwall Museum press office on **01872 245174**, or [pressoffice@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk)

For information of what's on at other museums around Cornwall (there are over 70 of them!) you can always visit: <http://www.museumsincornwall.org.uk>



**Soccer Roadshow** - Our Soccer Roadshows are age and football special with the emphasis on fun, enjoyment and development. Sessions include skills, technique, competitions and small sided games.

**Activities Day** - Come and join us for a fun-filled day at Plymouth Argyle FC, Home Park where you will have the opportunity to participate in a number of activities including football, table tennis, golf, X-box, art and crafts and lots more all based at the football club. **Multi Sports** - An opportunity to try a number of fun sports in one day including football, hockey, multi-sports, tag rugby, golf and a number of other activities all run by qualified coaches.

**Tiny Tots** - Tiny Tots football sessions are aimed at three - six year olds, who are experiencing their first taste of a structured coaching session. The sessions are staffed at a ratio of 4 coaches to 16 children. The emphasis is to improve the children's listening and concentration skills whilst working on balance and coordination. The children can develop in a safe and fun environment over the duration of the sessions.

Here's a selection of some of the not too distant events and those in Plymouth (if the rest of the family want a day out!).

Full details are available from Argyle's website.

**Roadshow Special** - Everyone receives a free gift!

Course number	1	Plymouth Argyle FC, Home Park (2 Day Course)	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> and Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	£26	Soccer Roadshow
Course number	5	Richard Lander School, Truro (2 Day Course)	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> and Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	£26	Soccer Roadshow
Course number	7	Plymouth Argyle FC, Home Park - Activities Day	Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	£10	Activities Day
Course number	8	Plymouth Argyle FC, Home Park - Tiny Tots	Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 10:00-12:00	£6	Activities Day
Course number	11	Carn Brea Leisure Centre, Camborne	Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	£14	Soccer Roadshow
Course number	16	Plymouth Argyle FC, Home Park - PAN Disability	Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	£10	Soccer Roadshow
Course number	17	Plymouth Argyle FC, Home Park	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	£16	Roadshow Special
Course number	20	Falmouth School	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	£16	Roadshow Special

Sibling Discount \*Half price for second child (Phone bookings only)

Online Discount \*£2 off all online bookings (courses over £10 only)

Book before Fri 3rd Feb and receive an additional £1 off online booking, on any and all courses

To book or for more information: Bookings can be made online @ [www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk](http://www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk). Alternatively, simply complete the form (available on request from school office) and post with a cheque to PLYMOUTH ARGYLE FITC, HOME PARK, PLYMOUTH PL2 3DQ or phone 01752 562561 ext 4.

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<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>

