

Dear Families

What a wonderful first week I have had at Jacobstow! The staff and children have been so welcoming and helpful and it has been lovely to see so many smiling parents on the gate in the evenings and say hello!

I have been trying to learn everything about how the school runs this week and remember names of staff and children. I am getting there but please have some patience with me if I don't yet know the answers!

Coffee Drop Ins!

I have met some parents this week but would love to meet more of you and hear your views on the school. I will be holding a couple of coffee drop in sessions next week if you want to pop in for a cuppa, introduce yourself and have a chat. I will be joined by our new Family Support worker (see below) and it would be fab to get to know as many of you as possible. The timings for the drop ins are

Thursday 21st September 9.00 - 9.30 & 2.30 - 3.00

In School This Week.....



This week in Neptune we have begun our English unit of writing non-chronological reports on Emperor Penguins, in maths we are exploring numbers up to 1,00,000! Science introduced the topic of light, and we built a timeline of inventions involving light. We had our first PE session with Mr Pitman which was tag rugby! We really enjoyed developing our throwing and dodging skills.

We have been appraising an artist in Saturn class this week. We have observed and discussed the artistic techniques used and shared what we noticed, liked, what it made us think about and how it made us feel. The artists we are focusing on this half term are Banksy, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol in our pop art comparison unit with a war focus.



We had some great thoughts about the image with the soldier and the boy, 'the soldier is fighting for a better life for everyone, and the boy is painting what that life might look like'. We also made the connections with our history learning about World War Two. We liked the bright colours and felt the images were really thought provoking, we are excited to see where this learning unit takes us.

In other areas of our learning, we have begun our English unit looking at writing instructions, built upon our maths knowledge of place value, explored the human skeleton in 'Our Amazing Body' science learning and enjoyed some fantastic PE lessons especially out tag rugby with Mr Pitman.



Mercury class have been busy exploring the paintings of local artist Brian Pollard. We have learnt about his early life as a doctor and how he began painting when he retired. We discussed that he is not a trained artist and his work uses bright and vibrant colours and acrylic paint. As Brian Pollard lives in Plymouth, we discussed how much of his work includes local landmarks in Devon and Cornwall. The children were able to recognise Plymouth Hoe and St Michael's Mount. We then had a go at recreating some of his painting in our sketch books with amazing results. Well done Mercury class.

In Little Stars this week we have been settling into our new environment, talking about our feelings with the Colour Monster and developing our fine and gross motor skills with new equipment in the water tray.



Family Support



We understand that being a parent can be both the most difficult job in the world and the most rewarding one. Across our Cornwall Hub, we are thrilled to have a Family Support worker who recognise those challenges and are here to support you through difficult or tricky times. We have many years of experience of working with children and families, which enables us to work alongside you to achieve your family's goals. We use our ears and our hearts to understand your family. With this in mind, I am thrilled to introduce our Cornwall Hub Family Support Worker, Tash Ellerington. Tash is going to be working across the 3 schools in our hub and will be based at Jacobstow on a Thursday. Tash can be contacted directly on 07507 556307 or her email which is nellerington@lapsw.org.

Attendance

Jacobstow is committed to providing a full and efficient educational experience to all children. Children attending every day, and on time is key to steady progress and enjoyment of learning, and for this reason the school is dedicated to ensuring maximum attendance for all children.

We encourage all pupils to work towards 100% attendance.

A whole calendar year has 365 days – a school year has only 190 days. This leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays and other appointments.

We encourage regular attendance by:

- Providing a caring and welcoming learning environment
- Learning that is fun so that children will not want to miss it.
- Responding promptly to a child's or parent's concerns about the school or other children.
- Marking registers accurately and punctually during morning and afternoon registration.
- Publishing and displaying attendance statistics.
- Celebrating good and improved attendance.
- Monitoring children, informing parents/carers in writing of irregular attendance, arranging meetings with them if necessary.

We expect that you will:

- ALWAYS encourage regular school attendance and be aware of your legal responsibilities.
- ALWAYS ensure that your child arrives at the school punctually and fully prepared for the school day.
- Ensure that you contact the school whenever your child is unwell and unable to attend the school.
- Contact the school by 9.15am on the first day of your child's absence and telephone every day thereafter unless your child has a doctor's certificate.
- Contact us promptly whenever any problem occurs that may keep your child away from the school.

Please note that holidays in term time will not be authorised.

Attendance Matters



Water Bottles

Many parents have requested that children are able to bring their own water bottles into school. This is fine but we request that the water bottles are plastic and have a sports bottle lid (to stop spillages) and is clearly named. Children should only be bringing water to drink in class.

Dinners

From Monday 18 September all dinners need to be ordered on MCAS. Teachers are spending too long in the mornings adding dinner choices. Any child requiring a dinner which hasn't been pre-ordered will be given a jacket potato. If you are having problems ordering dinners please contact Mrs Maloney.

Reading

One of our focuses this half term will be on reading, in particular reading for pleasure. The children will no longer be using Accelerated Reader but will continue to have daily reading lessons in class with their teachers (Phonics in EYFS and KS1). The children will all have a reading diary and we ask that as part of our home learning, that all children read at home with an adult at least 3 times a week and note this in the diaries that the teachers will regularly check. Children who read regularly will be rewarded with house points. If children have not already brought home a reading book, this will happen at the beginning of next week.

Parental Involvement

Please be reassured that we are working really hard to bring together a list of dates for parents to be involved in the school. Following the building work in the holidays, the teachers are just waiting on a few last finishing touches to their classrooms before we invite you in to see the children's classroom environments and to share their learning. We will also be setting dates for other events very soon, so watch this space!

Clubs

I would like to reiterate the apology for the late notice in the cancellation of Breakfast and After school clubs. I continue to work on a solution for Breakfast club and may need to go to recruitment for this. However, we have managed to organise the following after school clubs. A separate letter has gone out for signing up for these clubs. All staff are involved in CPD on a Monday evening, so we will seek an outside provider for this night as we move forwards. If you have any suggestions of people/groups in the local area who may be able to support with this, please contact the office.

Tuesday	3.15 - 4.30	Construction Club	Miss Ball	
Wednesday	3.15 - 4.30	Art Club	Miss Hunter	
Thursday	3.15 - 4.30	KS2 Sports	Mr Pitman	Cost £1 per week
Friday	3.15 - 4.30	KS1 Sports	Mr Pitman	Cost £1 per week

Have a Lovely Weekend!

L. Garside.

Lesa Garside