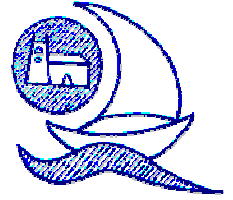


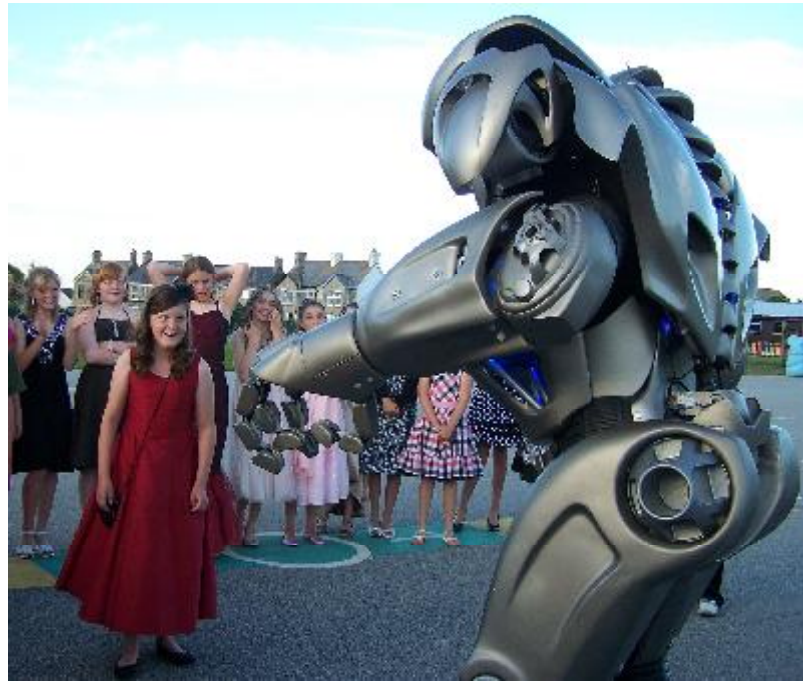
# 'Blue' Briefing



September, 2008

Keeping you in touch with events at St. Columb Minor School

## *You're Beautiful!*



*Titan the Robot serenades the belle of the ball during a surprise guest appearance at our end of year prom in July!*

Welcome to the 'Blue School' newsletter.

Our newsletter is a vital link between home and school. It is usually issued to each family at the beginning of each month. If yours doesn't arrive home with your child please ask where it is! You will also see copies of it around the community, as we welcome all members of our community to be involved with our school and share our successes and celebrations. We try to put as much information as possible into the newsletter to reduce the need for lots of little bits of paper which are easily lost in transit. You will also find the reply slips for a whole range of activities at the back of the newsletter. You don't need to read the news from every year group if it's not relevant to you, but you do need to read all of the important articles in between. If you lose your copy you can find it on our website with back editions (see address below).

We welcome all new families to our school. Please feel free to pop in and get to know us! I am certainly looking forward to another exciting year at the 'Blue School'!

*Inside.....*

*News from all year groups*

*Reply slips for all occasions!*

*Events in school this Autumn*

*Term dates for this year*

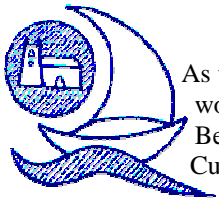
*Visit our school website at [www.blueschool.co.uk](http://www.blueschool.co.uk)*

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### Staffing News



As we start a new academic year I would like to welcome Stephanie Begley, Sarah Cunningham, Debbie Curtis and Linden Taylor to our teaching staff. Stephanie and

Linden are new to the profession and we hope that they will enjoy their new chosen careers. Sarah and Debbie are more experienced and we look forward to them sharing their specialisms with us. We welcome all new members of staff and hope that they will enjoy being at the Blue School!



### Foundation Stage News Starfish and Jellyfish

We welcome you all to Starfish and Jellyfish classes!! This is the day that you have all been waiting for! We are confident that your children will have had a good first day and know that they will settle into school very quickly.

There are lots of new faces to welcome into Foundation Stage. Miss Stephanie Begley and Mrs Andi Wheal are looking after Starfish. Mr. Nathan Bennetts and Mrs Sharon Dunn are looking after Jellyfish.

We do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join our new parents' meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> at 3-30 pm. We will talk more about the Foundation Stage and how we plan to work together as a team to support your child. Please feel free to ask any questions!

Our topic this half term is 'All About Me' and we will be finding out about ourselves, our school and where we live. We will be inside, outside and all around! Needless to say we aim to have lots of fun, that is what learning is all about!

