

October 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

As we come to the end of our first half term after a challenging but very successful return to school, I would like to thank you all for the adaptations you have made to ensure our safe return.

I understand that for some of you the changes have impacted on your roles. However, at the time of writing we are continuing to keep children and staff safe with no confirmed Covid cases and some of our best attendance figures for this time of Year. Let's try and keep that up for next half term too!

We have carried out assessments of every child over the past seven weeks and, although there are gaps, and some very significant gaps for many children, we are determined to put in place the teaching and interventions that are required to close these gaps. We have already seen lots of catch up this term due to being back in school, so we are really optimistic about what we can achieve in partnership with you. As soon as our plans around catch up funding is finalised I will give you details. We are using the research carefully to ensure the funding makes a real difference for our children. Some of you may be interested in reading this report (click the link below) around what makes the difference for children.

Have a good half term break, keep safe and enjoy the time with your children.

Best Wishes,

Katy Burns

Headteacher

Massive Parsnips!

We harvested a wonderful crop of veggies this year, especially our award winning parsnips!

Thanks to the current year 3 children who planted them before lockdown.

It's Autumn and there is still lots to do in the school garden, so every week our young gardeners head outside to plant bulbs, replant hanging baskets, look after our garden's wildlife and of course, have fun in our willow tunnel. Watch this space for our next project!



**Click here
to read the
report**



Thank you Jade & Trudi

Please note the next PTFA AGM date in this newsletter. It is more crucial than ever that we have a strong PTFA who are able to find some new and creative ways to raise funds. It would also be great to have PTFA members who can continue the superb work that Jade and Trudi have done as joint chairs over the past year. Although Parents have been incredibly generous, the reality is we simply wouldn't have our new Beach Room, the refurbished KS1 classrooms, the garden steps, IT equipment and many other funded resources without them! In the last two years, they have led the PTFA and funded projects costing a total of £17,000. Thank you to you both. Your commitment and care for the school has been inspirational and we hope that another group of Parents will now be able to carry on with your inspirational work for the children at Galmpton. Should you wish to become a member please contact Jade and Trudi through their FROGs facebook page.

Purple Angels

Purple Angels have been in touch and are kindly asking if any of our Parents / Carers have any MP3 players, or iPods which you no longer use and would like to donate to this amazing charity. The charity loan them with music and send them to elderly people in care homes to help with dementia and alzheimers etc. Please see the attached poster on the link below. As well as posting to Leicestershire, parents can also give the MP3 player to their children to bring to School and they will be collected from here.

[Click Here
for more details](#)



Welcome to Brixham C of E Primary school

We are delighted that Brixham Church of England Primary are now members of our Trust. Brixham's membership of the Academy of Character and Excellence was formalised at the beginning of September and we are thrilled to be working with the Head Teacher, Mrs Cristy Nelson and her team. We know Brixham will continue to go from strength to strength under her leadership and with the commitment of her staff. Galmpton now 'sits geographically in the middle' of two Trust schools, Collaton St Mary and Brixham. As a school we gain so much from working collaboratively with these schools and the 3 other schools in our Trust, which is of course, an educational charity.



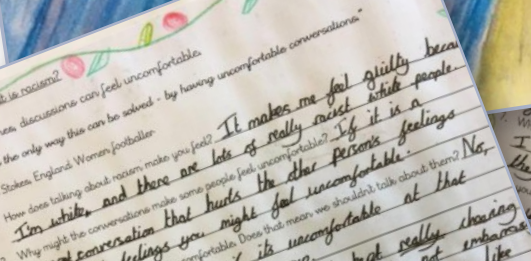
PTA / FROGS

Our PTA / FROGs annual general meeting will take place on Thursday 12th November at 7pm via Zoom. More information and an agenda will follow, along with a link for the Zoom meeting.



Understanding the importance of diversity and the need to confront racism

All the children have made a pledge as a result of their learning and these pledges will go into a school statement that recognises our determination to embrace diversity, to combat racism and provide our children with the realities many face as a result of discrimination. We hope that in this way, wherever our children are, they will be courageous advocates for change and always act with integrity.



Parent Questionnaire Results

Below are the results of the Parental survey which we carried out this half term. Your feedback is genuinely useful and is acted upon. It is good to see that the messages you were giving the school over the lockdown period are reflected in the very positive responses below. Thank you. The vast majority of parents have recognised that our teachers worked incredibly hard under difficult circumstances to ensure your child's education continued.

We are proud of the work we did to support our community and having gone through one lockdown period, we feel suitably prepared should this have to take place again. We do not relish the thought of being

closed and will do everything we can to avoid this, but should this be unavoidable we have learnt plenty from our previous experience.

Should we have to lockdown again, we will ensure (as requested) that there are more live and recorded lessons. We will try to have very similar learning enquiry questions for families and we will ensure pupils are in regular contact with their peers and teacher. We will reduce the need for photocopied worksheets and endeavour to make expectations around learning very clear. We have now written a remote learning approach and this can be found on the school website under the 'Curriculum' Heading.

Question	Excellent	V. Good	Good	Fair	Poor
How would you rate the quality of support your child received during lockdown?	54.4%	19.4%	14%	6.8%	5.8%
How would you rate the quality of contact and communication from the school and teachers throughout lockdown?	56.3%	19.4%	12.6%	6.8%	4.9%
How would you rate the quality of your child's learning throughout lockdown?	27.5%	22.5%	24.5%	18.6%	6.9%
How well do you feel the school supported its' community throughout lockdown?	52.5%	30.7%	10.9%	3%	3%
How well prepared and safe did you feel the school was for your child's return?	60.2%	22.3%	12.6%	4.9%	0%
How useful do you feel Class Dojo (or Tapestry for EYFS and Y1 parents) is as a learning platform and communication system for parents?	54.4%	23.3%	15.5%	5.8%	1%



ParentPay

Pre-ordering Lunches

Pre-ordering lunches at home saves valuable learning time in class and also cuts down on food waste in the kitchen due to Mrs Staddon (Kitchen Manager) being able to pre-order correct quantities of supplies.

