



## An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

2016-2017

Number 25

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Dear Parents

*What a great start to the summer term we enjoyed last week with the weather for once living up to the challenge and the children able to get outside for a range of learning and relaxing activities. You may have course already have noticed the complication with this as at last work has begun on improving environment and accessibility outside the infant classrooms. This will continue in what promises to be an exceptionally busy term at Marlborough as we bring to fruition the past few years' key projects. I didn't write last week purposely as I wanted to be able to outline some of the work ahead and what we aim to achieve this summer. So much has been down to your support with on-going fund raising and day-to-day assistance. As we get started on the practical tasks there will be some specific jobs for which we ask for help and we are also continuing to develop teaching and learning practices where we hope to help everyone in supporting their children's progress and enjoyment of school.*

*You will be aware that for the past year or so the school's leadership and staffing structure has been going through something of a transition as we moved from one deputy headteacher to establishing a wider senior leadership team. Just before Easter we completed this process: Kathy Rowe has been appointed permanently as Assistant Headteacher (Staff Development and Well-Being) alongside George Harry-Poole, Assistant Headteacher (Assessment), and Lisa Pearce, SENCo and Inclusion Lead.*



## Marlborough Kitchen

### Cookbook Launch Party

*We are getting towards the point of being able to say 'OUR COOKBOOK IS FINISHED!' It's been two years in the making and lots of hard work from all involved, so we would really like to celebrate it in style. On Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> May we will be having a big foodie party! There will be books for sale at a special discounted price, cooking activities for children and adults, some tasty food and hopefully some music and sunshine! But of course, this do won't organise itself! Jess is looking for people to help her with the mini workshops, serving food, manning stalls, playing music and also for people to bring any other ideas forward. If you are interested in helping out please come to the open meeting she will be holding next Tuesday (2<sup>nd</sup> May) at 14:30 in the school kitchen. You can let her know you are coming by emailing her on: [kitchen@marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:kitchen@marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk).*

*If you would like to help but can't make it, please just drop her a line. Thank you.*

This will be Jess's last major task before she begins her maternity leave at Whitsun. As mentioned previously, we are advertising for someone to cover her absence who brings his or her own character and ideas to the kitchen service whilst continuing to develop the provision within the school's food philosophy. The position is for 35 hours a week for 12 months ... see <http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/vacancies/7865> on the school website for details.

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



## Food Policy

*One of Jess's first tasks on taking over the kitchen was to ensure that the school's menu meets the National School Food standards. We are hopeful that proceeds from the Feed cookbook will support the continued development of links between the kitchen and the school curriculum. This has been formalized in our topic plans (see the learning pages on the website) and is also a requirement of a special School Food Award, part of the Cornwall Healthy Schools scheme. We are very close to meeting all the necessary criteria for this award, but do need to implement our whole school Food Policy so that it covers Snack times and Packed Lunches. To meet the deadline this has to be completed in the next few weeks and it will mean that more formal guidelines for packed lunches, including limitations on sugar content will be put in place in line with the national standards. We will also aim to provide some packed lunch workshops to support parents.*

## The Big Outdoors



The ground-works already carried out on the area outside y0 and y1 classrooms has created a blank canvas with a clear view of the space available. Final plans for the space are very close to completion for our contractor to start creating a new space, parts of which will become available for use during the summer term. We will keep parts of the area wild and as natural as possible for children to continue to explore the environment as they have done through our Big Digs and Learning in The Natural Environment (LINE) projects. Some favourites from the trim trail equipment will also be refurbished and relocated. There will also be a new flexible feature on an all-weather safety surface alongside and open expanse of *astro-turf* with sand and water play facilities. The constant availability of this area should ensure that we allow reinstated lawns to rest seasonally and in bad weather. Pathways should lead parents to an open waiting area and the 'Fore-deck Pavilion' shelter will of course continue to be available.