Could we please remind you again of the importance of labelling EVERYTHING ! Water bottles are a real bonus and the blue reading bags perfect for taking home letters, messages and any supporting work

Any problems, issues or concerns, however unimportant they may seem to you may be of real importance for your child. Please come and talk to us, we are there for you!



The Foundation Stage Team

### The Vision for our School



The beginning of the school year is a good time to review our vision, mission and aims. The staff annually spend time discussing what we want to achieve across the year and in the future. We are still happy with our vision statement.

We have a vision statement, motto, strap line (whatever you want to call it) that is in keeping with the local area. We originally thought about why people come to this area and many of our ideas took on a nautical theme. We thought about the journey of life and how unpredictable it is and that reminded us of waves. We also thought about the fact that all of us are always learning and our prime purpose is to prepare our children for the future for whatever may come their way. We agreed on the following:

**Learning to ride the wave of life**

#### Our mission statement:

We believe in...

- A safe, caring and stimulating environment
- Equality of opportunity
- Respect for all individuals, valuing diversity
- Quality teaching and learning
- High expectations of achievement and behaviour

#### Our school aims to:

- promote high self esteem through the recognition of individual qualities
- encourage self respect, forgiveness, honesty, confidence, humour and independence
- foster an understanding and appreciation of our multi-cultural society
- realise the intellectual and physical potential of all
- develop enthusiasm, independent thinking and learning
- promote an understanding of spiritual and moral values which reflects the core virtues of our school
- inspire imagination, creativity and a sense of awe and wonder



## Clams and Oysters Year 1 News

Welcome to the start of a new school year and to the new Year 1 team. Miss Sarah Cunningham and Mrs Jane Mounter are working with Limpets and Mrs Nikki Cotterill and Mrs Lesley Rogers are working with Clams.

We look forward to the children in Year 1 settling in quickly and beginning to come in on their own in the mornings! We know that they will all look so smart in their uniforms and we hope that their uniform will have their names in! (If you have a few items unnamed, please do this soon as it really helps when items become separated from their owner!)

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the **Welcome Meeting on Thursday 11th September at 3.30 p.m.** where we will outline what your child will be learning this year and how you might support them with their learning. Following the meeting we will send you a summary letter covering all the main points so that you can refer back to this over the term.

Thank you to the many parents and family members who have already volunteered to come and help in the classrooms. Your help is so valuable and very much appreciated. If you would like to come in for just an hour to hear readers or help with spellings and number bonds, painting or anything else, please see your child's teacher – the more, the merrier! It doesn't matter if you have never been in before, all are welcome.

Thank you for helping your child to learn at home by reading each evening and practising their spellings and number bonds. It really does make a difference to their progress in class when they read regularly at home.

Our first topic this term is '**Ourselves**'. We will be having talks by people from the community like the police, the fire brigade, dentists, nurses and paramedics and we are looking forward to this. Perhaps you can talk with your children about people in the community, the jobs that they do and the uniforms they wear. If you are one of those people and want to come to talk to the children, then please let us know!

Please can you make sure that your child has their PE kit in school every day. This includes plimsolls as we will be doing outdoor PE in the first half of this term. **Please make sure that all PE kit is named too.**

We look forward to welcoming so many of you into the classroom over the term. Do not hesitate to come and ask us if there is anything you need help with.

All the teaching and support staff in Year 1.



## Mussels and Limpets Year 2 News

Welcome back to school!

We hope that you had a restful break and are looking forward to an active school year. We are certainly looking forward to being a separate year group this year!

We would like to introduce our new Year 2 team to you!

**Mussels**– Mrs Hoyle, Mrs White (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Robinson (Midday Supervisor)

**Oysters**– Mrs Woodfinden, Mrs Scott (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Mounter (Midday Supervisor)

Our International Primary Curriculum topic for the first half term is **Buildings and Structures**. We will begin by looking at castles and we have organised a trip to Pendennis Castle on **Tuesday 16th September**. You will receive further information about this shortly in a separate letter. Our focus country in Year 2 is **India** so if you have any artefacts, fabric etc. we would be pleased to receive items on loan. During our topic we will be finding out about homes and important buildings there.

We appreciate you continuing to listen to your child read regularly and talking about what has been read. This year your child will have spellings to learn which will be brought home on a **Monday**. The tests will take place on a **Friday**. A thorough knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables in Mathematics is vital so the children will be receiving a Times Tables booklet to help you support them with this at home.

