



Autumn 2019 Newsletter 1

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Friday 13th September 2019

A message from our new Executive Headteacher:

Welcome back to the autumn term! I am delighted to have made my 'official' start with South Tawton Primary School as one of the three schools within our Three Hares group of primary schools. The children have made a fantastic start to the new term and it is always an absolute pleasure to walk into the classes and be greeted by such warm enthusiasm. A special welcome to our new children in Reception!

I would also like to officially welcome our new staff: Mrs Peggy Chalcraft, Year 3 teacher and Mrs Wendy Meardon, Administrator. Welcome back to Mrs Debbie Bryant who has made her return to us in a new role as Three Hares Administrator, and also to Mrs Nikki Peters who will be teaching in year 3 along with Mrs Chalcraft.

As you may know, we have started the year with a 'Three Hares' topic as a means for our children to learn more about their schools, the communities in which they sit and progressively the wider areas surrounding our villages as the children move up the age range. As three schools, we are set to benefit from the larger numbers of staff available to share knowledge, good practice and skills across our group. In addition, we look forward to varied activities taking place during which children from across the schools can work together, ultimately enhancing their learning and developing wider partnerships with other pupils. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with some dynamic thinking to enhance the teaching and learning in this wonderful school.

I would like to invite you all to a meeting next **Wednesday 18th September 6pm-7pm**, beginning in the school hall, where I would like to share my vision for South Tawton Primary as a member of Three Hares group of schools. Parents will then have the opportunity to go to children's classroom(s) to meet the teachers and share some information about this year.

Best wishes for the year ahead and I look forward to working in partnership with you in the future to ensure the best outcomes for all of our children.

Kindest regards

Mrs Elizabeth Underwood
Executive Headteacher

After-School Clubs

We are currently finalising the after-school clubs timetable. At the moment, we have the following clubs planned, but we hope to add to this offer over the next week. The clubs will go live on your School Gateway accounts from the middle of next week and all clubs will begin in the week beginning the 23rd September. If you are able to run or help at a club, please let us know. Please note that the staff will sometimes be required to attend staff meetings with the other Three Hares schools' staff and that these meetings may occasionally clash with clubs. If a club needs to be cancelled for this reason, we will give you plenty of notice.

| | Club | Teacher | Year group |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday | | | |
| Tuesday | Yr1 Cookery | Mrs Culverhouse & Mrs Glover | Year 1 |
| Wednesday | Football Cross Country | SAINTS Mrs Everett | Whole School Yr 4/5/6 (max 25) |
| Thursday | Spanish | Miss Peggy Chalcraft | Yr 3/4/5/6 |
| | Dobble (card game club) | Mrs Snell | Yr 3/4 (max8) |
| | Creative writing | Miss Pearce | Yr 4/5/6 |
| Friday | Circuits | Mrs Donovan | Yr 5/6 |

School Meals

Copies of the new menu were sent home with the children on Thursday. If you have not received one, please contact the school office. The menu will also be available to view on the school website. Please be aware that the **Pizza** option on the Week Two Monday menu is the **vegetarian** option, whilst on the Week Three Monday menu it is the **main** option. Please be mindful of this when making your meal bookings.

Free School Meals – Do you think you could be entitled?

Parents/carers in receipt of certain benefits are entitled to Free School Meals for their children. Please go to the Devon Citizens Portal:

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live to register and apply. It only takes a couple of minutes and you will get an instant decision. If you have any difficulty in applying, please contact the admin office and we will be happy to help you. Every child entitled to Free School Meals attracts additional funding for our school.

Crisp Packet Collection

This is going very well and lots of crisp packets have been brought in to the collection point already this term. We have moved the box to the front entrance of the new building, where there is more space for the children to use it.

