

# Pensans Post

Autumn term 16/09/2016



Friendliness is the Virtue that we will be focussing on next week. This is a virtue that we feel is a strength in our school - all of our staff and children are encouraged to practise friendliness so that everyone can feel welcome and safe at Pensans.

Please look out for your invitation to 'Learn Alongside' your child. This is an opportunity for us to have some fun and get to know each other better. We recognise that children always achieve more with their parent's support and we look forward to welcoming you into school.

Don't forget to bring in your creative endeavours for our Exhibition which will be held on Friday 30th September in the Hall straight after school.

Have a good weekend!  
Ms Clay

The Virtues Committee are meeting on Monday 19th September after school in Tangerine class. If you are not already involved and would like to know more, please ask at the office. We look forward to seeing you there.

Shona Pye - Virtues Practitioner

You are practising *Friendliness* when you ...

- Like yourself and know you have a lot to offer
- Smile and greet people courteously
- Get to know people and let them get to know you
- Show caring when a friend needs you
- Are friendly to people who look and act differently
- Make someone new feel welcome

#### Affirmation

*I am friendly. I show an interest in others by being warm and courteous. I am a loyal friend. My friendship is a worthy gift.*

#### Personal Information and Permissions forms

Thank you to everyone who promptly returned their updated Personal Information and Permissions forms. If you haven't already returned yours, please could you as soon as possible. If you need another copy, please ask at the school reception. .

#### Are you following us on Twitter?



Keep up-to-date with all the exciting things that are going on @pensansschool.



## Is your child's class attendance on track?

Our autumn attendance target is 97%. At 97.35% we are just above target this week!

Class	Weekly %	Rank
Butterflies	97.27%	7
Butterflies 2	99.05%	2
Green	97.78%	6
Lime	100%	1
Orange	97.78%	6
Amber	97.19%	8
Magenta	98.47%	4
Violet	95.71%	9
Emerald	98.46%	5
Indigo	98.52%	3
Turquoise	90.63%	10
Whole school	97.35%	



The school meal menus have been refreshed and look yummy! Take a look at them on our school website or on the noticeboard by the school reception. There is also a handy guide to tell you which week is which. Next week is week 3!



## Your Child's Health at School

Reception and Year 6 parent will shortly be sent 'Your Child's Health at School' booklets which detail what to expect when their child participates in the health checks at school.

We have aimed to clarify the process for opting children out of the health checks by placing the form on the front page. Please remember; if a parent/carer does not return the opt out form their child will be included in all of the health checks.

## ParentPay



We have introduced a more convenient way to pay for school meals, trips, after school clubs and much more online, using a secure service called **ParentPay**. From now onwards we will be a cash free school. We will only accept cash for tuck at breaktimes.

All Pensans parents should now have received an introductory letter with their individual usernames and passwords so that they can make payments for their requested payment item(s). Thank you to all parents for their time and patience with setting up their accounts. If you have yet to sign into your account and need a reminder of your username, or to re-set your password, please ask at the office. There is also a useful video on our Pensans website!

## Free School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals – 20p alert!

Eagle-eyed parents signed up to either of the above may have noticed that their accounts are accumulating 20p each time their child has a meal. Unfortunately this is beyond our control and is as a result of the government's contribution for meals being £2.30 (our meals are £2.50). Please don't pay the 20 pences! We will credit all effected accounts each week.

## Barcodes

Parents who opt to pay for items with cash and ParentPay barcodes at PayPoint outlets should note that they should only use the barcode relevant to that payment item. Please destroy it after you have used it for a one-off payment. Also, only one barcode can be used for one child. If you have more than one child, you need more than one barcode. Finally, if you overpay when paying via PayPoint, it is not possible to refund the money back to you. It can only be transferred to another payment item when you have one to pay. Please use them with care!

## Introducing Max – the School Therapy Dog

As a school we are always looking for ways to help our children access their learning and build on life skills. We now have a school therapy dog, Max. He is a Labrador puppy who is being trained by her owner and Pensans Thrive Practitioner Teaching Assistant, Sarah Pocock. Max has started to come into school two days a week to provide affection, a calming atmosphere and comfort to the children at Pensans School.