We will be holding a **Welcome Meeting** for Year 2 parents on **Monday 8th September at 3.30 p.m.** where we will be able to give you much more information about life in Year 2. This is, of course, an important year where your child will be assessed formally against the national curriculum learning goals. We will talk to you about how this works and how best to support your child so that the year is an exciting and enjoyable one with no unnecessary pressures.

As always we look forward to a happy and productive term. In the meantime we are always grateful for help in the classroom. **If you have any time to spare we would be very pleased to hear from you.**

We hope that your child will enjoy the forthcoming year. However, if you do have any problems or concerns please get in touch.

Best wishes,

All the teaching and support staff in  
Year 2.



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## Term Dates for the Year

### Autumn Term 2008

4th Sept—19th Dec

Half term Mon 27th Oct—31st Oct

Closure day for staff training Friday 24th Oct

### Spring Term 2009

6th Jan—3rd April

Half term Mon 16th—20th Feb

### Summer Term 2009

21st April— 21st July

Half term Mon 25th—29th May

## For New Year 6 Parents !!!!!

### Year 6 SATS week 2009 is

May 11th—15th, 2009

It is **very important** that your child is in school this week and in the weeks prior to the tests. No holiday leave will be sanctioned during SAT's week for Year 6 pupils.



## Important dates in September

### 8th—19th September Year group

**Welcome Meetings** (Separate invitations) These meetings are very important as they set the scene for the coming year. All staff who are involved with your child will be represented. The meetings provide advice about how to support your child with their school work and homework. Please make every effort to attend.

**8th September Messy Play** resumes! This is a session from 2.00 to 3.00 on Mondays for Pre-school aged children. If you are a carer at home with a child of any age below school age you are welcome to join us for lots of messy activities, music and refreshments.

**9th / 10th Year 5 Day visit to Goonhilly** (separate letter issued)

**10th September Friends of Blue School** 1st meeting of year. (FOBS) This is a meeting for people interested in supporting the school with fund raising activities. We are always looking for new ideas and new members. Join us in the staffroom at 6.30 p.m.

### 16th September Parents' Forum 2.15 Staffroom

This meeting is open to all parents / carers. It is an opportunity to talk with Jennie Walker (Headteacher) and Jessica Fergusson (Chair of Governors) about ideas and developments for the school.

**19th September Year 6 Surf Festival**—a group of Year 6 children will represent our school. (separate letters issued)

**24th—26th September Year 5 Residential Visit to the Tamar Centre** (parents information already given)



## Mackerel and Cod News Year 3

Welcome back to school! We hope that you had a restful break and are looking forward to an active school year.

For the first 8 weeks of this term we will be investigating **habitats**, both within our own locality and in Indonesia. In geography we will be finding out about the ways in which different people live their lives, comparing homes in different countries and finding out how homes are built to suit the climate. In history we will be looking at our own locality to identify things which have changed and those which have stayed the same. In science we'll be finding out how things grow in different habitats, looking at food chains and investigating some of the preferences of small animals found locally.

We have organised a variety of visits to compliment this topic, including a local walk around St. Columb Minor during the week of **8<sup>th</sup> September** and a trip to **The Eden Project on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**. We are currently looking for volunteers to help on these trips. If you are available please let us know! We will be leaving school on both occasions at approximately 9:30 am and returning from Eden at around 3pm and from the village by lunch-time. Your child will need to wear school uniform on both days. You will be receiving more information about the Eden project visit nearer the time.

This year your child will have a spelling book which will be brought home on **Monday**. In it will be five or more words to learn for a simple dictation test on **Friday**. From time to time your child will also receive homework for other subjects relating to their topic. Children usually enjoy following up class work in this way and we are grateful for your support. Every week your child will be given individual help with learning their times tables, so practice at home will maximise their progress. Further information about this will be given at the Parents Welcome meeting, however if you are unable to attend please come and see us. We will be holding the Parents meeting for Year 3 children on **Wednesday 17th September at 3:30 pm** where we will be able to give you much more information about life in Year 3.

As well as practising spellings with your child, we hope that we can rely on you to continue to foster a reading habit by listening to your child regularly and talking about what has been read. As always we look forward to a happy and productive term. In the meantime we are always grateful for help in the classroom. **If you have any time to spare we would be very pleased to hear from you.** We hope that your child will enjoy the forthcoming year. However, if you do have any problems or concerns please get in touch.

Best wishes,  
Debbie Curtis, Emma Lawton  
and Helen Willson



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## September Sports News

Welcome back sports fans! This month sees the start of all of our Key Stage 2 clubs at Blue school with various matches already in the process of being secured. In this issue I have set out a list which shows our clubs for this term. They all start on the week beginning **22nd September**. Please encourage the children to take part in these fantastic club opportunities which improve their skills and confidence.

