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1 Good News - New Website coming soon!

We are currently working on a new website! The current website has been slow and very difficult to update. The new website is modern and fresh and is easily to keep up-to-date. There will be a Head teacher blog, video, flash games and plenty of photos of the work being completed by the children. We will let you know when it is ready and the new web address (which is MUCH easier to remember than the current web address!)

2 Good News - Staffing Changes

I'm pleased to report some of the staffing changes that have occurred over the last few months.

- Mr Lewis Lloyd – Has been appointed as a Play leader for lunchtimes, along with Mr Childs and the Midday Supervisors, he is responsible for setting up sports activities and games, in order to make lunchtimes a real positive experience for the children. Since appointing both Mr Lewis Lloyd and Mr Childs at lunchtime; behaviour issues have massively reduced as the children are engaged, active and really enjoying their lunchtimes.
- Mrs MacFarlane, who is part of the Senior Leadership Team, has taken on the responsibility for the implementation of the new National Curriculum which will be in place from September 2014.
- Mrs Matthews has now joined the Senior Leadership team and has the additional responsibility for Assessment across the whole school.
- Mrs Lawrence has been appointed as SEN Administrator for 1 day per week. She will work alongside the new SENCO who will appointed in the next few months, carrying out the administrative elements of the role, whilst the new SENCO will carry out the statutory duties.
- We are also pleased to welcome Miss Winton to our teaching team. She will be with us from July and will take on a class full time from September 2014.

Geography Curriculum Afternoon - 'The Commonwealth Games'

In order to recognise this years Commonwealth Games in Glasgow starting Wednesday 23rd July 2014, we are going to link this terms curriculum afternoon to learning about the Queen's Commonwealth.

As normal, you are invited to come in to your child's class and work alongside your child as they learn about a particular country within the commonwealth. The children will learn all about the country; its location, currency, language, traditions and its people. The children will also learn about the Commonwealth and what it actually means to be part of it. The afternoon will conclude (weather permitting) with a Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony in the school playground, where each of the countries will complete a lap of honour wearing their countries team colours and perhaps some traditional outfits. The Queen and Prince Phillip will also be attending!

The Swimming Pool

Just before the Easter holidays the pool was emptied and drained and over the next few weeks the pool will be prepared ready for use. The trees surrounding the pool have been cut back considerably as the leaves falling into the pool can block the pumps but also affect the water quality. The plan is to have the pool open either just before May half term but, if not, definitely just after.

One thing that may slow the process down is the water testing process. Once we have the pool ready we have to send a sample to a lab in order for the water quality to be given the all clear. If the pool test fails, we have to use additional chemicals and then retest. This process can take time. It can be frustrating, however, we need to be 100% certain that our water is perfect before opening the pool. We have over the last year, been gaining quotes and speaking with various people regarding roofing the pool. Currently, the quotes we have received have been shockingly high and the advice from one of these companies (remembering they are trying to make money!) was to continue as we are. Each year the pool costs around £8000 to run and maintain. Before we open the pool, we will be asking parents to offer their support to help us paint and spruce up the changing rooms, which are looking a little grim!

New Governors needed!

There is still time if you are tempted to become a governor! We now have 3 vacancies for Parent Governors. The role of a Governor, is quite challenging and does require some time commitment. However, it is very rewarding and quite an exciting time as things are changing quite rapidly here at Trimley St Martin. Letters about applying to be a Parent Governor were sent out before Easter but more are available in the office, if you have misplaced it.

The Women's Cycle Tour

The Women's Tour Cycle race will be passing the school on Friday 9th May. Pupils will be supervised on the walkway outside the school to watch the cyclists ride past. Information received from the organisers state that the lead cars and cyclists will pass the school just after 11am, with the main group passing around 11:15. It will be a great opportunity for the children to see competitive cycling up close and hopefully we may inspire the next Victoria Pendleton!

Edison Class Assembly

Edison's Class assembly takes place on Thursday 22nd May at 2:55pm – 3:30pm. Edison parents are invited to attend. Entrance to school for the assembly will be from the doorway at the back of the car park.

"Miss... we're famous!"

The Winner of the OSCAR for 'Best Performance on BBC1 Look East' goes to.... Trimley St Martin.

On Wednesday 23rd April children from Years 3 and 4 visited the Suffolk Farm Show and learnt lots about farming, farm animals and how food gets to our plate. Mrs MacFarlane and a small group of children were interviewed on the day by the BBC and a selection of those interviews were aired on the BBC Look East main programme at 6:30pm.

