

Headteacher News

I came across this lovely article on the internet the other day that I wish to share with you. I've condensed it here but I think it still conveys the messages well enough. It was entitled '15 Small Things Parents Should Do To Their Children Every Day To Make Them Feel Loved'. You can imagine why it caught my attention! No.1 on their list was 'Turn off your smart phone'. The advice being that, when you get home, or your kids get back from school, turn off your phone and give them your full attention at least for the first half hour or so. They'll love the fact that your attention will be on them and not on the next 'ding' or 'ping'.

We always talk about making mealtimes a family affair and a time for catching up on the day's events but this was also their No.2 tip. 'Turn off the TV and all gadgets at mealtimes'. The article suggested that mealtimes are rare moments, in today's busy lifestyle, to enjoy each other's company. Tip No.3 was 'Making bedtime a precious moment'. Particularly with younger children (although I did this with my son up until he started secondary school). They will always treasure the moments when you read them a story as they drift happily into sleep. It's enormously reassuring and it's a unique bonding experience for parents and children (and, it helps your child's brain develop too). Tip No.4 was about showing physical affection and the extent to which children thrive on this kind of warmth and loving. There's no need to go overboard but hugs and kisses mean a lot to them. Suggestion No.5 is more demanding on time but very important (for those of you with more than one child), and that is spending quality time with each child. One-on-one time makes them feel special and this is magnified significantly if brothers and sisters aren't around.

Tip No.6 was 'Discipline them with love and affection'. Physically hurting a child to 'teach them a lesson' generally leads to them learning that violence is an effective way of dealing with disagreement and conflict. Admonish them but don't switch off the loving. I'm not sure that tip No.7 was the most important but it made me smile. They suggested leaving funny and affectionate notes and messages (a text or little note tucked under their pillow) - maybe a joke, an affectionate nickname or anything that shows them they're still on your radar. No.8 sounds obvious and perhaps not that important but it really is. Look into their eyes as you talk to them. Eye contact is so important in this age when everyone is glued to a computer, device or phone. The child can learn to wait until they have your full attention but it's worth waiting for. It's a very important social skill as they get older.

No.9 was to smile more often! A bit of advice which is useful for life generally because interactions with people will always go better if there's a genuine smile on your face. No.10 was 'Be a great role model' which, for me, is perhaps the most important one in their list. Children look up to their parents and look to them for how to behave, and they're great copycats. Set the right examples for them to follow. Tip No.11 was about involving them in decision making. From what they'd like to wear to where to go on holiday. Get them fully involved and engaged and enable them to make decisions (with your guidance).

No.12 was 'Just play with them' which speaks for itself. Find the time, make the time. No.13 was 'Take action when your child is unhappy'. There may be an issue at school, at a club, or with friends. Remember that there's always another side to the story but show you care by speaking to the appropriate people and seeking a resolution to the problem. No.14 was to save the cards and gifts they give you such as a note, funny drawing or little poem; show that you care by treasuring them. And, finally, No.15 was to never interrupt their stories. When they want to share something with you, hear them out. I'm not sure I completely agree with this one as I'd want to be dropping in the occasional question but I think the point was not to become distracted or lose focus.

The article ended by stating that 'Love and affection are the foundation of happiness. By showing children this love every single day, we are giving them the greatest gift of all.' Ultimately, the whole piece was about making time for them, making them feel special and being interested in everything they say and do. It sounds easy but, with today's hectic lifestyles, it can actually be quite a challenge. Hopefully you've read through this and mentally ticked off a whole load of things that you do with your child or children. But key to the article were the two words 'Every Day'. I think I've been a pretty good Dad but I know I've not managed to do all of these every day but I do think that it's a great aim to aspire to and to keep at the forefront of your mind each day. Our children are so important to us - let's make sure they realise just how much we do care about them. Have a great weekend!

Diary Dates

Thurs 20th Oct 2016

- Foundation & KS1 individual photos (family groups from 8am)

Mon 24th to Fri 28th Oct 2016

- Half term

Mon 31st Oct 2016

- KS2 individual photos (family groups from 8am)

Fri 2nd Dec 2016

- 3:15 to 5pm Christmas Fair

Thurs 8th December 2016

- Christmas lunch

Mon 19th Dec '16 - Tues 3rd Jan Inc.

- Christmas Holidays

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb 2017 Inc.

- Half term

Mon 3rd - Tues 18th Apr 2017 Inc.

- Easter holidays

Mon 1st May 2017

- Bank holiday

Sun 21st - Fri 26th May 2016

- Bude Residential (Yr 6)

Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June '17 Inc.

- Half term

Tues 25th July 2017

- Leavers' assembly
- Last day of term 2:30pm finish (Yr6 finish at 1.30pm)

Wed 26th July 2017

- Start of the summer holidays



Monty's Den

Monty's Den is our onsite after school care. Call Tammy on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Sessions start from £6.50. Flexible booking available www.thedens.co.uk

Foundation News

This week in Foundation we have discovered more about space. The children have created stars and rockets as well as learning about gravity. In maths this week the children have practiced their counting skills. English has focused on learning about books and how to use pictures to make predictions about what the writing might say. We are looking forward to talking to you all at parents evenings about how the children have settled in.

