



Bridestowe Primary School

Head of School: Mrs Amy Lammas  
Interim Head of School: Mrs Suzie Stevens  
Administrator: Mrs Hazel Lowden

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Spring Week 4: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018



Executive Principal: Mr D.Chapman

Head of Primary: Mr P. Whittley

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have received a couple of queries this week from parents regarding the play equipment rota which has been put in place. Following a Health & Safety risk assessment of the equipment it was agreed that some form of control would be needed in order to keep all the children safe. We were advised that accidents would be inevitable and the flooring was there to prevent a serious head injury but would not prevent broken bones or fractures. Therefore, in order for the equipment to be both safe & fun for all, staff would need to decide what controls were put into practice.

Staff got together at the end of last week to discuss this matter & we decided that, due to the current (either wet or icy) weather conditions plus the initial excitement that will inevitably occur when using new equipment, we would start with the initiation of a year-group rota. The reasoning behind this was to enable the children to explore, take risks and gain confidence while using the play equipment with other peers of a similar size and age. The older children would then avoid being constantly reminded to "mind the little ones" and could explore in different ways to the younger children. This was discussed with children in a couple of assemblies and they agreed that this was a fair way of allowing equal access for all the children within the school.

The initial rota will be in place to allow all children to gain confidence, and it will then be re-assessed. We have discussed as a staff that, in future, the rota may change to allow the school 'Teams' to use the equipment so that children older and younger children can play together, but this will not happen until we feel all of the children are confident to use it with their peers.

We have added some red 'Closed' signs for any time when the equipment has been risk assessed as being too slippery or unsafe for any reason, meaning the children will know they are unable to use it at that time. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Following the recent 'Meet & Greet', I have compiled a list of dates for future Parent Forum meetings. As suggested, the meetings will be held on different days and at different times in order to try and ensure that as many parents as possible will be able to attend. Here are all of the dates for the rest of this academic year. If anyone has a topic or point of interest that they would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to come and let either myself or Mrs Lowden in the office know and I will add it to the agenda.

	Date	Time
Spring 1 – "Meet and Greet" session	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	3.30 – 4.30pm
Spring 2	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	2.15 – 3.15pm
Summer 1	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	9.15 – 10.15am
Summer 2	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	6.30 – 7.30pm

Best Wishes,  
Mrs Suzie Stevens



**Achievements**

**Care and Courtesy Cup**

Ben Cann, Isaac Jolley, Elin Burder

**Behaviour:** Emily Brendon, Aaron Berry, Ben Ford

**Worker:** Charlie Davey, Marina Pritchard, Seth Pritchard

**Writing:** Ellenor Taylor and Kylan Howen-Hadley

**Team Point Winners:** Tornadoes

**Outside Awards**

Well done Freya King who has gained a place in Okehampton Otters Swimming Club



**Diary Dates**

**January**

30<sup>th</sup> – FoBS Meeting 7.30pm @ White Hart

31<sup>st</sup> – Ability Games Festival

**February**

1<sup>st</sup> – Family Learning Workshop YR, Y1 and Y2

1<sup>st</sup> – Playground Opening Ceremony 3.15 – 4.00pm

6<sup>th</sup> – Rotary Club Quiz @ Okehampton Primary

7<sup>th</sup> – FoBS Quiz Night @ The White Hart

8<sup>th</sup> – Okehampton College transition visit to Y6

9<sup>th</sup> – Last day of term

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – HALF TERM

19<sup>th</sup> – Pupils return to school

**School Meals**

Here at Bridestowe we are proud of the school meals provided for our children. As noted at the recent ‘Meet & Greet’, some parents showed concern about quality and portion size. We would therefore like to invite parents to drop-in during any lunchtime from 12.15pm (11.30am on Fridays due to swimming) to see the meals on offer for themselves. Please make sure you sign in at the office and then Mrs Lowden will take you into the main school.

**OCRA Gym, Trampolining and Dance Festival**

On Wednesday the Year 3 children had a very enjoyable afternoon learning new skills and developing their confidence with gym, dance and balance. Once again their manner was fantastic and they were a credit to the school.



**Play Equipment Official Opening**

Please do come and join us at the official opening of the playground to be held on Thursday 1st February at 3.15pm. We will have both the Mayor of Okehampton and the Chair of the Parish Council coming to cut the ribbon, and Phil Whittley will say a few words. Please feel free to share the date with friends and family – the more the merrier! FoBS will be kindly providing refreshments, and all donations of cakes and biscuits towards this would be very welcome. We are aware that after the official opening, children will want to play on the equipment, but may we please remind you that as this special occasion is after school hours, parents are responsible for their own children’s safety at this time. Thank you for your understanding.

**Family Learning Workshop**

Thank you for returning your slips for this event and all parents who did so have a place, with the event now being full. Unfortunately we have been advised that the workshop is not suitable for younger siblings to attend, so please make alternative arrangements for them on this day. Thank you for your continued support.