Obviously all of this work has to be carried out within the budgeted funds available. It is important that we ensure this ring-fenced allocation is used to the full for the children at school now, but owing to the real pressures the school is now facing, we will not be able to over-step these costs. This does mean that further objectives to provide toilets at the field and improve the lower playground place a further strain on our resources. However, the grant from Tesco's bags of help has kept the whole project viable and it is good to see that this money is being put immediately to use.

I am also especially delighted to report that we have received an extremely generous donation from **Heather and Lay Estate Agents**. After a visit to the school the partnership has given us £2000 to refurbish and enhance the lower playground castle. The children's school parliament have a team to look at possible ideas and designs this term so that construction work ensures the whole area is properly fixed for the new school year. In the meantime, we have purchased a range of playtime equipment to improve lunch and break time experiences immediately. We hope too to explore the full potential of the field by hiring some mobile toilets for the summer term until something more permanent can be installed. This will improve access for all children throughout lesson times and should also ensure that the juniors at least will be able to enjoy some lunchtime breaks at the field. It will also help of course with sports day arrangements (15<sup>th</sup> June; reserve date, 22<sup>nd</sup>).

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







*Of course the school's most important work is centred around classroom learning and this has been a particularly busy year. Confirmed in a recent School Effectiveness Cornwall monitoring inspection we've also demonstrated good progress since September. We're hopeful that this year's SATs will further prove this: certainly the children have shown a wonderfully positive attitude to their learning throughout the school and especially this year. It's an opportunity for them to prove and celebrate what they can do, at least in key areas of the curriculum. We know that learning and life experiences are much broader than this and whilst the formal tests are used to measure school performance it is essential that none of the children are worried by any of the quizzes they meet at school.*

*To an extent the summer term offers us an opportunity to explore and, in the best sense of the word, experiment with aspects of how we present and assess learning. Having made positive timetable changes and implemented some good new progress tracking software alongside some very helpful assessment programs it is important that we build upon these developments. As mentioned before, we've completed the curriculum review and full details of the children's topic arrangements can be found on the website (see the pages on the National Curriculum at Marlborough, Learning Domains and Class Learning to be found under the Learning Section on the school website: (<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/learning/7819>)).*

*From the parents' survey we picked up that feedback can be an issue for some families. This matched our own priority to support children's learning both verbally and through clear marking. The one piece of advice we were given in the last Ofsted inspection was to review our marking system but essentially simply revisiting the symbols we use hasn't helped children to respond to their teachers' guidance. We are working to improve the efficiency of providing effective feedback for children and one way we think we can do so is by supporting learning links with home. Parents at Marlborough always provide great support for your children, especially in reading and the decision to first replace ks2 Reading Roundabouts with Mega Maths and then to restructure the group and class reading lessons was based on this. It seems to have been a good decision.*

*Early teaching of phonics is important as an aspect of supporting higher order reading and writing skills later on, but it is essential that we ensure that from the start other broader reading strategies continue to develop enjoyment, fluency and comprehension. We won't be sending children home with any additional exercises, but have ordered some new record books which we intend to develop as more proactive reading and communication diaries. I've asked teachers to explore ideas with these this term. Essentially the intention is that diaries may include examples of some reading, spelling and/or phonics tasks as information for parents, and we would welcome your comments alongside any responses children make to marking.*

*The books were ordered earlier in the spring and we had hoped they would be in school for the beginning of term. Unfortunately our usual supplier suddenly cancelled a number of their lines so we are waiting on a new supply. When this does arrive, you will notice some new formats which we hope help to raise children's own expectations of their written presentation and frees up opportunities for more creative and flexible ideas in topic work. The aim of course is that the curriculum at Marlborough remains as inspiring and enjoyable as possible whilst using and developing appropriate skills to ensure children are happy and confident in their learning.*

