



St Piran's Post

January 2016 Edition

ISSUE 5

Happy New Year!

'Nurturing God's gifts with compassion and drive, so that all our children succeed, learn and thrive'

On behalf of the St Piran's Cross CE Multi-Academy Trust of schools we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and every success for 2016!

**Happy
New Year!**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the Christmas holidays and we hope you had a lovely break.
Happy New Year to you all.

The autumn term was a very positive term for our five schools; very busy, hard working with many exciting events for our children.

The Spring term is traditionally quieter than the autumn term and is one where we can really focus on the children's learning and progress. Let us hope that the weather stays fine for us on school days. We told you about our emergency procedures for school closure in the event of poor weather last term.

Christmas Events 2015

I had the privilege of attending all of our schools Christmas productions, plays and concerts. They were all wonderful and the children were a credit to their families and schools. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of our schools for working so very hard to produce these.

Our first MAT **Christingle Service** was a huge success raising £239.28 for the Children's Society. Thank you for all of your donations!



We can now confirm the date for our 2016 Christingle Service as **Tuesday 6th December**

2016 at 10 am and this will take place at Truro Cathedral

Welcome to our new MAT SENCO

We are welcoming our new MAT Special Needs Coordinator this term to our five schools. Rachel Moseley joins us from a school in Birmingham and brings a wealth of SEND knowledge and experience.



Rachel will work across the five schools and will spend time in each school during the week. You can contact her by leaving a message at your school office.

Residential Visits for Year 4, 5 and 6

We have now booked our camps for the summer 2016 as below.



The residentials are:

- **Year 4** – one night and two days at Camp Kernow in Truro
- **Year 5** – two nights and three days at Porthpean Residential Camp, St Austell
- **Year 6** – four nights and five days at Barton Hall, Devon – Outdoor Pursuits and adventure.

Each of our camp providers has allowed us to reserve some further places without deposits if any of our children decide that they would now like to attend. These will be allocated on a first come first served basis, please see your Head if you are interested in a place. Thank you.

We will be holding camp meetings for parents in April 2016 with details of the expectations of each trip

MAT Value this half term -

Forgiveness

This half term we will be focusing on the forgiveness value within our Collective Worship times.



Sickness

We hope that you and your children are in good health after the Christmas break. There has been a very nasty sickness bug/virus around which we want to keep our children and staff protected from. If your child has sickness, flu like symptoms or tummy problems, please keep them off school for up to **48 hours** after they show no symptoms. Thank you.

We are also working with your children on good healthy hygiene and the flu advice is that we **“catch it, bag and bin it”** and then wash our hands when we have a cold or virus.

School Uniform

Our children mostly look very smart in their uniform. Thank you. This term we are going to be insisting on very high standards in uniform, sensible school shoes, and no jewellery, including necklaces or chains (except for stud earrings).

Please ensure all clothing and PE kit, especially coats are clearly named. Can we please remind you that PE kits should be in school all week and will be sent home when they need a wash.

Holiday during Term Times

You will be receiving a consultation letter about holidays in term time on Friday.

You will all be aware that it is now against the law to take your child on a family holiday during the school term time unless there are **‘exceptional’** reasons for this.

It is fairly rare for us to accept requests for holiday leave during term time even for exceptional reasons.

However, we do understand that this creates financial pressures and time off work issues for our families and the Board Of Directors is currently considering the way that one of our schools previously organised its INSET Days to create holiday time opportunities for families.

Please read this letter and return your response by Monday 18th January 2016. Thank you. Taking children out of school during term time has become a hot topic of debate and on **Monday 11th January**, we are contributing to this

discussion on the **BBC’s Inside Out** programme at **7.30 pm**. Please tune in if you have the time.

Parent Forums this term

There will be two opportunities for parents to come into schools this term informally to talk about each school and MAT issues. The Directors and I are currently working on our vision for the five schools for the next three to five years and we will be seeking views and comments from our parents at these meetings.

Forum dates:

- 18th January at 6 pm – Bishop Bronescombe CE
- 19th January at 2.15 pm – Ladock CE
- 20th January at 6pm – Grampound Road CE
- 21st January at 2.15 pm – Grampound with Creed CE
- 26th January at 2.15 pm – Veryan CE
- 7th March at 6 pm – Ladock CE
- 8th March at 2.15 pm – Bishop Bronescombe CE
- 9th March at 6pm – Veryan CE
- 14th March at 6 pm – Grampound with Creed
- 11th March at 2.15 pm – Grampound Road CE

School League Tables

You might have seen the school league tables during December in the local newspapers. We don’t think they tell you much about our smaller schools as one of our children in these schools can be as much as 10% of the total.

However, we are working hard in all of our schools to raise standards in reading, writing and maths.

St Austell Music Festival Success!

I am pleased to announce that two of our schools entered the St Austell Music Festival in December 2015 and we had several winners in different categories. Well done to all of the children who took part!



From Ladock School - George, James and Tommy all together who gained a position.

From Bishop Bronescombe School – Herbie and Leo also did us proud.



Well done boys!

ParentPay



Starting on Monday 11th January 2016 in Bishop Bronescombe School and Monday 18th in Grampound Road, Grampound with Creed, Ladock and Veryan Schools we will be introducing a more convenient way to make payments to the school. This will be used for school meals, residential trips, nursery and breakfast/after school clubs and much more over the coming months. We are launching a secure service called ParentPay which is used by over 3000 schools in the UK. We are hoping this will be a more convenient and secure way for parents to make payments to school. A letter will be sent out explaining the new initiative and another one will follow with your individual username and password.

We would also like to take this opportunity to move to a weekly ordering system for school meals. We would request that school meals are ordered on a Monday morning for the rest of the week and payment made at this point. We realise this may not always be possible due to changing circumstances with busy family lives but we would request parents try to adhere to this ordering system where possible. This will help with class time management by streamlining some of the administration tasks undertaken during teaching time. Menus are available from the school office or the website. For more details or support using the system please contact your school office.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Dates for diaries:

6th January – Epiphany

27th January – Grampound Road – Open afternoon for current parents to see books and displays.

1st February – St Piran's Post Edition 6 out.

2nd February - Candlemass

5th February – MAT School Council Conference at Grampound with Creed Hall.

9th February – Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Races

10th February – Ash Wednesday

12th February – Half term holiday commences

22nd February – INSET Day – schools closed.

2nd March – MAT Singing Event at Truro Cathedral, details to follow.

3rd March – World Book Day

21st March – Annual Reports sent out to our parents

24th March – Last day of the spring term 2016

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M.J Lees
Executive Principal