Year 1 News

It's been another busy but brilliant week in Year 1. The children were intrigued when the BFG delivered 'dream jars' jam packed with some peculiar scents. We thoroughly enjoyed investigating these as part of our learning on senses in science. We have also loved reading lots of the poems that the children brought in to share as part of their homework this week. Thank you for your support with this as usual!

Year 2 News

Wow! Yet another fantastic week in year 2. The children have thoroughly enjoyed delving deeper into the 'Lord of the Forest' story and learning new vocabulary. We also got quite mucky creating our very own rain forest out of natural materials. Perhaps you could ask your child what the four layers of a tropical rain forest are? Have a fantastic weekend, the children are continuing to work super hard so go and enjoy yourselves.

Year 3 News

What an amazing week we have had in year 3 topped off with a fantastic trip to Kents Cavern. The children had a fantastic time and they looked amazing in their costumes! A big thank you to all the parents that helped with the trip. Many thanks for your ongoing support! The year 3 team!

Year 4 News

The children have had a busy week writing and editing their Egyptian Quest Stories. On Thursday we heard that pieces of metal had been found scattered in the forest. We decided to go and investigate, we had a fun time finding different metal shapes. While we were there we shared a poem called 'The Coming of the Iron Man' by Brenda Williams. In maths we have continued to look at number patterns and how to multiply numbers. Please keep practicing your tables we will have a tables check next week.

Thank you for sharing our 'Golden Learning Time' event this week. It was great to see so many of you supporting your child in the classroom making an Egyptian sarcophagus. Thank you, have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

This week year 5 were visited by Father Simon Rundell from Bickleigh. He spoke to the children about the various colours associated with the Christian seasons and brought in a collection of his vestments and explained when the various colours would be worn and why. The children have been looking at persuasive writing in English and creating a leaflet for the School Community Cafe. While in Maths, we have been looking at Roman Numerals and rounding larger numbers.

Your child should have brought home a letter with the date their class will be visiting Buckland Abbey. We will confirm the trip after the half-term break, if we have received sufficient contributions.

Year 6 News

Thank you for helping your child to complete their English homework. The diaries were very interesting to read! We are currently working hard to write a diary from a character's point of view and we are using the book Journey to Job'burg to help.

In Science we are learning all about the human body. Ask your child if they can explain how the circulatory system works!

We are looking forward to seeing you next week for parent's evening. Also, don't forget you are invited to come in and work with your child to help them complete their art work on Friday between 2:15pm to 3:15pm.

Halloween in the Park - Central Park Family Fun Day - Sunday 16th October

This is the last outdoor event of the season. Performances from local theatre school Razzamatazz, zorbing activities, fancy dress competition, spooky music and a free sweet give away. All this is in addition to the wonderful food and gift/craft stallholders who attend the event outside the Life Centre from 10am to 4pm. Everyone welcome.

Scarlet Fever

Please be aware that there has been a confirmed case of Scarlet Fever in school this week.

Car Park

May we remind parents that the car park in North Down Road is for STAFF ONLY. We would also like to remind parents that they should keep to the pedestrian areas around the carpark and not walk across the carpark itself.

Plymouth Radio Competition

One of our pupils, Matilda in Year 4, has been chosen as one of the final five for the 'Win a Springy Rocker' competition with Rhino Play and Radio Plymouth! She designed an amazing UFO rocker!

The top five winning designs are on the voting page on Radioplymouth.com – 'Vote now! Child's play with Rhino Play'. We need your votes to make sure Matilda's wins and we get her springy rocker made for one of our playgrounds!

You can go online at Radioplymouth.com from Wednesday 12th and vote for Matilda's design. Voting closes on Tuesday 18th October at midnight. Let's get voting and win!

Lip Balm

A reminder that children are discouraged from bringing lip balms/Chapsticks into school. These are very often glittery coloured and resemble lipsticks/makeup – which are not permitted.

There is a risk to those with allergies, as well as the spreading of germs (coldsore, impetigo etc).

They are also a cause for distraction during lessons.

Prompt Start Please!

Sadly once again during the week a number of children have arrived late into school. Late arrivals have a disruptive effect interrupting the flow of lessons and causing valuable teaching time to be wasted.

Formal school starts at 8:45am (KS2) & 8:50am (KS1). It is vital that children arrive well before that time. The school is open from 8:30am so that children have time to get to their classrooms and prepare for lessons. Please help us by ensuring that your child arrives on the school site at the proper time. Children arriving at 8:45am (KS2) (or 8:50am KS1) are late.

Please help the school further by following these simple procedures

1. Accompany children to the school office so that they can be formally registered and book their lunch.
2. Let children go off to their classroom on their own.

It is understandable that parents wish to explain to the class teacher why their child is late. However, in doing so the lesson being taken is disrupted even further. Please help to minimise disruption.