



USF Newsletter Autumn 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year and I'd like to offer an especially warm welcome to the new children and staff that have joined us.

National Test Results 2018

In 2014 the Government introduced a new National Curriculum with far more challenging tests. The results we achieved this year are the best so far and in many cases they were above those achieved nationally. These outcomes are a credit to the very hard work of children and staff. Each school will publish its headline results on the school website should you wish to know more.

Year Six Children

Applications for Secondary school places are now open!

If your child is in Year Six please can we urge you to visit the range of secondary schools available to you? Different schools, of course, offer different specialisms and educational experiences.

Information about applications to Devon Schools can be found at:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>

Previously some families have only put down one choice of school in the hope they would get their only choice. We would strongly advise that you choose three potential schools (1st, 2nd and 3rd) as if you don't get your first choice you will still get a school of your choosing rather than one which you may be less happy with.

The deadline for applications is the 31st October 2018. If you miss the deadline you can still submit your application but it will be considered as late and may be at a disadvantage.

Partnerships

We are always keen to work in partnership with other schools and have recently starting working with Stokeinteignhead and Dartington Schools. We have found that by working with and sharing expertise and experience this helps us to improve our own practice in the USF schools.

School Trips and Residential Visits

Previously we have subsidised all school activities and trips but unfortunately due to reduced funding we are no longer able to do this to the same extent. As a consequence we intend this year to reduce the number of residential visits that we offer. This year we will provide residential visits for children in years Two, Four and Six but not in Years Three and Five. This will allow us to continue to provide some support for these trips to make them as affordable as we can. We will keep this under review and should you have any comments please let your Head of School know.

When a school trip takes place as part of the curriculum we are not able to make a charge for the activity but we are able to ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost. Whilst the contributions are voluntary, should the money received not be enough to cover the cost of the trip it will mean that unfortunately the trip will not be able to go ahead. We are keen to offer a wide range of trips and activities but will only be able to do so with your support.

When children are in receipt of pupil premium funding we are able to provide some financial help to ensure that they can take part.

Sports providers

Last term we went through a tender process to select new sports providers to ensure we get the most amount of provision for the funding we have available. The two providers selected were Achieve4All, who will be running sports provision, clubs and holiday clubs at St Michael's, Marlton and Kingsteignton School and Total14 who will be running the provision at Ipplepen, St Mary's and St Catherine's.

We look forward to working with them over the next twelve months.

Websites

We are currently in the process of redesigning the school websites to make them less cluttered and more 'user friendly'. We hope that you notice an improvement and should you have any comments please let your Head of School know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards.



Martin Harding
Executive Headteacher