Congratulations to all who were involved! The children had a great day, the Parent helpers were invaluable and the Teachers made sure the children were safe, had a great day and learnt a lot.

Finally...

The next Parents Forum meeting will take place on 21st May 2014 at 2:30pm. This is a reminder that all parents are welcome not just those parent forum members. We want to hear your views, comments (positive and negative) so that we can improve. During this meeting we will be looking at the behaviour policy and considering whether it needs to be adjusted so I would be grateful for any feedback about it on the day. If you cannot attend but would like something to be discussed, email the office ad.trimleystmartin.p@talk21.com . Thank you.

Transition Arrangements

In order to improve the progress of the children within the first half term of the academic year we are looking closely at transitions from class to class. We are paying particular attention to the transition between Reception and Year 1, Year 2 to Year 3 and the Year 6 to Year 7 as these are key points where there is a considerable difference to the teaching approaches used.

From June onwards, children will be given new exercise books which they will take with them to their new classes. The idea is that the new class teachers will be able to see what standards were being achieved by the pupils and then build on these as soon as they arrive in their new classes. It will also act as a reminder for the children as we will be able to say to them... "Last year you managed to produce work of that quality so we expect you to improve on that from this point forward".

In the reception class, Mrs Ross will start to introduce more table work and a gradual reduction in the amount of play based activities, as this is something the current year 1 pupils found difficult to adapt to.

On the morning of July 3rd pupils will meet their new class teachers and visit their new classroom.

School Open Night (July 3rd) – evening) will be a chance for you to come in and see the work produced by your children over the whole school year, independent studies will be displayed on the children's desks and work presented on the classroom walls. The teaching team for September will also be available on that evening so you will get a chance to meet your child's new teacher and visit your child's new classroom.

As with this year, after the first week of the Autumn term you will be invited in to have a group parent meeting with the new class teacher who will introduce themselves formally and discuss the expectations and plan of action for the coming year.

Free School Meals

Just a reminder... if your child is eligible for Free School Meals, but because your child has packed lunch you haven't applied, can I just highlight that as a school we receive additional funding based on the amount of children we have who are registered for Free School Meals. This money is used to benefit all children, as it allows the school to run booster groups, buy more resources and recruit more staff to support in the classrooms.

If you are eligible and would like to know how to register, please speak to Mrs Simpson in the school office.



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Dates this term

Summer Term 14

Wednesday 23 rd April	First day of Summer Term	
Thursday 24 th April	Yr3/4 School Farm Visit - Suffolk Show Ground	All day
Friday 25 th April	Women's Cycling Tour 2014 Assembly	9:00 - 9:30am
Wednesday 30 th April	Parent Association Meeting	7:00 - 9:00pm
Friday 2 nd May	Class Photos / Single photos	All day
Wednesday 7 th May	Golf Sessions for all classes	All day
Thursday 8 th May	Closing date for Governor Election Forms to be returned	N/A
Friday 9 th May	Schools in Africa assembly	9:00 - 9:30am
Friday 9 th May	Women's Cycling Tour passes the school - Pupils to spectate	11:00am ish.
Monday 12 th - Friday 16 th	KS2 SATS weeks	Various
Tuesday 20 th May	Farm to fork - Hughes Class Visit to Tesco	9:45 - 12:00
Tuesday 20 th May	Curriculum Afternoon - The Commonwealth Games (Geography)	1:30 - 3:30pm
Thursday 22 nd May	Edison Class Assembly	2:55 - 3:30pm
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th May	HALF TERM	
Monday 2 nd June	Summer Term 2 - Starts	
Tuesday 3 rd June	Edison Class Trip - Ipswich Museum	9:30 - 2:30pm
Tuesday 3 rd June	Thorpe Woodlands Parent Meeting	3:30 - 4:30pm
Wednesday 11 th June PROVISIONAL DATE	Sports Day & Summer Picnic PROVISIONAL DATE	<u>Tbc</u>
Friday 13 th June PROVISIONAL DATE	Sports Day & Summer Picnic (RESERVE) PROVISIONAL DATE	<u>Tbc</u>

Attendance

Month	Ttl
Sept 13	95%
Oct 13	97%
Nov 13	95%
Dec 13	96%
Jan 14	96%
Feb 14	94%
Mar 14	96%
Apr 14	95%



FOOTBALLS !!!

Children are not allowed to bring footballs into school. The children know which days they are allowed to play football on and in order to reduce the amount of arguments and disputes over football, the school will provide the footballs. Children are aware of the rule and therefore we do not expect to footballs being brought to school.

Footballs brought into school from now on will be confiscated.