



## Newsletter Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Welcome back!

A very warm welcome to all our new children and their families: not only have we been joined by 54 new EYFS children, but we have also had 12 other children join us across the other year groups. It's an exciting start to another new year.

We hope you all had a super holiday, despite the weather: it's typical that we have better weather again now that we are back at school! Please remember to send a named drinks bottle with water in daily (the children can refill it throughout the day), as well as the usual advice on named sun hats and sun tan lotion. (This can be applied before the start of the day and the children can reapply it themselves later if necessary – but generally SPF50 should be good for the day if applied before school). *Please check the ingredients list and avoid those with coconut oil in as we have some children and staff with severe nut allergies and we are a 'nut free' school.*

The children have settled in extremely well and we are pleased to see how they are enjoying their new classes.

### Staffing

We welcome Mandy Blewitt as our new cook in charge.

On the teaching staff, we welcome Mrs Phoenix who is teaching in Y1 alongside Mrs Phillips who returns after her 'loan spell' to another Kernow Learning School.

Our Senior Leadership Team is back to full strength – Mrs Poole (and Freddie, the Learning dog) will be with us Mondays-Wednesdays. Mrs Poole teaches on a Monday. Freddie may only be with us one day a week.

Mrs Foster will be here Wednesdays-Fridays. Mrs Foster will be teaching on Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Burnett and I will normally be here every day, each week.

Mrs Munley will be with us 3 days a week and with another Kernow Learning School 2 days a week. Normally, she will be with us Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, although please note that by the nature of her role, there may need to be some flexibility about some weeks. In the first instance, for all SEND related issues, please contact the office and your child's class teacher, before approaching Mrs Munley. She will get back to you as soon as she can, if it is necessary for her to be involved.

Congratulations to Mr Tooke who has been reaccredited as a Microsoft Innovator in Education Expert. This is a fantastic recognition of all his work in computing and means he will continue to share his learning with us all – here in school - and occasionally more widely across our family of schools. Many congratulations too, to Miss Burnett who has been awarded the National Professional Qualification for Headship, and I have been awarded the National Professional Qualification of Executive Leadership.

Finally, after enjoying more than seven years of being part of the Charlestown family, I will be leaving at the end of December. I have accepted a position in the Thinking Schools' Trust, based in Kent. However, the entire team knows I am still fully committed to all things Charlestown, and I look forward to continuing in partnership with you all until the very end of term. I started by saying we have an exciting term ahead and we do! In the meantime, please rest assured that the process of securing the next Headteacher is already underway.



### **The year ahead**

We will be sending out a home school agreement and an acceptable use policy for IT access next week. Also, next week, there will be details of all the clubs on offer this term which we hope to get running from 18<sup>th</sup> September.

In a change for children in KS2, we will ask them to change into their PE kit *in school*, rather than coming in changed on the day. We are expecting all children to wear their school uniform every day. The same applies to outdoor learning clothes. We will keep this under review and make any adjustments that might be needed if necessary. Please note that you should contact the school if your child has specific needs around this issue so we can support you with it.

### **Match Day Magic**

I am thrilled to be able to announce we have been invited to watch Plymouth Argyle to play against Swansea on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Full details and a form can be accessed via the link below. Please note the closing date of 25<sup>th</sup> September. This always a popular event so please try and support it.

[Match day magic](#)

### **Start and end of the day**

Thank you for following the slight 'tweaks' we have made to the entrances and exits. As a reminder in the morning, all KS2 come in through the astro turf gates, but at the end of the day, only Y5 & Y6 exit here. Y3 & Y4 are collected from the playground. To help us and help the children settle in seamlessly each day, once they have been met by their school adults, please leave the site, rather than hanging on to keep waving at them as this can unsettle some other children, especially if their carer or parent has already left. The large groupings of adults at the gates are also off-putting for some children. Please also make sure that your child is not arriving at school too early. We have spoken with Y6 this morning as many are arriving just after 8am and we only have breakfast club where supervision is offered at this time. Please book them in for this if you need them to be in school at that time. Many thanks for your support in these arrangements.

Following the Government's statement on school hours, we may have to adjust this a little more – and we will consult with you fully on this if we need to make any changes to actual contact time we offer.

### **Plans:**

**McMillan charity sessions** – each Year group will be hosting an afternoon for parents and carers to come, enjoy a coffee/tea and a cake, and hear from the children about their first few weeks in school. Details and dates will be sent out next week.

**Farm shop** – this has been built in the EYFS/Y1 playground and we will be selling various things from here, not just the fruit and veg we grow – so please keep an eye on the newsletter for details.

Parent Interviews – these will be held after half term – precise details etc. will be shared shortly. (There will be no clubs that week – but we will remind you all nearer the time)

**Parent Forum** - our first parent forum will be based on the feedback from last summer's surveys and our plans for the year ahead. This will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm.

**New school website and Teams log ins** – we will be showcasing our new website shortly and it would be really helpful to receive some feedback, so ahead of the 18<sup>th</sup> September, please let me know if you have any comments. If you have lost your child's log in details for Teams, please let your child's teacher know via Class dojo or the school office. We will re-issue them as soon as we can as we will be sharing more and more work and links via Teams over the coming year so you can check in with what your



child is learning in class. We are aware of issues some of our new parents may have had registering with the My Ed app this week and are working with the company to ensure they are resolved as soon as possible, so thank you for your patience at this time. The office team are happy to help with any issues you have using or registering on the App.

We look forward to an exciting academic year ahead and to working in partnership with you to enable your children to get the best possible experience here at Charlestown. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions, suggestions or comments.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark J. Clutsom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Mark Clutsom