



Autumn Term Issue 3

23.09.2022

Newsletter

Dear parents, carers and children,

All children are now well settled into their new classes and getting used to the routines associated with them. For our youngest in Poldhu it can be quite a shock to the system but I have to say under the guidance of the Mrs Barber and her team they have adapted incredibly. Already they are comfortable enough in the school to join us for whole school assemblies which can be quite daunting and they are establishing great relationships within class. In Rinsey, Godrevy and Kynance Classes all topics have been launched with an associated visit and they are all learning a linked story using the storytelling approach – storymaps are used to aid children's recital of the stories and they can be found on the website (Rinsey – Clockwork, Godrevy – Bella's Chocolate Surprise and Kynance – The Great Fairytale Disaster) if you get chance see if you can practise the story at home with your child(ren).

This brings me to the main subject of the newsletter; homework and more specifically reading. After consultation with parents shortly after I arrived here seven years ago we decided as a school to have a minimal expectation on homework that should be completed but to provide plenty of opportunity for those that wanted to pursue learning. As a result we subscribed to an online maths support programme: Mathletics (previously Sumdog) which has since been supplemented with Times Table Rock Stars – use of both of these online resources is optional but is rewarded in celebration assembly and paper based work can be provided if requested for those unable to access the websites. In addition to this, optional tasks linked to both the class topic and the PSHE theme are provided every half term – four of each. We try to make these creative and fun (I have seen some fantastic 3D models of the digestive system).

Unlike many schools though no homework is compulsory or expected with the exception of reading because of the impact it can have. We therefore ask that children try to read for at least 10 minutes each night and preferably by upper Key Stage 2 (KS2) for 20 minutes (as described on the back of the KS2 reading record a child that can do this will on average read 1,800,000 words as opposed to the 8,000 read by someone reading for 5 minutes and the correlation between home reading and academic success is extensively evidenced online). We apologise if this wasn't clearly communicated before; it is described on our website on the reading page [Welcome to Gwinear Community Primary School](#), it is detailed in the home school agreement given when children join [Welcome to Gwinear Community Primary School](#) and is detailed at the top of termly homework sheets e.g. [HOMEWORK GRID Autumn 1 2022-23 \(2\).pdf](#) but we should have sent out a specific letter relating to it.

As far as the repercussions for not reading are concerned in KS1 we try and use TA and parent supporters to ensure children get to read with an adult usually in the afternoons - although reading at home is far more preferable. By the time children enter KS2 we believe they should generally be able to be accountable for this expectation and are

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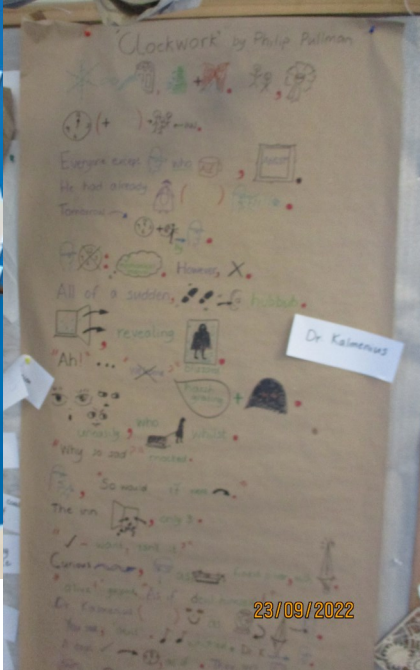
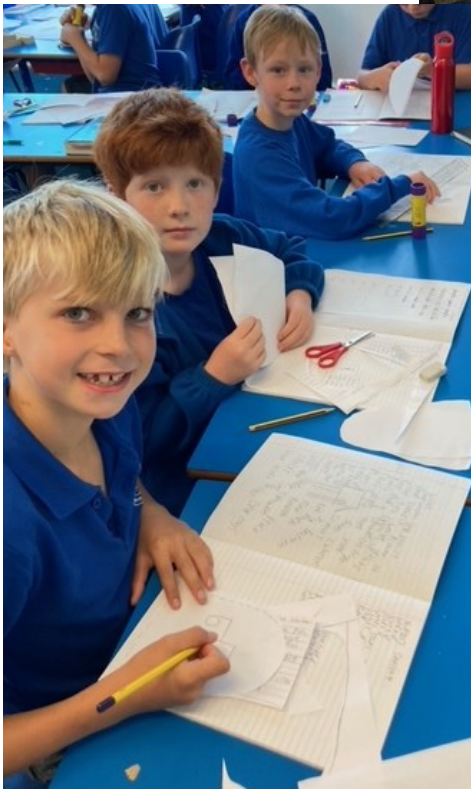
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asked to read independently and record in their reading journals if they are unable to read to an adult at home.