*For some years we have given as much of the children's annual report information as possible in bullet-point format and this has proved very popular. It is important that, as the curriculum and the demands of learning expectations have increased, we continue to support parents in their understanding of children's progress and needs as clearly and as efficiently as possible. With the online assessments we have introduced and some of the new tracking software available to us we believe that we can do this without increasing the pressure on teachers' time so that they can continue to provide the best learning opportunities throughout the summer term. Your thoughts and feedback about any changes we make to the report arrangements will be very valuable. The children's Annual Reports will be published on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July.*

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



The good weather held on for the start of our summer sports programme for y3 and y5 as they began their water-sports sessions with Elemental UK at Swanpool. Swimming will continue for y1 and y4 on Tuesdays until half term with y0 and y4 beginning in June. These activities are all dependent upon parents continuing to make voluntary donations and the governors have asked me to include the following message from Helen Turner, Chair of Governors:

Dear parents,

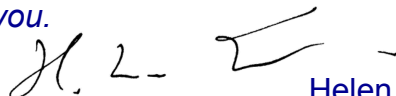
### **School Funding and Marlborough's Charging Policy**

As you are aware, schools are facing the biggest challenge in terms of their funding that any of us can remember. The government may have claimed that the education budget is the highest it has ever been, but this doesn't account for the huge increase in employment costs or the fact that schools now have to fund so many services, with their own increased expense, that were previously available without cost. Spending plans at Marlborough are as threatened as for any other school.

The governors have been committed to the development of the school's outdoor environment and, recognising it as our biggest classroom, have ensured that the buildings and sites reserves have been made available to address some very necessary work. Thanks to your support and sponsorship donations like the generous gift from Heather and Lay, along with other successful grant applications, we've been able to make that money go further than we had originally hoped.

However, providing the school's curriculum with appropriate staffing and resources is proving increasingly difficult and the governors do have some difficult decisions before us. At the last full governing body meeting we reconsidered our charging policy which, as statutory information, is published on the school's website under Information and Policies, Charging and Remissions. The governors reaffirmed their commitment to the policy but felt that we needed to re-state Marlborough's reliance on parents' support of activities and visits with voluntary contributions. The school only ever asks for enough money to cover costs, so whenever parents don't pay fully, the shortfall has to be found from other areas of the classroom budget.

The truth is that there is no flexibility left in that budget. Of course we will do all we can to continue to cover equipment and materials, but we are not sure how long we will be able to do this under current forecasts and, in the meantime, for us to continue to ensure that visits strengthen learning and that we keep swimming and water sports on the curriculum, please do honour voluntary requests or, should you have any difficulties please speak, in confidence, to the office or head teacher to help the school plan to live within its means. Thank you.



Helen Turner, Chair of Governors

There have been a couple of notifications that head-lice are enjoying the spring weather with a number of cases among children in the infants. Please could everyone check and be alert to possible unwanted visitors. Thank you.

We've made the NHS on-line advice available on our website at:

<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/health/7904>

Last Week			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Chichester	29	7
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pelham	27	5
	Fox	27	5
4 <sup>th</sup>	Swiftsure	26	3
5 <sup>th</sup>	Freeling	23	2
6 <sup>th</sup>	Walsingham	22	1



**FALMOUTH  
MARINE  
SCHOOL**

is looking for accommodation in the Falmouth/Penryn area for their Further Education student intake (aged 16-18) for September 2017. If you have a spare room you could rent or would be able to provide bed, breakfast and evening meal from September to June, or you know someone else who would be interested,

please contact Liz Hellier HE Accommodation Development Officer on:

☎ 07500 572546

✉ [liz.hellier@cornwall.ac.uk](mailto:liz.hellier@cornwall.ac.uk)

Facebook: Cornwall College - HE Accommodation

<https://www.gov.uk/rent-room-in-your-home/the-rent-a-room-scheme>

FE students are with Falmouth Marine School for 2 years studying a variety of courses. Secure payments, deposits and references can be obtained.



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

