



ST PIRAN'S
CROSS
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

St Piran's Post

April 2016 Edition
ISSUE 8

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

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our five schools and we hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday. The summer term is usually a busy one with key national assessments for almost all of our year groups. We will also have our residential trips for Year 4,5 and 6 and no doubt lots of other school based events.

As you are receiving this St Piran's Post so late in April due to the Easter Holiday, the next edition will be sent out to you during the week of 23rd May 2016.

The MAT Board, our MAT Business Manager and I are busily trying to set our school budgets at present. Our budgets, like all schools, have fallen by £52 per child this year and this will make this process more challenging than it was last year.

We hope to be clear by May half term how we are going to organise our schools and the staff teaching and working in each class. We will keep you informed of this process.

INSET Day during the year 2016/17

Following extensive consultation with parents and staff the MAT Board has decided that they will put all of each school's INSET Days into the week following the MAY 2017 Spring Bank Holiday half term.

MAT Value this half term – Trust

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



Parent Forums this term

We have one further **PARENT FORUM** planned in each school this half term:

Forum dates:

- 25th April at 2.15 pm – Bishop Bronescombe
- 26th April at 2.15 pm – Ladock
- 27th April at 2.15 pm – Grampound Road

- 28th April at 2.25 pm – Grampound with Creed
- 4th May at 2.15 pm - Veyan

We look forward to seeing you at one of these events. Where possible the Head and I will be in attendance. There will be another Parent Forum later in the summer term, details will follow in the next MAT newsletter

MAT Cathedral BIG SING

If you attended the MAT BIG SING last term I know that you would have been impressed with the singing talent displayed by all of our schools and all of the children who attended. Thank you to the excellent audience we had as well who were hugely encouraging to the children. BB Parents won the loudest cheer though!



We received several compliments about the behaviour of all of our children at this concert, they were a credit to their schools and families. Some photos are below:



National tests for 7 and 11 year olds – SATs.

The SATs for Year 2 children will be undertaken in May and will be part of everyday lessons, this year there are also some tests which will be like the ones we do on a half termly basis.

Year 6 SATs take place during the week of **9th May 2016**. This is an important assessment for the children in Year 6.

In the summer term of 2016, children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be the first to take the new SATs papers. These tests in English and maths will reflect the new national curriculum, and are intended to be more rigorous. There will also be a completely new marking scheme to replace the existing national curriculum levels.

At the end of Year 6, children will sit tests in:

•**Reading**

•**Maths**

•**Spelling, punctuation and grammar**

These tests will be both set and marked externally, and the results will be used to measure the school's performance (for example, through reporting to Ofsted and published league tables). Your child's marks will be used in conjunction with teacher assessment to give a broader picture of their attainment.

Our Top Tips for Year 6 children

Tip 1: Remember your child's education is a partnership. Meet with their teachers as they will know your child's strengths and weaknesses, and ask them how you can help.

Tip 2: Support your child with homework tasks and daily reading. Try drawing or acting out answers of difficult concepts.

Tip 3: Encourage your child to work to speed. Try timed recall of timetables in the car/journey to school. Set min challenges for example – 'can you find the word on the page that means 'dangerous' you have 1 minute - go!' 'What is 10% of 150? You have 10 seconds - go!'

Tip 4: Make sure your child is aware that getting stuck is not a problem. Move on and give them another challenge and come back to the hard ones at the end and/or go through it together.

Tip 5: Encourage your child to believe in themselves, 'you can do it!'

Tip 6: Remind your child that the tests are important, but that they are not the only way they are to be measured. We don't want any child panicking or worried, we want them to be prepared.

Tip 7: Approach a subject from lots of different angles. Software, games, activities, books, flash

cards and practical applications all help make the revision time at home as fun and interactive as possible.

Tip 8: It is easier said than done, BUT do not put your child under too much pressure. Have fun – they will find things easier to remember if they recall the good times they had learning.

Residential Trips this term



We are currently finalising the residential trips for this year and we will be inviting you and your children to a briefing meeting on:

- **Year 6 to Barton Hall** – 25th April at 4.30 pm at Bishop Bronescombe Primary School.
- **Year 5 to Porthpean** - 26th April at 4.30 pm at Grampound Road Primary School.
- **Year 4 to Camp Kernow**- 27th April at 4.30 pm at Grampound Road Primary School.

At these meetings we will do some team building with the children while you find out about the visit, itinerary and kit lists etc.

It is possible that we may have a few places available for each visit even at this late stage. Please ask at the school office if you are interested. Thank you.

Truro Music Festival Success at Ladock Primary School



Well done to the children from Ladock School who entered classes at the Truro Music Festival.

There were about 16 in each class and several entries from Truro Prep school.

Effie, James and Tommy all won their classes, Ada was second and Isaac N was third. Elliot,

Bea, Aisha, Joe V and Joseph also took part and did really well especially as it was the first time for some of them.

This is all organised by two of Ladock's parents who do it twice a year for Truro and St Austell festivals. We would like to thank these parents!

Regarding Academies

As you may have heard in the recent budget, it is the plan of the government that all state schools are to be converted into academies by 2022. You will be aware that all of the St Piran's Cross schools converted in December 2013 and already are not controlled by the local authority and have the additional powers that academies enjoy.

We are also looking to our future as an academy trust and developing a vision on how best to develop our five schools and serve our five school communities. The Board of Directors and I are currently working on this and will consult upon these ideas when finalised.

Making Contact

Please remember that I am in most of our schools during most weeks however I am currently training to become an OFSTED Inspector and will be in London for most of the week of the 18th April 2016. If you need to catch me then please phone 01726 250260 or email enquiries@stpiranscross.co.uk Thank you.



Summer term 2016 Dates for your Calendars:

April 25th – Year 6 Camp Meeting
April 26th – Year 5 Camp Meeting
April 27th – Year 4 Camp Meeting
May 2nd – MAY DAY Bank Holiday – schools closed.
May 9th – Year 6 SATs Week
May 9th – MAT and School Annual Parent Questionnaire to go out.
May 16th to 18th – Year 4 trip to Camp Kernow
May 23rd – Assessment Week
May 30th – Half term holiday.
June 6th – School re-opens and Year 6 go to Barton Hall Camp.
10th June – The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations
13th June – Year 1 National Phonic Screening Test Week.
June 20th to 22nd – Year 5 Camp to Porthpean.
June 23rd – EU referendum.
June 28th – Year 6 Welcome Day at the Roseland School.
July 4th and 5th – Penrice Welcome Days for Year 6
July 11th – Assessment Week

July 13th – MAT Olympics at Par Stadium.
July 15th – Year 6 Prom and Graduation at Grampound Road School.

Once again thank you for your continued support with your children's learning and for our schools. I am hoping that we are heading for a lovely summer!

Yours sincerely

Mr. M.J Lees
Executive Principal