



Newsletter 4

Friday 10th November 2023

Updates & Reminders

What a strange week it was last week with a school closure due to the severe weather warning! We were incredibly impressed with how many children produced work from the home learning given, and teachers loved seeing the work brought in and sent electronically. Again, I would like to say thank you for being so patient and understanding during this school closure, especially given the timing of the communication from Devon County Council.

We ended the first half of the Autumn Term by celebrating Harvest Festival. Year 2 and Year 4 led us in our service at the church, involving plenty of singing and the meaning of harvest. We were blown away with how many items were brought in for the local food bank that CHAT (the Churches Housing Action Team) coordinate and shows what a strong sense of community we have. A big thank you to everyone who contributed.

We welcomed a very special visitor, Rosie, into school today. Rosie is a therapy dog, who will be supporting some children every other Monday. We would like to thank Helen Richardson for bringing Rosie in and giving her time to work with the school.

Continuing our strong musical tradition, we welcomed 'Back Chat Brass' in for an assembly which really inspired the children and fed into their love of music appreciation. I think we now have lots of children who want to take up brass playing!

A huge thank you to the PTFA committee, volunteers and helpers for their hard work with the rearranged school disco. These events would not be possible without their hard work and dedication. I had a meeting this morning with the PTFA Chair, Polly Hallchurch, regarding some incidents that occurred during the event. She has written more below, but I would like to say that the school fully supports the PTFA and I am appalled that some members of the committee were spoken to in an abusive manner. We have a zero tolerance of abuse, and if any parent/carer is abusive on school grounds, we have the right to ban them from the school premises.

Admission for Primary School Places for September 2022

Applications for primary school places for 2024/2025 are co-ordinated by the School Admissions Team at Devon County Council. Devon schools offer admission to primary school as a single offer point if the child was born between 01.09.2019 and 31.08.2020. Parents are encouraged to make their application online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline from 15th November 2023 to 15th January 2024. If you cannot apply online, you will be able to apply using a hard copy of the common application form. If you require a hard copy of the application form, please contact the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 from the 15th of November. Please note that it will not be possible to make an application by email. The deadline for primary school places for 2024/2025 is 15th January 2024 and unfortunately, applying late could mean that your child does not get a place at your preferred school. The school's prospectus will be available on the website soon. This year, our school Open Mornings will take place on the following dates: Thursday 16th November, Tuesday 21st November, Thursday 23rd November.

PTFA Disco Night- Thursday 9th November

Thank you to all parents and children who supported the rearranged disco yesterday evening. An even bigger thank you goes to the members of the PTFA committee, helpers and school staff who gave up their time to pour squash, hand out crisps, man fire exits, dry tears and of course, lead the conga line!

While our discos are usually good fun for all involved, unfortunately, last night's event was marred by inappropriate behaviour from a very small minority of children and parents resulting in damage to school facilities, altercations in the car park and members of the PTFA being abused.

The children's behaviour has been discussed with Mr Wallace and appropriate action will be taken to ensure that the importance of respectful treatment of the school building and other children, at all times, is fully understood.

We are aware of the traffic issues experienced around the school during the course of the disco, and understand that these were frustrating to parents. The congestion issues were primarily caused by drivers parking on the zig-zag markings outside the school, causing an obstruction to traffic and resulting substantial delays during the changeover between the KS1 and KS2 events.

Zig-zag markings are designed to ensure that drivers and pedestrians have an unobstructed view of the school entrance. Therefore, drivers should not park, or even pull over to drop off children, on these at any time, even outside of school hours. If you were one of the parents who did park on the zig-zags yesterday evening, I would ask you to park more considerately in future for everyone's benefit. I would also advise you that the police can and do issue fines for causing an obstruction of this nature.

