



## Newsletter – March 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

With Easter just around the corner and another month gone, it's time for another Brixton St. Mary's newsletter. It's been a busy half term but also a very enjoyable one for me and again, I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome since I started here in February.

### Attendance

Attendance is something we track closely at school and we will want to work closely with you if there is a problem with your child's attendance. We will be reporting which year groups are achieving the best average attendance in these monthly newsletters and the KS1 and KS2 class with the highest percentage attendance will hold the attendance trophy in their classroom. Our target is to be above 96% in all year groups.

The current year group attendance rates are...

Year Group	Percentage attendance rate this year	Trophy winners
R	95.49%	Key Stage 1 winners <b>Year 1</b>
1	96.17%	
2	95.71%	
3	95.72%	Key Stage 2 winners <b>Year 5</b>
4	95.88%	
5	95.99%	
6	95.45%	

### What can parents / carers do to help?

- Ensure your child attends school every day and on time.
- If your child is not well enough to attend, please contact the school and leave a message before the start of the school day so that we can inform the class teachers before registration. We would ask that notification is phoned in before 8.40am but please make sure that all calls are made by 9.30am at the latest.
- Try to make dental and medical appointments outside of school time, at weekends or in the school holidays.
- Take family holidays during the school holiday. We are unable to authorise term time holidays. Unauthorised absence may lead to a fine and/or legal proceedings.
- Contact us immediately if you need help or support with your child's attendance or punctuality.

### Mathletes and Playgound Champions

This term we have introduced two new rewards for children. We already give certificates for 'Stars of the Week' and 'Values Champions' as well as celebrating 'Handy Handwriting' in assembly each week. We have now introduced 'Playtime Champions' which are certificates awarded to children who display a great attitude or who

are simply good friends to others at lunchtime. We have also started giving 'Mathlete' certificates to those children who have displayed some great effort in their maths work.

### World Book Day

World Book Day was a great day in school this term. What a fantastic effort by everyone for their character costumes. It was such a lovely atmosphere around the school too with a clear focus on the enjoyment of reading. Thank you to all of the children who also managed to produce a piece of bunting which is now on display in the library.

### Times Tables Rock Stars



Times Tables Rock Stars has landed in school and those of you in the classes that are using TTRock Stars may have already been introduced to it by your children. This online package is designed to make the learning of times tables a more fun and rewarding activity, where the children develop accuracy and speed over a period of time. The faster they become, the higher up the rock ladder they climb with the ultimate aim of becoming a 'Rock Hero'.



To be a Rock Hero questions need to be answered in under 1 second. NOW THAT IS A CHALLENGE! The only way to make it to that level is to practise and practise and the online package can be accessed at home on most mobile devices and computers so we hope to see everyone working hard to develop their speed and accuracy. If you have any problems with access to the package at home then please come and speak to your child's class teacher.

As an added incentive, we can work out the average speed of the school, calculated as 's/q' (seconds per question) which we can then compare to other local schools who are using the same programme.

As an example, (as of 26th March), our average speed is 5.15 s/q which is behind Wembury School (3.41 s/q) but ahead of Yealmpton Primary (5.16 s/q). You can also see how well we are doing compared to the other schools in the federation by accessing the 'Times Tables Rockstars Leaderboard' in the Pupil Zone on the school website.

The only way to keep ahead of everyone and improve our own speed and accuracy is to get online and play the games. Good luck everyone!

**Sometime in the coming half term we will arrange a 'Times Tables Rock Star' Day so that we can all dress up as Times Tables Rock Legends!**

### Parking

So many schools have issues with parking at the start and the end of the school day. Can I please urge you all to make sure that you are parking considerately at these busy times. We need to reduce the risk of any potential accidents that could happen at this busy time and poor parking is often the cause of any issues that do arise. As

the weather improves it would be nice to see more people walking to school when possible. This always reduces traffic congestion around schools. May I also remind you that the school car park should not be used for parking as spaces are needed for staff and also because the car park entrance is also used for regular deliveries.