If children are not able to do this both Mrs Gilroy and Mrs Haddy have chosen to give up their break time to ensure that children receive support with their reading – if possible this is done at the start of the day if children arrive early enough and the teacher is not tied up with other things but otherwise this happens for five minutes at the start of break – obviously it cannot take place at other times during the day as the teachers are teaching and TA support at KS2 is specifically targeted for scheduled interventions. We understand that this approach could generate a negative perception of reading but teachers do their very best to try and do it in a supportive way and to encourage the children to develop independence, enjoyment and pride as themselves as developing readers. Obviously, if there is a reason why a child is unable to read on occasion e.g. a visit to cinema, a party etc. and this is relayed to the class teacher they would not be kept in. With this in mind remember the Reading Record and/book bag acts as the best way to communicate with teachers about reading as they are checked daily – hence us ensuring every child had one at the start of the year.

I hope this clarifies the approach we take and please understand that we wish to do all we can to work with you in partnership to develop reading skills – unlike many other aspects of the curriculum the difference between 1:1 teaching (i.e. what you can do at home) and whole class teaching is immeasurable. Judging by the extensive records in many Reading Records on the whole we are doing a great job together and it was a pleasure to take the reading stars from last half term to Waterstones this week (see next page). This incentive will continue to happen every half term and we are again investing over a £1000 to update the library collection (I bought a nice selection of new releases in Truro yesterday). If you have any recommendations we might have missed we would love to hear from you and as always we welcome any offers to support with our parent volunteer reading force. Thank you so much for your continued support. There are sunny spells in the forecast for this weekend so I hope you are able to catch some and enjoy your weekend.

Mr Gardiner



23/09/2022



Diary Dates

September 2022

Mon 26th—CSIA Open Evening 5.30-8.30pm

October 2022

Mon 24th—Fri 28th Half Term

Mon 31st—Godrevy to Trink Dairy

November 2022

Tues 1st—Kynance to Pendennis Castle

Whole School Attendance Target

2020-2021: **96%**

This Weeks Whole School Attendance Figure:

95.93%

**NEW INSET DAYS FOR THE
ACADEMIC YEAR
2022/2023**

Friday 28 April 2023

Monday 24 July 2023

Tuesday 25 July 2023

NUT-FREE SCHOOL

Please be aware that due to several children and a member of staff having severe allergies to nuts the school has a policy whereby no products (**including Nutella**) containing nuts should be brought into school including in personal lunch boxes. With some products, i.e. chocolate bars, it is not always obvious that nuts form part of the ingredients so please check labels carefully. Thank you.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following children for their wonderful learning. Thank you.

Poldhu

Oliver for being kind and making new friends

Mila for amazing enthusiasm at school

Kynance

Marshall for excellent work in Read, Write, Inc.

Amelie for great number line work in Maths

Godrevy

Coen for being a brilliant member of Class 3

May for outstanding writing-retelling of Bella's story

Rinsey

Jack S for excellent effort with Zoe in English

Alfie H for excellent independent effort in writing

Virtue Value Award

Piran, Enzo, Georgie, Sofia