



Marine Academy Primary Newsletter June 2015

'Where Stars Shine Brighter.'

...providing an outstanding education that ensures all pupils reach their greatest potential and live by life's highest values.

Dear Parents/Carers of Marine Academy Primary pupils,

As you are all aware Marine Academy Primary is now officially an 'Outstanding' school. This is quite an accolade not normally given to schools as new as ours; in fact we are the first Free School in the South West to be graded as 'Outstanding' and the eleventh in the country! This success is not just due to the staff's dedication, passion and commitment to do the best for each and every child every day; it is also due to your overwhelming support, Ofsted wrote: *"Parents speak highly of the school. They appreciate the quality of learning opportunities the school provides for their children and the high level of communication between home and school. Parents have a good understanding of what their children can and cannot do."* Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the Parent View questionnaire and also to those of you who spoke to the inspectors over the two days. The whole of the Primary team appreciate your continued support. Most importantly though the 'Outstanding' is due to your fabulous children who arrive at the Academy every day ready to learn, Ofsted wrote about the children: *"Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils love coming to school and this is reflected in their high levels of attendance. Outstanding behaviour is evident during playtimes and lunchtimes where pupils play well together."* We hope to see you at our Summer Musicals next week!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Siobhan Easton

Information Update

On **Monday 6th July**, all of the new teachers have been invited to spend the day at Marine Academy Primary to meet their new classes. At the end of this day the teachers will be available for you to meet them. Please bring and pick up your child at their current classroom on Monday 6th July.

On **Friday 17th July** Annual Reports will go home, these will be handed to Parents/Carers at the end of the Academy day rather than in book bags. Following this, on **Tuesday 21st July** between 3:00 and 5:30pm, you are invited to the Hall to look at the learning produced during Arts Week and into your child's classroom to look at their books of learning this year. This will be a brilliant opportunity to see just how much progress your child has made! It will also allow you the opportunity to discuss anything written in the report. Children can be collected from 3:00pm on this day. Time slots will not be booked for this evening but will be an 'open house' set up where you can arrive anytime between 3:00 and 5:30pm.

Please note there will be no Extra Curricular Activities after Friday 17th July.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

Term Dates 2014-2015

6th July:	Transition Day
7th July:	Summer Musical Dress Rehearsal (9:30am in the Primary Hall)
7th July:	Summer Musical Performance for Classes' RCJ and 1SM Parents/Carers (2:15pm in the Primary Hall)
8th July:	Classes 1SM and 2/3LG Trip to Mount Batten Beach
8th July:	Classes RCJ and RJW Trip to Kings Tamerton Woods
9th July:	Class 2/3LG Big Sing! (1:30pm in MAP's Sports Hall)
10th July:	Summer Musical Performance for Classes' RJW and 2/3LG Parents/Carers (2:15pm in the Primary Hall)
13th July:	Arts Week
16th July:	Classes 1SM and 2/3LG Sports Morning and Picnic
17th July:	Nursery and Reception Sports Morning and Picnic
17th July:	Reports go Home
21st July:	'Open House' in Classes
22nd July:	Last Day of Term 6

Term Dates for Pupils 2015-2016

Term 1	
7th September:	First Day of Term 1
22nd October:	Last Day of Term 1
Term 2	
2nd November:	First Day of Term 2
18th December:	Last Day of Term 2
Term 3	
5th January:	First Day of Term 3
12th February:	Last Day of Term 3
Term 4	
22nd February:	First Day of Term 4
24th March:	Last Day of Term 4
Term 5	
12th April:	First Day of Term 5
2nd May:	Bank Holiday
27th May:	Last Day of Term 5
Term 6	
6th June:	First Day of Term 6
22nd July:	Last Day of Term 6

Marine Academy Primary Governors: Meet our Chair of Governors, Vikki Matthews

Last month you found out more information from Martin, this month it is our Chair of Governors, Vikki's turn to answer some questions!

