



Headteacher News

The Herald

I suspect some of you will have seen a Herald article earlier this week regarding 'Job cuts at Plymouth school'. I thought it would be worth giving you the facts so that you can understand the proposals for change that the Senior Management Team and Board of Governors have considered in a potential restructure within school. The photo they lead with is actually of me when I was Headteacher at Lipson Vale Primary School (5 years ago) which I thought was nice of them (because there's a little less grey hair)! The facts behind their story are as follows:

We are proposing to restructure our Teaching Assistant (TA) staff to facilitate more TA hours and remove the majority of Meal-Time Assistants (MTAs) and all Breakfast Club posts. The restructure would involve extending the working times that TAs are in school, so that they are available between 7.30am and 4.00pm. It would also reduce the *type* of TA contracts from the current twenty to just three (a morning contract, an afternoon one and a full-time position). Morning and afternoon TAs will overlap and they would cover the lunchtime periods. Four MTA posts will be retained to work in the dining room. The Breakfast Club roles will end as the club will be staffed by Teaching Assistants.

This restructure will enable TAs to support pupils both before and after school, providing booster sessions, pre-teaching and social/emotional group activities as well as extra-curricular clubs. There is a great deal of research that highlights the significant impact this can all have on the academic achievement of pupils. It will also enable us to provide a range of engaging activities at lunch-times (including some indoors for those that don't always wish to play outside) and further develop and improve behaviours and social interactions during this time. Our TAs will also have more opportunity to attend training and staff meetings, as well as be available to undertake work that is currently a challenge to complete within their current contractual time (as their role, much like teachers, seems to be ever expanding). At the heart of our decision-making was the welfare, education and best possible provision for the children within our school.

As with all key changes, there is a consultation period (with staff affected) which we are following. At this time, a decision has not been made, hence why none of this has been made public yet. The Herald reported that the restructure was aligned to both finances/funding and our becoming an academy, neither of which is even slightly true (the whole exercise is cost-neutral and was formulated long before academisation was even considered). We will of course update you once the consultation and outcomes are known. If you have questions regarding any of this though, you know where to find us!

Hoax Incidents and Lockdowns

Further to the malicious hoax calls made to schools earlier this week, I'd just like to reassure parents again that we have our Dynamic Lockdown Procedures and School Emergency Plan that detail our responses to any such internal or external incidents and potential threats to the safety of our children and staff. We have planned and prepared for a whole variety of potential, threatened or real circumstances that the school could experience. The flexibility within those plans also enable us to adapt them to suit various eventualities. In short – we aim to keep your children safe no matter what comes our way. Ultimately, this week, they have just been malicious threats intended to cause disruption and concern. For our part, we only let such mindlessness achieve its true aim if we respond with panic, anxiety and unease. Instead, our organised, composed and professional responses to these incidents demonstrates that we will not succumb to malevolent intentions or allow them to affect our daily lives. I implore everyone to stand firm, trust that we will make all the right decisions to keep your children safe from harm, and join with us in ensuring that the potential impact and concern for them all is kept to an absolute minimum.

Foundation News

Foundation really enjoyed watching the performance at Playbox. They have used ideas from this in their art work, made collages and have written thank you letters. This week has finished with a great day of outdoor activities and orienteering. We hope the children have a super half term and that the weather enables them to have fun outside. If you would like to share any half-term activities, it would be lovely to see them added to their Learning Journeys.

Year 1 News

That half a term flew by! We have been busy counting in 2's, 5's and 10's everyday this week and then using this to help us solve some problems. We have finished our 'Sun-cream' poem and will be starting our magical "Starlight" story when we come back in the final Summer term. Please can you check your child's P.E kit as we have had a couple of items, with no name, left behind and could you ensure that there are plimsolls or appropriate footwear as we will be outside more weather depending! We are holding a phonic screening presentation on Thursday 9th June at 3:30pm and another showing at 5:00pm. It will be an opportunity for us to share with you what happens during the Phonics 'Screening'. Have a great break and we look forward to seeing you all back safely.

Year 2 News

Wow! Where has this term gone? Yet another fantastic week in Year 2 and what a way to end with a brilliant outdoor '50 Things' Day. The children, as always, have been superstar learners. This week the children have been writing super descriptions of 'The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch' characters, investigating 2D shapes and creating amazing aquariums. Also, during their RE sessions with Mrs Meatyard, they have been tasting delicious breads - exploring how bread is important to different faiths and cultures. A big thank you to the excellent graphic designers who returned their homework, Mrs De Lang is looking forward to seeing the children's fantastic designs this week and picking the winners. We all hope you have a fantastic half term and enjoy quality time together in the sunshine!



Year 3 News

What an amazing term we have had. The children have been working incredibly hard and have produced lots of amazing work. Their Madagascar stories have been delivered to Peverell Library and we hope that you are able to take the time to go and enjoy them. The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we hope to go again next term. Thank you all for ongoing support and we look forward to the rest of the Summer Term. Have a great half term, year 3 team.

Year 4 News

Another super term in Year 4... We are so pleased with the efforts from ALL the children. They have worked so hard and as a result have produced some fantastic work, especially with their dilemma stories and shape poetry in English. Have a brilliant half term, fingers crossed for sunshine.

Year 5 News

Another busy week in year 5 with the children finishing off and editing their wonderful Greek Myths. We have been impressed with so many of them. In our Maths we have been solving word problems and multiplying fractions with a whole number. We'll see you all again after your half-term break, ready to start your final few weeks in year 5. Enjoy your holidays.

Year 6 News

The children have had a fantastic time this week what with Bude and Activity Week. Have a brilliant half term.

Music News

We received a lovely message from the Lord Mayor's Office this week, on behalf of the new Lord Mayor, Councillor Pauline Murphy, to thank the steel band for playing so well at the Lord Mayor's Choosing ceremony last week. It is great to know our playing was appreciated. All music lessons and clubs start straight back after the half term holiday.

Vacancy

There is a five hour vacancy available in the school canteen. It will be going live over the half term on the Plymouth City Council website Ref; CATERed/049

Polling Day

Please note the school will be closed for polling day on the 23rd June.

Playbox Fun Day

25th Anniversary Celebrations on Monday 6th June, 10am to 2pm. Lots of arts and crafts, bouncy castle fun for all the family. Free admission.

Change of menu

ED's REGAL Queen's Birthday Lunch - Friday 10th June

There will be ONE CHOICE ONLY consisting of a plate of party food of

- a Cheese Tomato pizza slice
- a 1/4 ham or cheese sandwich
- a Chipolata sausage
- a Sausage roll (veg option available)
- Carrot & Cucumber sticks with a cherry tomato

Choice of desserts;

Assorted Iced muffins, Jelly, Vanilla Ice cream tub

THERE WILL BE NO OTHER CHOICES AVAILABLE ON THIS DAY.

Peverell Library

Half Term craft activity 'Under the Sea' 3:00pm - 4:00pm. (Booking required) Tel : 305633

Diary Dates

Sun 22nd May 2016

- Bude residential

Mon 23rd May 2016

- Activity Week

Mon 30th May 2016

- Bank holiday

Tues 31st May - Fri 3rd June Inc.

- Half term

Mon 6th June 2016

- Non pupil day

Thurs 14th July 2016

- Year Six Production

Wed 20th July 2016

- Leaver's Celebration Disco

Thurs 21st July 2016

- Year 6 Leavers Lunch

Fri 22nd July 2016

- Leavers' assembly
- Last day of term 2:30pm finish (Year 6 finish at 1.30pm)

Wed 7th Sept 2016

- First day of term