We are hoping for continued success this year in all of our sporting competitions. Please remind the children that they must choose quickly and fill in the forms at the back of this Blue School News as numbers are limited.

To avoid confusion would **each child fill in one form for each club that they want to attend** and return it to MR. WITHERS as soon as possible. (Returning it to anyone else may waste time and lose you the chance of a place!)

Name of Club	Name of club leader	Where to meet and when	Which year group open to?
Cross country	Mrs. Pearce and Mr. Withers	Mr. Withers room at 3.15 – 4.15 Mondays	Yrs 2,3,4,5 and 6
Football Club	Mr. Boutwood & Mr. Cook	Elliot hut at 3.15- 4.15 Thursdays	Yr 5 and 6 only. Boys and girls welcome
Netball	Mrs. Woodfinden & Miss Simpson	Mrs. Woodfindens' room at 3.15 – 4.15 Mondays	Yr 4,5,6 only
Tag Rugby	Mrs. Murray & Mr. Bennetts	Mrs. Murray 's room 3.20 – 4.15 Tuesdays	Yr 3,4,5,6 only
Writing	Mrs. Major & Mrs Hoyle	Mrs Majors' room 3.15 – 4.15 Tuesdays	Yr 5,6 only



## Early Doors

All entrance doors are opened at 8.45 a.m. and all children should enter school through the designated entrance for their year group / class. The teaching staff are in a briefing session from 8.30 a.m. and are not in their classrooms to be able to open doors or supervise children before 8.45. The official start time for lessons is 8.55 a.m. and all children need to be in class and ready to learn by this time. Doors cannot be opened earlier, even on wet days, because of the need to ensure appropriate supervision levels. Occasionally children will be given permission to wait in the front entrance area if this is negotiated with Mrs. Walker.



## Attendance Issues

This term we will be looking very closely at lateness. When we analysed our attendance data at the end of the year we were very disappointed to discover the high numbers of late-comers. If your child comes in late they miss out on the introduction to lessons, changing reading books and so on. This means that they are at a disadvantage and this may therefore, adversely affect their progress. Children that are regularly late will receive letters from Mrs. Walker and parents will be invited in to meet with the Education Welfare Officer to discuss ways to improve arrival times.



## ST COLUMB MINOR SCHOOL VACANCY TEACHING ASSISTANT

Variable hours contract

A Teaching Assistant is required to join the team at St Columb Minor School.

Minimum 17.5 hpw (mornings Monday – Friday)

This is a job share post for a child with autistic type needs. Previous experience of working with SEN children is essential and experience of ASD preferable.

Application form and further details are available from Barbara in the school office.

**Closing Date:** Wednesday 10 September 2008 (12 noon)

**Interviews** 17 September 2008

**Start date:** asap



## Music Lessons

Just a quick reminder that the music service lessons will start on the week beginning Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> September. There are no changes to the times of the lessons so children should make their way to the place they had their lessons last term. Children who applied to start lessons in this term will receive notification of the time and place of the lessons from me. Ocarina classes will also start in the week beginning 22nd September.

There are a number of places available for children who want to start musical instrument lessons and parents should contact Mrs. Jenkin at school for further details.

The KS2 choir will start rehearsals at 12.15 and KS1 at 12.35 on a Thursday lunchtime in Mrs. Jenkin's classroom 18<sup>th</sup> September. All children from KS1 and 2 are welcome to join as we prepare for Christmas!!

Julie Jenkin – Music Subject Leader

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### Year 3 visit to Porthpean by Jaime Lawson – Cod

Have you been to Porthpean Outdoor Centre? I have, on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008. We went because it would be an opportunity to go away from your family. The people that didn't go did fun , exciting activities at school so you still have to go to school. We went for two days, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

When we got there we got our holdalls out of the bus and into our tents. After that we got straight into the wetsuits and got our lunch and drinks and started to walk down to the beach. It took a long time to get to the beach. It felt like an hour!

We got down to the beach and got a body board and started body boarding. I just got into the sea and was going to catch a huge wave when someone said I could go kayak surfing. Kayak surfing is when you go out to sea on a kayak and then you stand on the front of the kayak and start surfing. Soon I felt cold so I went in on to the sand and walked over to one of the shelter tents. It's not a tent that you put up with plies and sticks, I mean a cover off a tent. It's a bit like a parachute. The teachers told everyone to get out of the sea and get you lunch then line up in a straight line.