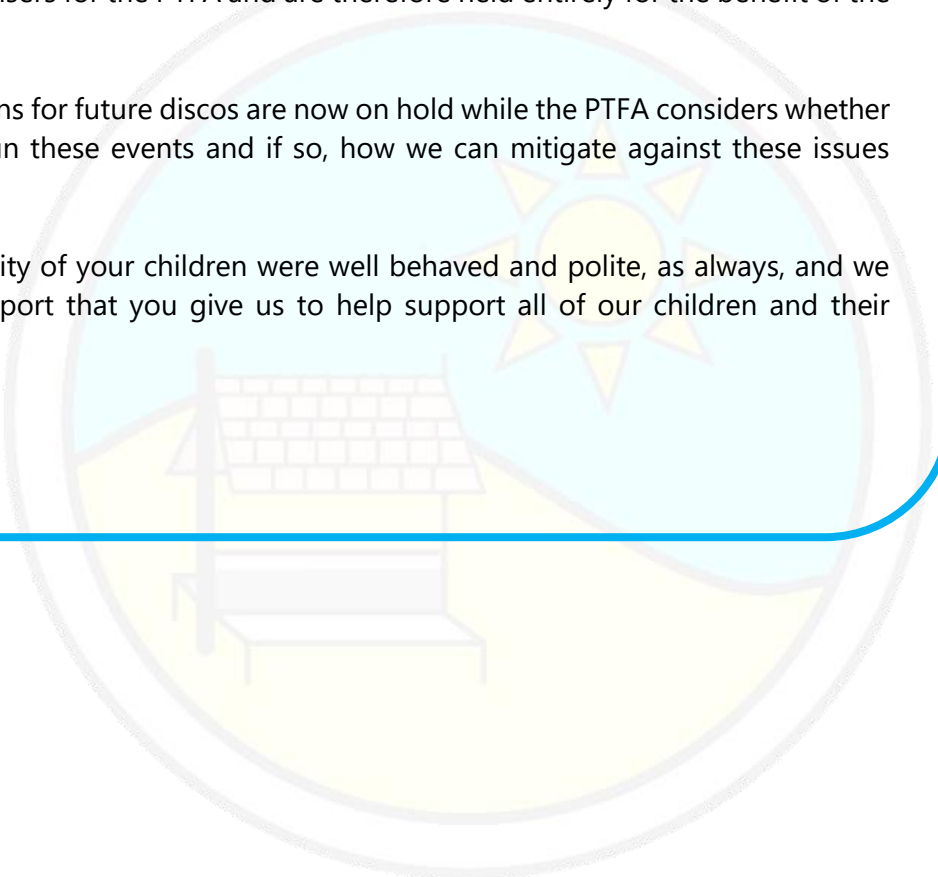
It is very disappointing to have to write this message as the PTFA is made up of small group of parent volunteers who deserve to be treated with respect. Due to the cost of the DJ and other overheads, the discos are not significant fund raisers for the PTFA and are therefore held entirely for the benefit of the children.

Following last night's events, plans for future discos are now on hold while the PTFA considers whether we are willing to continue to run these events and if so, how we can mitigate against these issues reoccurring.

I would reiterate, the vast majority of your children were well behaved and polite, as always, and we really do appreciate all the support that you give us to help support all of our children and their learning.

Polly Hallchurch – PTFA Chair

10th November



Diary Dates

NOVEMBER		
Friday 10 th		Armistice Day (2-minute silence)
Thursday 16 th	9:15am All day	Open morning 1 Year 2 Trip to Paignton Zoo
Friday 17 th	All day	Children in Need – non-uniform day
Tuesday 21 st	9:15am	Open morning 2
Thursday 23 rd	9:15am	Open morning 3
Saturday 25 th	6pm	Lantern Parade
DECEMBER		
Sat 2 nd - Sun 3 rd		Christingle Weekend at St Mary's Church
Tuesday 5 th	2:00pm	Years 1&2 production dress rehearsal (pupils only)
Wednesday 6 th	2:00pm 5:30pm	Years 1&2 afternoon performance Years 1&2 evening performance
Thursday 7 th	3:30pm	Christmas Fair
Friday 8 th	3:30pm	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 11 th	2:00pm	Reception afternoon dress rehearsal (pupils only)
Tuesday 12 th	2:30pm	Reception afternoon performance (for parents)
Wednesday 13 th		Whole School Pantomime Trip – Northcott Theatre
Thursday 14 th	1:45pm	KS2 Carol Service at St Mary's Church
Friday 15 th		Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 19th December to Tuesday 3rd January - Christmas Holidays		



Yours sincerely,
Fraser Wallace
 HEADTEACHER

Kentisbeare Children's Orchestra

Thursdays 5.30 pm Kentisbeare Village Hall

all ages and abilities welcome

find out more: www.go-kco.org.uk

email: stuart.mcfadzean@gmail.com



Willand Copse Holiday Club

Activities Include:

Campfire
Cooking

Seasonal
Arts &
Crafts

Outdoor
Games

£35.00 a day

(inclusive of meals)

8am - 5pm

During School Holidays

Home
Cooked
Meals

Enclosed
Gardens

Pond
with view
deck

Primary
School
Children

Log
Cabins

**FREE Holiday Club Spaces Available for
Siblings of Honeybees Nursery Children.
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For more information or to book a space:

Call: 01884 798150 or email: enquiries@honeybeeschildcare.co.uk
Honeybees Childcare & Nursery, Uffculme Road, Willand, Devon EX15 2SA