Studies have also shown that dogs can help calm hyperactive or overly aggressive kids. Dogs are also known to ease loneliness, reduce stress, anxiety, and depression.

Other benefits of having a school dog include:

- 🐾 Dogs can elevate levels of serotonin and Dopamine, which calm and relax.
- 🐾 They can promote social interaction and provide unconditional love and affection.
- 🐾 The dog can encourage communication
- 🐾 Help to reduce boredom and loneliness
- 🐾 Therapy dogs can help to increase self-confidence, reduce self-consciousness
- 🐾 They can help children overcome speech and emotional disorders
- 🐾 Help children focus better and improve literacy skills
- 🐾 Provides a non-stressful, non-judgmental environment for our children
- 🐾 A dog can motivate children to move more, stretch further, exercise longer



## **Free School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals update**

An important reminder to ALL parents but especially those who currently had children in Year 2 or Nursery last term who have moved into Reception class. If you think you may be eligible for **Free School Meals**, please make an application via the county council website. The more parents registered for Free School Meals from Reception through to Year 6, the more Pupil Premium funding our school receives from the Government. Pupil Premium is additional funding which enables our school to provide extra support to children and enable pupils to reach their full potential.

Children who have moved into Year 3 are no longer eligible for free meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, so please ensure you make an application in time for the new term if you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals.



Phase 2 started the week with a visit from former school member, Henry Jasper of Grublin Games. He talked about his interest for playing board games when younger and how this is now what he does as a full time job. The children were able to ask him questions to assist them with the process of designing their own board games as part of this term's project. Top tips from Henry included the need to create many drafts and that criticism is a positive thing and it helps you to improve your ideas and designs. Henry's visit will now enable the children to design and make their own board games for children's hospices and hospitals.

### Summer Reading Challenge 2016

Many congratulations to all the children who took part in this year's summer reading challenge, the 'Big Friendly Read'. Please remember to come and see Mrs Crummay with your Big Friendly Read collector folder so she can take your photo for our reading hall of fame! Prize and certificates will be awarded soon.

### Class Librarians

We would like to offer four children from each class in Years 3 to 6 the opportunity to be our new class librarians and help Mrs Crummay to run our fantastic library in the Learning Centre. This is a fun and responsible job which this year also includes helping out in our very own bookshop 'The Book Bank'. Children who like working as part of a team, love books, reading and having fun would make great librarians! Any child who is interested should write a short letter to Mrs Crummay explaining why they would make a great class librarian. Good Luck!

### Library and Reading Books

Just a reminder that children should bring their reading or 'free reader' book into school every day. The library is open every morning for children to exchange books if finished. Every child also has a free choice library book to share at home for a week, these need to be brought into school to be exchanged on their class library day.



## Stars of the week



Butterflies	Rebecca	For showing courage when starting in her new class and friendliness to the other children.
Butterflies 2	Paddy	For being a star at lunchtime and eating all his school dinner all week.
Orange	Frank	For a fantastic learning attitude!
Lime	Lola	For an excellent attitude to learning at all times and striving for excellence.
Green	Tia	For demonstrating all of the virtues from the Green Class promise since the start of term!
Violet	Destiny	For showing respect, kindness and helpfulness to all her class mates all of the time. A fantastic start to the year!
Amber	Joshua	Josh has really shown the virtue of unity, taking pride in his classroom and caring for the new year 3s. Josh is a shining example of what a Year 4 should be.
Magenta	Keeley	For her excellent behaviour, self-discipline and enthusiasm throughout the week.
Emerald	Codie	Courage!
Turquoise	Taylor	For making a fantastic start to your Year 6 by being a kind, friendly and showing unity at all times.
Indigo	Lucy	For showing great enthusiasm and striving for excellence – Well done!

## Dates for your diary

- 19<sup>th</sup> September - After school clubs start
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October - Autumn half term
- 21<sup>st</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January - Christmas holidays
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Spring term begins
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February - INSET day
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February - Spring half term
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May - Bank Holiday
- 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Summer half term
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June - INSET day
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July - INSET day
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July - Last day of summer term

*Please remember that these diary dates and more are on the school website as well. Always useful if you don't have a Newsletter handy!*