Next we started to walk back to the campsite. As usual it took ages. To get back to the camp, we had to climb over a mud rock. Unfortunately it started to rain but we arrived back to camp. Then we took our wetsuits off and had to run in the freezing cold and have a shower.

Later on we went into a barn and did some archery and rock climbing. I did archery first. They showed us what to do then they let us have a go. When it was my go I got it in the middle. In rock climbing, you put on a helmet and a harness otherwise you will hurt yourself. Lots of people got up tot the top but some people went up 3 stones, but then got scared so went down. Then we stopped and Mrs Daniels said that we were going to not sleep in our tents because its too wet and stormy. I enjoyed it lots, lots and lots because I had never done that stuff before. I would go again because it was fantastic!!!!



### A Week At Kentwell by Arilyn Mitchell Mackerel

Kentwell is a tudor manor which is in Suffolk. Every year willing people recreate the tudor years and more than

1000 school children go to Kentwell to see how hard life would have been in the years 1500-1603. I loved being at Kentwell recreating the year 1588, the year of the Spanish Armada when some people wanted to throw Queen Elizabeth off the throne and put a Spanish queen in her place.

I had two completely different costumes to wear. The fancy one was bottle green wool and when I wore this I was not allowed outside by myself. Most of the time, when I was in the house, I embroidered. Sometimes, if the dancers let me, I danced simple dances like Jennie Pluck Pears or The Hermit Brawn.

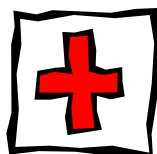
When I was wearing the simpler outfit I spun and carded, which puts air in the wool. Sometimes I spun very fine yarn when I wasn't meant to! The yarn would snap but I could not re-attach it. Carding happened when I had done enough spinning.

My week was fab!



### French Club

This club will not restart until after half term as Madam Maggie is in France for a few weeks. When it starts it will run on Wednesdays from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. It is run by Madam Maggie Reeves. (ex—parent and voluntary helper of our school). If your child is interested in joining please send them along to the first session after the half term holiday after speaking to the teacher. Telephone Maggie if you are interested—Tel. 01637 874239



### DANGER!!!!

Please ensure that the drop off zone at the front of the school is clear each day to allow parents to drop off and pick up children. We also need this area to be clear to allow coaches to pull in to pick up classes for visits or swimming. **THIS IS NOT A PARKING AREA** When cars are parked in this area it means that children are being dropped off in the road. This is not safe! Please work with us to keep your children safe!

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### Attendance Issues

**Please call the if your child is absent!**

This communication is essential so that we know your child is safe. If we have no reason for your child's absence Anne Woolcock will telephone you to check that your child is safe and so that we can record the absence under a correct coding.

As a school we have attendance targets to meet and we do monitor attendance regularly. We would like to keep you informed of your child's attendance too. Termly we send letters to those pupils whose attendance is under 85%. This letter is to keep you informed and to offer support if there is anything we can do to improve the attendance of your child. It is school policy to record your child's percentage attendance on holiday application forms. It is school policy not to authorise holidays if your child's attendance is below 85%.

Your child must attend school regularly, especially to achieve their potential. Research shows that pupils perform better if their parents or carers emphasise the importance of attending school.

#### Your legal responsibilities.

You have a legal duty to make sure your child attends school regularly and punctually. The school and the

Local Authority monitor your child's attendance and will take action if it is poor.

**Absence for a family holiday.** The Government recommends that family holidays are taken outside school terms. Headteachers will sometimes give permission for a pupil to go on holiday during term time. The Headteacher will consider the reasons for the holiday, the pupil's past attendance and the effects the absence will have on the pupil's learning. The Headteacher will not normally give permission simply because holidays cost less during term time. The Head teacher will not normally give permission for more than 10 days' absence for a family holiday in any school year. Only in exceptional situations will the Head teacher give permission for a longer absence.

**Planning your holiday.** We publish dates of the school terms well ahead. This is to help you plan your holiday. When you do plan holidays please check that it does not clash with the school term.

**Applying for absence because of a family holiday.** If you have to take your family holiday during school term, please complete the appropriate form. Please do not assume that you will automatically get permission for the absence because you have filled in the form. Please wait to hear if the Head teacher agrees to your request. We will endeavour to make sure the agreement is returned to you promptly via your child. If you do not hear anything please check with **Anne Woolcock** in the school office.

