



The Flying Start Federation Newsletter 16th January 2019 Issue 22

(www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.)

Federation website for both schools

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring Term. We hope you had a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday.

Severe weather

We are now coming to that time of year when we are more likely to experience challenging weather conditions. Should it become necessary to close either school either for a day or part of the day- we will put this information on the APP (make sure you have downloaded onto your phone) on the home page of the Federation website, and informed Radio Devon.

Curriculum and home learning

The teachers have been working hard to plan exciting and engaging learning for the term ahead and you should have had an outline plan of the main learning for the next few weeks with suggested home learning. Children who are supported and encouraged to engage with the home learning we find make faster progress than those who do not. So please encourage your child with reading, learning spellings and times tables and other topic based activities.

We are very excited about our connected curriculum which we have spent a lot of time reviewing and are continuing to develop so that it gives the best opportunities for children to learn key skills and concepts in a deep and meaningful way.

School Meals

We are also excited by our new menu which was launched this term and hope you will support by helping your child choose meals. Children in reception Y1 and Y2 are eligible for Universal Free School Meals, so make sure you have selected a meal every day.

Children who are eligible for means tested free school meals should also enjoy a school meal everyday- there is lots to choose from. And we very much hope that all other children will select regular meals throughout the week as these meals are nutritionally balanced- low in sugar, and saturated fats which most lunch box contents are not. **Remember you can order a meal up to midnight the Thursday of the week before.**

Attendance

At the end of each term we send reports to parents for all children whose attendance has fallen below 95%. Research has shown that when attendance regularly falls below 95% there is an increase in anxiety in children and less progress is made. This report is to inform you of your child's attendance rate and should indicate whether the school has concerns and would suggest a meeting. We hope that the report gives you the information you need to support your child in continuing positive attitudes to school to avoid any unnecessary days off.

All parents must inform the school of any absence whether authorised or not, **including all reception children and preschool children who are not of statutory school age.** This is part of our policy to keep children safe- if a child is booked to be in school and doesn't turn up without being informed by the parents we will ring home and then all the contacts on our database to find out where that child is and that they are safe. So please make sure you inform the school if your child is off school for whatever reason. Just a reminder that we have tried to organise our non pupils days all together at the end of the Summer term to allow families to take advantage of a week before other schools finish.

Mental and emotional health

You may have heard much in the media about the importance of developing strategies for healthy mental and emotional well being, as more and more young people suffer with anxiety and stress. At our schools we take this seriously so have participated in training to help us support the development of health mental and emotional well being. We will be running a workshop for parents and carers to inform you about the strategies we use in school to support emotional and mental health on **7th February at the Allardice Hall** time to be confirmed. **Please make this a date in your diary.**

Attendance: Target:
97% **Whole school:**
Buckland: 96.63%
Parkham: 95.88%
Owls: 97.43% **Falcons:**
96.49% **Kestrels:**
95.07% **Eagles:**
95.94% **Hawks:**

Atlantic Coast Cooperative Trust

Our membership of this trust continues to bring many positive benefits for our staff and children. This week some of our Y5 and 6s have attended an anti bullying workshop at Instow- where they will gather ideas how to overcome bullying by showing Respect and then sharing these ideas with the rest of the school. Further sports festivals are organised for later in the term. We have also more recently welcomed the Northam Care Trust as an associate partner of the trust. NCT is based in Northam and Bideford and have developed person centred support for people with profound and multiple learning and other disabilities and complex needs in residential and day activities. We are now busy planning some joint activities where some of our children can share their learning with the clients that NCT supports. Appledore school has been working in this way for some time with NCT on art based projects and we hope to explore shared musical experiences with the aim of developing our children's understanding of disability and communication.



Dates

Parkham

24/1/19 Devon Jazz Youth Orchestra for selected music children
 30/1/19 Y5 + Y6 mental health ambassador training
 5/2/19 Safer internet day
 13/2/19 Look in the book 2.30pm
 18/2/19 Half term starts

Buckland Brewer

24/1/19 Devon Jazz Youth Orchestra for selected music children
 5/2/19 Safer internet day
 13/2/19 Look in the book 3pm
 18/2/19 Half term starts

Head Lice Advice

REMEMBER TO BEAT THE BUGS by wet combing your child's hair with a nit comb at least once a week.

OFFICE HOURS:

Parkham: Mon—Thurs 8.45—3.45pm
 (please note there is no one in the office on Fridays)

Buckland Brewer: Mon—Fri 8.45—12.15pm— please avoid making requests when office is not manned.

If you need to telephone the school urgently and the office is not manned, please ring the partner school as hopefully they can get a message through.

Buckland TEL: 01237 451315

Parkham TEL: 01237 451334

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2018— 3rd September—21st December 2018

Spring Term 2018— 7th January—5th April 2018

Summer Term 2018— 23rd April—25th July 2018

Non-pupil days

3rd Sept 2018, 19th Oct 2018, 7th January 2019, 22nd & 23rd July 2019

Occasional days

24th and 25th July 2019

Social media and online gaming

We are becoming more and more concerned about the impact that social media and gaming is having on increasingly young children. We have become aware of the numbers of children who are using social media, such as Instagram, connecting with their friends and beyond. Worrying about what is being said on social media— and keeping up with it is causing our children to become anxious and confused. Also we are aware of increasing numbers of children playing games on and off line which are rated 12 and 18 (such as Fortnite and Call of Duty) and often spending many hours doing so and late into the night. We know this because we have seen the way it affects their play and social skills in school. As parents we need to be in control of all media that our children may have access to— do we know what they are saying in messages, and who to and who talking to online? Young children are incredibly vulnerable to online predators so make sure you have activated all parental controls. Really encourage your children to play real games such as card and board games and to play outside when they can. They need to develop their social skills by actually playing and talking together not through a screen. Please let's work together to ensure that our children do have a healthy and imaginative childhood.

Tennis at ARC

Come along to the ARC Open Weekend on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th January 2019! Our incredible indoor tennis & badminton courts are available to be booked for FREE tasters all weekend. Along with FREE taster sessions for kids, adult beginners, players with disabilities, fitness fanatics and rusty racquets there is something for all the family whatever the weather and whatever your availability. With fantastic special discount offers available on our memberships and coaching courses it's a perfect time to come and see our facility and try Tennis, Badminton or both for FREE! To see a full list of available court times and sessions and to book your FREE place visit:

<http://www.atlanticracquetcentre.co.uk/opendays>

Quiz Night!

Saturday February 2nd

Allardice Hall, Parkham

Doors open 7:30 p.m. Quiz starts 8:00 p.m.

Teams of minimum 4, maximum 6 people

£6 per person, includes bread, cheese and fruit

Soft drinks, tea and coffee for sale

No alcoholic drinks available, so please bring your own, glasses provided

Please register your team in advance by contacting Jo on 01237

451803 or joanna.turnbull72@gmail.com

SUNDAY 27th JANUARY

FREE PARTY

FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

FROM 3-5pm

AT BUCKLAND BREWER HALL

ARRANGED BY BUCKLAND BREWER METHODIST & PARISH CHURCHES

PARTY FOOD & GAMES

ALL WELCOME

PLEASE CAN PARENTS/CARERS BE WITH CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE

CHANCE TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS ON ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE



School Nursing team

Torrington children's Centre

Borough Road