What do you do as the Chair of Governors? *"I am very proud to be the Chair of Governors for Marine Academy Plymouth where my job is to ensure that every child at the school gets the best possible education and can fulfil their potential both as learners and as human beings. To do this I work with a team of dedicated governors and we monitor the standards at the school and the achievement of the pupils. Our expectation is that Miss Easton and the teachers set and maintain the highest standards possible (and they do as was reinforced by our recent outstanding Ofsted rating!)."*

What can you tell us about Marine Academy Plymouth being an all through Campus? *"An all through campus provides a wonderful opportunity for our young people to make really critical transitions in their school life without having some of the challenges that most of us faced in navigating a whole new environment and friendship group. MAP pupils can be with us from birth until they are 19 and during that time they will experience a consistency of educational vision, school values and expected standards of behaviour and achievement. From a governance perspective it means that we can adopt consistent policies to ensure that children are safe and feel secure in school and we can ensure that our extremely high standards are applied consistently across the nursery, the primary school and the secondary school."*

What do you think is the best thing about Marine Academy Primary? *"The pupils of course! They are consistently polite, well behaved and are full of enthusiasm to learn; they even stand in a line quietly when they are queuing for lunch! I think that this is due to our amazing teachers and to the respectful and nurturing relationship that they have with the children together with their commitment that every child should shine."*

If someone wanted to be a Governor what would they need to do? *"We are always keen to hear from enthusiastic parents that would like to get involved in the school, and becoming a parent governor is an excellent way to do just that. Please contact Miss Easton if you are interested in this role."*

What do you do when you are not being a Governor? *"I work at Plymouth University, heading up the HR and the legal services departments. I'm also the Co-Chair of my daughter's school and the Company Secretary of the Centre for Self-Managed Learning. When I'm not working, I like to read, spend time with my family and I've just started to learn the piano (which is frustratingly hard!)."*

Marine Academy Primary Needs You!

National Book Tokens are giving away up to £5000 worth of Book Tokens to one lucky school. To help Marine Academy Primary to be in with a chance of winning please follow this link and complete the form: <http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>



The more entries made the bigger chance we have of winning! Thank you to those of you who have already done this and those of you who are going to do so!

As of Monday 7th September, Marine Academy Primary will have their own **Breakfast Club and After School Club** a letter with more information of booking and paying for these will be sent home prior to the end of term. Breakfast Club will start at 7:45am and After School Club will be available until 6:00pm.

Empty Classroom Day

In June we celebrated Empty Classroom Day; thank you to everyone who was able to come along to our picnic on this day and we hope that you enjoyed yourselves. We hope to do this next year too!



To further develop our Outdoor Learning Area, this week we are having planters put in which will give the children a brilliant place to create their own allotment in which they will be able to grow fruit and vegetables. We hope to be able to harvest, cook and eat these then in school!

Connecting Classrooms

This month we were visited by three teachers from Ghana. This was a fantastic experience for all of our learners and provided them with the opportunities to ask questions and further their learning about other countries and cultures. The Ghanaian teachers attended one of our assemblies, spent lunch with us and talked about Ghana. All of the classes listened beautifully to Peter as he told them about a project, at St Peter's International School, to develop a garden which would produce a delicious range of fruit and vegetables. The children watched with interest as Peter showed them photographs of the Ghanaian children working together at every stage of the project. They asked questions about the project and were able to relate it to their own experiences, particularly in Reception, as they have recently growing sunflowers in school as part of their own theme 'Growing up and Changing'.

The children learnt about the importance of communities working together to achieve a goal and were able to tell Peter how they work together every day in school. This type of experience will also contribute towards the Primary's application to achieve the 'International School Award'. We hope they will visit us again next year!



Arts Week

Thank you for all your donated resources so far in preparation for our Arts Week. The week commencing Monday 13th July, the whole school will be involved in a two and half day arts project using these recycled materials. Children will all need an old shirt in school please for this week to wear whilst completing the project. The children will be creating artwork based on the theme 'Marine Life'. Some of the many activities will include; creating marine themed collages out of magazine cuttings; painting fish onto canvases and creating hanging jellyfish. As well as this, we are fortunate to have a real artist, Peter Heywood, work with us to build a sculpture for the playground made out of CDs. We look forward to sharing our learning with you on Tuesday 22nd July.