Tamsin Irons SENCO/Assistant Head



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**Swimming lessons for nervous adults and children. Complete beginners to the more advanced.**

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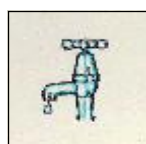
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For more information please phone **01637 877073**.  
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**Lynne Newman—01637 851155**

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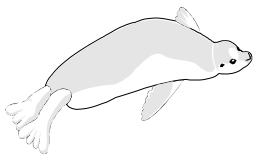
## Lunchtime Arrangements

We have **fourteen** midday supervisors to look after your children. That means one supervisor to each class. The lunch hour is split into three twenty minute sections and children are either at lunch, on the back playground or on the front playground.. Our children are organised and happy. Whilst on the playgrounds there are opportunities for the younger children to play with the older children, something that all of them enjoy.

Whilst in the 'Café Blue' dining area, children can choose from the colour coded menu. This system ensures that every child is provided with a balanced and healthy diet. The set meal price is £1.76 per day for the main meal and sweet. Water and milk is available for all children and juice can still be purchased at an additional cost. At the beginning of October prices are expected to rise by about 10p.

Packed lunches are eaten in the classrooms and children are expected to put any uneaten food or rubbish back into their lunchboxes so that **you know exactly what has been eaten each day**. Please do not send fizzy drinks or glass bottles as these pose a safety risk.

We place a great emphasis on table manners and encouraging children to enjoy the social side of sharing a meal with friends.



## Otters and Seals News Year 4

Welcome to Year 4. We are ready for an exciting and challenging year. Are YOU?!

We have a brand new team in Year 4 this year with Miss Taylor joining Seals with bags of enthusiasm and new ideas. Mrs Jenkin and Miss Irons will continue to share the teaching of Otters. We have Mrs Howe (Seals) and Mrs Browning (Otters) supporting the classes as our teaching assistants. The children are also supported throughout lunchtimes by Mrs Lockley and Mrs Hassel. Some children need extra support and we have skilled teaching assistants working on a one to one basis with these children.

This term our main area of focus will be **Airports**. We will link as much of our learning to this topic as we can, to make the learning as meaningful and interesting as possible. We will include all the usual subjects e.g. Science- **Friction, Staying Healthy**, Religious Education - **stories symbolism in Christianity** Personal Health Social Education- **New Beginnings** Geography- **map work** relating to the World.

As all year groups we have an international link. This year our link is with Kenya. The first few days of this term will particularly focus on improving our knowledge and

understanding of this country in general. As the year continues and we look at different topics we will compare and contrast life both here in Cornwall and in different areas of Kenya. Any artefacts knowledge, photos or links you might have about this country will be gratefully received.

We will be holding our Parents Welcome meeting on **Friday 12th September at 3.30pm** to discuss the programs of study for the year, class routines and expectations. This meeting is really useful as it will be a time for you to become familiar with the Year 4 team and our way of working. We will also answer any queries you may have. We set homework on **Mondays** please could you support your child with this activity and ensure it is returned for marking on a **Friday**. PE and Games take place every week. Please ensure the appropriate kit is in school throughout the week.

In Year 4 we have an 'open door' policy, so please feel welcome to drop in to discuss any issues you may have, or to offer your own expertise to support the children's learning.

We look forward to meeting you on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September for a tea or coffee.

The Keepers of the Otters and Seals



## New Children in School

A warm welcome is extended to all of our new Foundation Stage children and their families. We hope you have enjoyed your first few days of school life.

At the beginning of September twenty two other children joined other year groups throughout the school!

All of our new children have settled into our school brilliantly. We hope that both the children and their families are enjoying their new environment and wish them every success living in the area.

Anne Woolcock  
Induction Tutor



## VOUCHERS

We are still collecting lots of types of vouchers so please keep sending them in. We have just joined the Flora Cooking For Schools scheme so you might like to go on line and register for this scheme.

Please pop any vouchers into the right boxes just inside the door of the RBLC! (library area)

Thank you! Miss Simpson

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## Friends of Blue School FOBS!

A warm welcome to everyone! A special welcome to all of our new families!

Our group runs to support the school. Principally we are fundraisers but we like to think of ourselves as 'fun' raisers as well! Over the past few years we have worked hard to raise money to buy many extras that the school would not have been able to afford from its main budget.

Over the last few years we have been able to support the school with many of its projects including buying new musical instruments and a new sound system for the hall.

Anyway WE NEED YOU!!! This is about OUR CHILDREN and we as parents need to come together to support the school. If you are interested please come to one of our meetings. We usually meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6.30 p.m.