### Labelling clothes

Can we please ask that clothes are clearly labelled. Again, as the weather improves we find more children keen to take off their coats and jumpers when they are outside but inevitably this means that more coats and jumpers go missing as they are left outside. Mrs. Molland is happy to return items that she finds around the school and having names on items saves her a lot of time. She seems to find a lot of clothes in the morning when she opens up, from children who have been playing on the school grounds the night before.

### School Trips

We have had a couple of trips this term. Dahl class went to Bellever on Dartmoor for a walk and thankfully the weather was very kind and everyone came back with a smile on their face, even if the legs were a little weary! The reception children in Rosen Class are also heading out before the end of the term to Carnglaze which will be an exciting visit too.

All visits are now organised through ParentPay and we would ask you to make sure that if you receive notification of any event or trip, that you respond through ParentPay. If there is any problem with accessing any information, please make sure you contact the office as soon as possible. Emails can be so easy to leave without responding. We all do it! However, if we don't get enough responses before the trip deadline, the visit DOES run the risk of being cancelled. Please make sure you respond as soon as you can to these messages.

### Plastic Free

Lots of children are becoming more aware of the issue of single use plastics in our environment and as a school we would like raise their awareness further and get involved. The Eco Council will be looking in more detail at what we can do as a school and they will share their ideas with the rest of the school.



However, as a start we would like to promote a 'Plastic Free Day' which we will hold in school on Wednesday 8th May. We want a day where we try to eliminate using single use plastics. Single use plastics are those which we use once and then throw away. Plastics such as water bottle are usually reusable. What we will ask you to do is to think carefully about this, especially with packed lunches. What are the children's packed lunches wrapped in? What else could you have in your packed lunch that doesn't use single use plastics? Together, can you think of alternative foods or packaging? We will also look at some learning opportunities in each class to help children learn more about the impacts of single use plastics on our planet.

For those interested in helping Brixton to become a plastic free community, why not join in the '*How to make our community plastic free*' event in the Community Centre on Thursday 18th April. The event will take place between 2pm-4pm with a selection of stalls demonstrating ways to help become plastic free, as well as special screenings (with popcorn) at 2.30pm and 3.30pm, of 'The Smog of the Sea' which is a documentary by film maker Ian Cheney. For further information you can email - [joe.parish@brixtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:joe.parish@brixtonparishcouncil.org.uk) . **This event may also help you prepare for our 'Plastic Free Day' on May 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Mozambique - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

As you may be aware, Tabita was born in Mozambique, Recently Cyclone Idai devastated the country leaving many dead and many more homeless. One of the areas seriously affected by this natural disaster is very close to where Tabita comes from and so naturally she and her family have been very worried for everyone in that area. As a way of providing some support for the people in Mozambique, we would like to hold a special non-uniform day on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. There is no obligation to take part but if you feel you would like to contribute towards the disaster relief fund, we will be collecting money on the day and then sending it to where it is most needed at this difficult time.

Thank you for your support.

### **School Photos - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

School photos are happening next week on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April. These will be class group photos. **Please can you ensure that your child has their school sweatshirt or cardigan with them.**

### **Easter Service - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2.00pm**

Our Easter service will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 2.00pm. You are invited to join us in the church where the children will all be involved in our Easter celebration.

### **Dates**

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Mozambique Fund Raising Day - NON UNIFORM DAY
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Reception trip to Carnglaze
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	School photos - class groups
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Service - 2.00pm in the church
<b>Easter Holiday</b>	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Summer Term begins
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Plastic Free Day

### **And Finally - Mrs Molland**

Mrs. Molland is a star! Not only does she work in school as a teaching assistant on certain days, she has also been the school caretaker over recent years, as many of you will be aware. She has taken the decision to move on from her caretaking role and for that we want to thank her for her amazing work. She has an amazing range of skills and I am certain that all of the staff would agree that she has been a brilliant caretaker, going above and beyond whenever needed, for the benefit of everyone in school. Not only does she look after the school site, she looks after everyone in it!

We aren't saying goodbye to Mrs. Molland. She will still be working with us in her classroom assistant role and we are thankful for that. We are however, saying a HUGE thank you to her for her hard work and service in the role of caretaker. We know that all of you would want to wish her all the best too as she takes this difficult decision.

Regards,

Adrian Clements

**Happy Easter to you all.**