Parking

Please be considerate of others when parking and mindful of the new yellow lines that have been painted in the village over the summer break. Parking is available at the Kings Arms and the Recreation Ground for drop-off and collection to help avoid congestion in the centre of the village. The Parish Council have asked me to thank you for respecting the yellow lines, but they have received complaints from residents about people parking on the pavement at the bottom of the village – please use the carparks to avoid this.

College Open days

Parents of year 6 children, please read the attached Open Day flier from Okehampton College. Open days take place on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th of September. If you would like your child to attend the morning sessions, please let us know in advance. This absence will be authorised.

Breakfast club

Breakfast club is open as usual, but numbers are very low. Please help us to keep our club open by using it as much as possible. You can book sessions through your school gateway accounts. Apologies that the payments section had not been updated – this is now done. We are always on the look out for games and activities for Breakfast Club. If you have any old board games or craft activities etc which you no longer need, these would be very gratefully received.

Fibre broadband in the village

To all residents within the Parish of South Tawton (This includes: South Tawton, South Zeal, Taw Green, Gooseford, West Week, East Week and Throwleigh Road).

South Tawton Parish Council are currently assessing the level of interest within the Parish for Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) or Full Fibre. FTTP is where the copper cable from the small green cabinets by the roadside is replaced by fibre optic cable and a small box is fitted in the home. This can give speeds between 300Mbps to 1000Mbps depending on the package your provider offers. This is increasingly useful in rural areas as there is no loss to speed over larger distances from the cabinet.

We have had a good number of responses so far, but are worried we haven't reached enough people.

To register an interest, people can collect a form from either the Village Store, Oxenham Arms or The King's Arms or email - kevinpenna10@gmail.com

All we need at this stage is your name, address and home telephone number. The deadline is 17th September 2019.

Any and all data will be stored and processed within the regulations set out by GDPR and once no longer needed, they will be destroyed.

New peripatetic music teachers

In addition to Zinnia Williams and Sarah Small, this year we will be offering additional music lessons from the following teachers. Please contact the school office and let us know if you would like your child to take up any of these opportunities. There is a charge for these lessons, but the school can help with this for children in receipt of pupil premium funding.

Tor Loram:

Victoria Loram has been teaching clarinet, piano and recorder in schools and privately for 30 years to children and adults of all ages. She has degrees from the Royal Northern College of Music and the University of Manchester. She has played with some of the top orchestras in the country, been a member of several successful chamber groups and given many concerto performances. She also enjoys dabbling in other musical styles e.g. jazz and folk. In her teaching, she incorporates games and improvisation as well as instrumental technique and music theory. She believes passionately that music should be fun and that it stimulates the brain in a way which can improve our capacity for learning thus having a positive impact on all aspects of life.

Nick Bryant:

Nick is an experienced teacher of violin, piano and singing. Some of you may know him from running the 'Music Mayhem' club last year aimed at KS1. Nick has been a professional pianist and violinist with the Collaborative Orchestra, best known for reaching the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent in 2016!

Matt Petherbridge:

Matt has been teaching the guitar in Exeter and around Devon since 2003. He has extensive experience teaching a broad age range of students, from primary and secondary schools, to colleges and independents. He has had, on average, between 40-50 pupils a week during this time. He teaches both classical and plectrum guitar styles and uses, among many other resources, the Trinity syllabuses for exams if and when needed. He also uses the Rockschool syllabus and examinations.

PTA 100 Club

Membership subscriptions for this school year are now due. Existing members do not need to complete a new form but please leave the annual £12 subscription (cash or cheque (made payable to South Tawton PTA)) at the school office in an envelope marked 100 Club with your name. For anyone who would like to join the 100 Club, forms (which give details as to how the 100 Club works) are available from the school office. Once completed, please leave the form together with the £12 subscription at the school office in an envelope marked 100 Club.

All subscriptions need to be paid no later than Friday 27 September.

The PTA would like to thank you for your support.

Dates for your diaries

Welcome Evening – Wednesday 25th September at 6pm

October half term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th October

Last day of Autumn Term – Thursday 19th December