**PLEASE COME!!!!!!**



## Literacy Opportunity for Parents! Autumn Term

We are hoping to build upon the extremely successful 'Keeping Up With Your Child's Numeracy' course which ran in the spring term here at the school: nine parents worked together in a relaxed learning environment with Vicki Salvidge, from Cornwall's Family Learning. They learnt about maths in the classroom and seven of these mums continued and took a Level 2 City & Guilds qualification. A further chance for parents to come in to school and learn about how literacy is taught will be available this autumn and we look forward to seeing some of you in school! Sessions will run on Tuesday mornings for 10 weeks of the term. Look out for more information, ask a member of staff or give Vicki a ring on 01726 891993.



## Dolphins and Swordfish News Year 5

It is lovely to be able to write to you so early in the term, the Year 5 children are already excited about being in year 5 and are settling into their new classes very well.

On 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September we have a trip to Goonhilly Earth Station booked and you should have details of this trip. There is no cost for this visit, so we are not asking for contributions this time, but we do require you to return the permission as stated on the letter. We are also all looking forward to the visit to the **Tamar Centre from 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September** and it will be great to get to know the children better and take part in some exciting activities. We also have some special plans for the children who are staying behind in school that week.

We begin the year with our 'Mission To Mars' investigating all aspects of space travel to the red planet and whether life can be sustained on Mars including growing plants from seed in various conditions. The end product of this unit will be the construction of a year 5 space station and rocket ship. We will be studying **Japan** as part of our International topic and for this we will be comparing such things as population, housing and the geography of Japan and Britain and how the Japanese have coped with a large population with limited land area.

We have super classes this year who are already showing us how much effort they are prepared to make in their thinking and presentation. We hope they keep up their high standards as they start to take their homework home. We would really appreciate your encouragement with this.

We would also appreciate your help in ensuring that your child has PE kit in school on Monday and only take it home on a Friday for washing. Part of the PE curriculum this term will be outside. As the weather starts to get colder, it would be a good idea to ensure that your child has suitable tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt. Please name everything!!!!!!

We are very much looking forward to meeting you all at the parents meeting and camp meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

If you have any worries or queries about your child at school, your child's progress or wish to discuss any aspects of the year 5 curriculum please feel free to call and make an appointment to see us.

Paul Boutwood, Helen Murray and the year 5 team.



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## Governor Corner

In July I was privileged to be able to go on the Year 6 summer camp to Okehampton and what an experience it was too. I was given my own group and I thought oh my gosh responsibility, that's a first. But they were great and looked after me really well.

We started the week and the children were in great spirits full of excitement. At the centre we had lunch and went straight into team building exercises. It was interesting watching the children try to work out how they were going to complete tasks. In the evening we went out for a night walk.

On the Tuesday my group had rock climbing which was fantastic and a couple of the children in my group were told to join a club because they were so good at it. In the afternoon we went horse riding and again this activity was brilliant and yes I did go on a horse as the stables had a shire horse for me!

On Wednesday it forgot to stop raining but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm one little bit. We couldn't go gorge scrambling so we went for a guided walk. It proved to be a cracking time for the whole group as we went to the dam and it was quite spectacular. We walked back to the centre for lunch and got changed into dry clothes and then went for a bike ride still in the rain. Again the enthusiasm was right up there and it proved to be an enjoyable afternoon. Mr Donaldson spent most of his evening in the drying room drying all of the waterproofs in the dryer. When he had finished he looked as though he had been on holiday somewhere very hot. ( Thanks Brian).

Thursday it had stopped raining and we got to go gorge scrambling in the afternoon. There were lots of happy faces including mine. We managed to persuade Mrs Walker to come with us. At the gorge the children's faces were full of excitement, then I looked at Mrs Walker who looked really nervous but then she did the hardest part and got in the water.



We started up the first part of the gorge; the children were off, really enjoying themselves and having a laugh as they went on. It is surprising just how hard it is fighting your way against

pretty fast Running River Mrs Walker was still with us, not looking so nervous as when we had started the climb. At the end there is a deep pool which we all got to jump off a rock into the water including Mrs Walker. The instructors asked if we would like to jump off the big one, of course we all said yes, sadly Mrs Walker declined. But well done for doing it. Don't worry Mrs Major it's your

turn next year.

Thursday morning we did archery. I had never done this sport before but I must admit it was really good.



On Friday we had our final activity and for my group it was another walk. We set off and came to a fork in the path, the instructor said to the whole group "which way would you like to go? The long way

round which is pretty flat or the short way over which has some hills? Of course they all said the short way, I knew what was going to happen so I said no complaining at the hills and tried to explain to them the shortest way is not necessarily the quickest way. It did not work because the first hill was a doozy. When we got to the top the heavens opened again. And it really did, we were soaked again.