Could we please ask, those parents who haven't already done so, to activate your ParentPay account for your children. This system is easy to use and should

be used to pre-book and pay for school lunches and any future trips and residentials when we're able to arrange them.

When pre-ordering lunches please take the time to sit with your child to make menu choices, as we have had a few upset children with the food choices that parents are making for them.



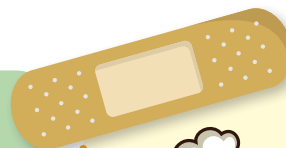
School Website

Please make sure you check the newsfeed on our School Website regularly for updates and in house news.

The site contains a wealth of information including:

- **A calendar section which details term dates and upcoming events.**
- **A policies section (should you have any need to check admissions criteria / attendance etc).**
- **A news feed which we will update with information relating to school events / news.**
- **Class pages which your Teacher will update with information on your child's learning in class.**

The parents section covers practically everything! Please do take a look through all the information it contains. We would encourage you to create a login on the website as this ensures you will receive notifications when items are added to the newsfeed. Please make this your first port of call for school related queries. Should it not be contained on the website, please then contact the school office.

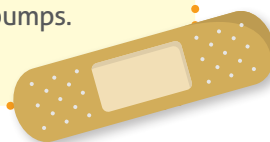


Sometimes there are accidents in school where first aid is administered by our trained first aiders (appropriate paperwork for head bumps is then sent home).

Parents / Carers will not be contacted by phone unless we feel that a child needs to be taken to seek further medical advice.

However, we will always make a courtesy call / text to let you know if your child has received a bump to the head. It may not be that your child needs to be collected (staff in school will monitor for the remainder of the school day), but we do want to bring the bump to your attention in case any symptoms of delayed concussion should occur after school.

Please be aware that we no longer send home an accident form for what first aiders deem to be very minor injuries such as small grazes, paper cuts and bumps.



Covid Positive Test Guidance

During the normal school week, please ensure you inform the school office immediately if a member of your household obtains a positive covid test result.

Should a member of your household obtain a positive covid test result during the course of a weekend or during holiday periods, please inform us via email on admin.galimpton@acexcellence.co.uk immediately (emails will be monitored in the evenings and over the course of holidays and weekends for this information - all other "general" emails will be responded to on return to the office). This information will enable senior leadership to gather information, monitor and

put in place necessary measures following guidance and advice from the DfE and Public Health England.

If you have group social chats on WhatsApp or other social media, please could we ask our parents and carers not to discuss personal and possibly sensitive information, in an open forum. A lack of clarity of information could lead to unnecessary concern.

We will ensure that information is shared with the school community as and when we are able to do so.

As always, thank you for your understanding and assistance.



TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE YOUNG LIVES

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

On Friday 13th November we will be supporting this year's Children in Need appeal with a 'Feel Good Friday'. The focus of this year's campaign is 'Five to Thrive' where in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, the appeal is focusing on children's physical and mental well-being. On the day, children will carry out a range of activities and discussions to promote children's well-being. We also ask that the children come to School dressed in their own clothes to celebrate our 'Feel Good Friday'. In order to raise money for this appeal we have set up a JustGiving page which is linked to our school and the Children in Need appeal. We would be hugely grateful for any donations you can make towards this appeal.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

Child Absence



Please ensure that you contact the school office before 9am each day if your child is absent from school due to illness. Feel free to leave a message on our pupil absence line (option 2) stating your child's name, year group and you must ensure you give details of the illness which will then be recorded. If insufficient information is left, our admin team will have to spend valuable time contacting you.

Head Lice

Please ensure that all pupil's who have mid to long length hair is tied back? We have ongoing issues with head lice in school and the problem is exacerbated when hair is not tied back. We thank you for your assistance.



11+

Exams and Tutoring

Each year we highlight to all concerned that selective 11+ test examinations are not compulsory and not a part of the national curriculum. Therefore it is at the discretion of the Parent or Carer to arrange tutoring (if appropriate) and registration to sit the exam through the selective schools, eg Torquay Girls / Boys Grammar and Churston Grammar.

Information on exam dates and the process relating to 11+ exams can be found on the Grammar schools websites.

Usually (but this year other arrangements have been made due to the pandemic), exams have been sat directly after the Summer holidays when pupils return to start Y6.

Should you have any queries, please contact the Grammar schools directly (links below), as primary schools have limited knowledge and no input into their arrangements.

[Torquay Boys Grammar School](#)

[Torquay Girls Grammar School](#)

[Churston Ferrers Grammar School](#)

[SpiresCollege](#)

Flu Vaccinations Reminder

Children in Reception to Year 6 from September 2020 are eligible for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination. This will take place in school on 1st December 2020 and will be administered adhering to all the up to date Infection Control, PPE and social distancing guidance at the time.

Flu vaccination is one of most effective interventions we have to reduce pressure on the health and social care system which is going to be more important than ever this year. For this reason, it is essential we deliver the vaccine to as many children as possible to prevent the spread of infection to those most at risk in society.

If you have not already actioned, please book your consent as soon as possible by clicking the following link:

<https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>

The school admin team does not have access to view whether you have previously consented. If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA).

Tel: 0300 247 0082

Email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net





Peace

Compassion

Integrity

Trust

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Email: admin.galmpton@acexcellence.co.uk **Telephone:** 01803 842628