



Bridestowe Primary School
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Bridestowe Primary School – With Respect and Ambition We Flourish Together

15/10/2021

A time of thanks

It can be easy to become gloomy when considering the challenges we have faced in recent times such as isolation or illness. Harvest is a time to give thanks for what we do have, to reflect upon the gifts we have from the world and those around us. Our school is extremely lucky to have such dedicated staff, delightful children and a supportive parental community, and for that I am thankful. Our Harvest Festival today, I'm certain, will once again show us all how lucky we are to be a part of this school and showcase the flourishing talents of our children.

Send a Cow

During today's Harvest Festival there will be a collection for the Send a Cow charity. Jenny Reynolds recently visited the school to talk to the children about the work of the charity and the impact it can have on the lives of rural communities in Africa. Building cultural understanding in our children is a key aspect to developing future global citizens and we are grateful for Jenny's time and enthusiasm.



FoBS Cycle Cafe

On Sunday 10th October FoBS hosted the Tavistock Wheelers cycle club and members of the local community for a pop-up Cycle Café on the school playground. A fantastic total of £344 was raised which will help fund the roofing for the Forest School shelter.

Thank you to all the FoBS team with special mention to Jackie and Rose who worked so hard to make it a success.

FoBS AGM

The FoBS AGM will be held on Monday 18th October at 09.00 in the school. All parents, carers or friends of the school are welcome and encouraged to attend. The principal aim of FoBS is to raise funds to support extra curricular projects and visits for the school – you could help support great things to happen for our children.

World Mental Health Day

On Friday 8th October we marked world mental health day by wearing something yellow. Powerful discussions were had around mental health and how important it is to look after yourself and others. We are determined to support all those suffering from mental health issues and encourage everyone to seek help when they need it.

Class Blogs

Take a look at our Class Blogs on the website. These are regularly updated by teachers and provide a great insight into curriculum learning and activities: [Learning Hub - Classes - Curriculum - BRIDESTOWE PRIMARY SCHOOL \(bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk\)](http://www.bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk/learning-hub/classes/curriculum)

School Council

The children recently have been applying for the position of School Councillor. Speeches were written and performed ahead of a class voting system to elect our new councillors. Well done to Sofia, Jacob, Alistair, Lissy, Ruby, William, Liam, Poppy, Eleanor and Felix who were elected. The School Council is vital in delivering improvements to the children's school experience.



Open Afternoon

We will be hosting an open afternoon on Tuesday 16th November aimed at new September 2022 parents. Please do share the attached poster with anyone who may be interested in joining our wonderful school.

Forest School

We welcomed Ranger Rob back to school for the first time this term on Wednesday – EYFS, Year 1,2, 3 and 4 had an excellent time learning in the outdoor environment.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations return next week with many face to face meetings. We will, as previously, have some expectations of parents to ensure all are kept safe:

- If you are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 please DO NOT attend the school site. Follow government guidance for isolation and testing.
- Please arrive no more than 5 minutes before your appointment time.
- No more than 2 adults to attend the consultation.
- Bringing non-school children should be **avoided if possible***. Children who attend the school are welcome to be part of the consultation. **Please do not leave your child unattended at home/in a car/on the playground – if there are no childcare alternatives, they are welcome to come in with you.*
- Please enter the school through the front gate and wait on the front playground, socially distanced from others waiting.
- Face coverings should be worn when on the school site unless you are medically exempt.
- Wait until you are invited into the building.
- Please sanitise your hands using the dispenser by the door.
- Please sit on the provided chairs, distanced from your teacher.
- You will have the opportunity to look at your children's books.
- Unfortunately, we cannot offer you refreshments at this time.
- Your teacher will be wearing a face covering / visor at all times
- When leaving the school, please exit immediately from the playground ensuring social distancing from those waiting.
- As you leave, available seating and door handles will be sprayed and wiped with disinfectant before the next adults are invited in.

Thank you for your understanding during these still challenging times.

Attendance

When reporting your child absent it is vital that you provide the reason for absence and full details of the nature of any illness.

The school has a statutory responsibility to monitor attendance and is obligated to inform parents when a child's attendance drops below 96%. Attendance levels are tracked half-termly and letters are sent home if attendance drops below this level, offering guidance and support to help increase attendance percentage.

The table below shows how absence can affect a child's education:

Above 97%: - Less than 12 Sessions (6 days) absence a year Excellent attendance! These students will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future.
95%: - 20 Sessions (10 days) absence a year These pupils are likely to achieve good grades. Students who take a 2 week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.
90%: - 38 Sessions (19 days) absence a year The Government classifies Students in this group as "Persistent Absentees", and it will be almost impossible for them to keep up with work. Students in this group are missing a month of school per year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best. Parents of students in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by the Local Authority.
85%: - 58 Sessions (29 days) absence a year 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all, limiting their chances of employment and suggesting to employers that they are unreliable.

Dates

October

- 18th and 19th – Owlets Parent Consultations
- 19th and 21st – Tawny Owls/Snowy Owls Parent Consultations
- 20th and 21st – Barn Owls Parent Consultations
- 20th – Forest School – Year 5,6 and EYFS.
- 22nd – Open the Book assembly
- WB 25th – Half Term

November

- 1st – Pupils return
- 2nd – Vision screening (NHS) EYFS and Year 1
- 3rd – Forest School – EYFS, Years 1,2,3 and 4
- 5th – Open the Book assembly
- 11th – Remembrance Service in Churchyard – 11am
- 17th – Forest School Years 5,6 and EYFS.
- 26th – Open the Book assembly

December

- 1st – Forest School – EYFS, Years 1,2,3 and 4
- 3rd – Open the Book assembly
- 13th – Christmas Nativity
- 14th – Carol Singing – St Bridget's Church
- 15th – A Christmas Carol at Exeter Northcott – KS2
- WB 20th – Christmas Break

January 2022

- 5th – Pupils return

Mr A. Hill – Principal

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Whole School Attendance

96.2%