Throughout the week Mrs Walker and I did room inspections. We would award points for a good job done. As the week progressed the welcomes into the rooms got so good the children made up jingles for us. It ended being a very close competition.

I have to say the food was really excellent and for those of you know me I am a bit of a food expert (well I like it). All in all I think the children would agree with me and say it was a fantastic week. I would go as far as to say with all the trips I have done with the Royal Air Force that week has to be up there with the best of them. I would like to say thank you to Mrs Walker for allowing me to go on the year 6 camp and to all of the staff for making me feel so welcome and treating me as part of the team. Also a big thank you to all of the children especially my group c for being fantastic.

Gerry Hudson Parent Governor



## Social Skills Groups

From this September teaching assistants Tracy Ware and Bev Pearce will be running social skills groups for all years within the school. The sessions will give the children extra SEAL time. We hope to boost confidence, encourage children to be in control of their behaviour and help them make positive choices. These sessions are designed to give extra support to any child who may need it. The groups will be flexible and may rotate across the school year. If you have any concerns or feel that your child would benefit from these sessions please inform your class teacher.

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## Eco-School Blue School goes Green

You will have seen that our Solar Photo Voltaic Panels are now fully installed. Y5 enjoyed a workshop with Andy Tanner; Director of Plug into the Sun (installers of Solar Panels), who explained the benefits of Solar Energy. We would like to thank EDF, Co-operative and the Low Carbon

Buildings Programme for their financial support which enabled this project to come to fruition. During the summer holiday we were able to sell our surplus energy back to the grid.

### MEAN, Green, Energy Saving Machine!

BY JOE COBLEY

Solar power is the name.  
Saving energy is the game.  
Sustainability is why.  
Get some panels, don't be shy.  
If you wanna be green,  
Just get one of these machines.  
Earning money every day.  
In an economical way.  
If the bills are getting high.  
Harness power from the sky.  
There is lots and lots of sun.  
There's enough for everyone.  
WEST SIDE!

Solar power is Eco-friendly,  
Our school has panels,  
Light up our world,  
And we don't pay,  
Renewable energy is what you get,

Planet we have to save,  
Our world against global warming,  
We need YOUR help,  
Everyone switch to solar,  
READY SET GO!  
Georgia Stokes, Dolphins

### Solar Power

Solar is great,  
Outstanding and straight,  
Look at them reflect the light,  
Awesome and smooth, they're an amazing sight.  
Renewable energy it's free and GREEN!

So GET SOME NOW - YOU

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## Sharks and Whales News Year 6

Firstly welcome back! We hope you all had a fantastic summer break

and the new Year 6 have already shown that they are enthusiastic and motivated in what is a very special year for them.

This term the children have already taken on a variety of special roles in school ranging from front desk and hall monitoring to helping in Key Stage 1 at lunch time and watering the school plants! They are displaying a mature attitude and seem keen to learn.

We would like to invite all of our parents to our Year 6 Parents Welcome Meeting on Tuesday 16th September at 3.30pm in Mrs. Major's room. This meeting is designed to give an introduction to our year, telling you all you need to know in order to help your child succeed. We will cover all areas of school life in the meeting including trips, uniform, the curriculum and SATs! We hope to see you there.

Can we take this opportunity to thank all parents for the high standard of the childrens uniform. They are looking very smart. We would also like to remind parents that children need their PE kit in school every day taking it home on Fridays for a wash if necessary.

This is obviously an important year for the children and we are very pleased with their initial start. Because of the obvious academic focus due to SATs we believe that a variety of school opportunities are vital. Please encourage your children to join the various clubs offered by filling in the slips at the back of this briefing. Over the summer we hope your children have been researching CHINA as their new IPC host country and our first unit "The holiday show" is focusing on travel around the world.

You will have received or soon will receive a letter from the local education authority about how to apply for a secondary school place. This year you are encouraged to apply on line. The website for this is [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions). If you would like to apply on line and need some assistance our ICT support Maggie Simpson would be happy to help. You can, of course, choose to apply on paper and send in your form to school. Whichever route you take please be aware of the closing date on the letter.

If you have any concerns we are generally available for a chat before or after school. Feel free to pop in!

Thanks

Ali Major & Russell Withers





**CLUBS**

I give permission for

Child ..... Class .....

to join ..... (name of club)

I will collect my child from school

Or

Please dismiss my child from school after the club

In case of emergency or cancellation please contact me

on.....(tel. no.)

Relevant medical information.....

RETURN SLIP TO MR WITHERS



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