

Pensans Post

ISSUE 13
MAY 23RD
2014

SUMMER TERM DATES

Friday 23rd May - **Last Day of First Half Term & Star Wars Day (rescheduled)**

HALF TERM WEEK - Monday

Monday June 2nd - INSET DAY School Closed

Tuesday June 3rd - Children return for 2nd Half of Summer Term

Tuesday June 10th - **EYFS Sports Day**

Wednesday June 11th - **Y1 & Y2 Sports Day**

Wednesday June 11th - **Class Photographs**

Thursday June 12th - **Y3,4,5&6 Sports Day**

Thursday June 19th - **Minack Theatre Trip (All Years except EYFS)**

Saturday June 28th - **Mazey Day**

Friday July 11th - **PTA Summer Fair**

Tuesday July 22nd - **Leavers Awards Ceremony (Please note change of Date)**

INSET DAY REMINDER

SCHOOL CLOSED

A reminder that **MONDAY JUNE 2nd** is an INSET DAY and that the school will be closed to pupils for staff training. This is the 4th of our 5 statutory days the next is July 24th.

GYM STARS WIN GOLD...TWICE!

This week saw the Penwith Gymnastics Championships. The school entered two teams one from Years 1&2 and one from Years 3&4. We are delighted to announce that both teams won their respective championships and came away proudly sporting some very fine gold medals!

"Both teams were just fantastic", said Miss Baldwin who accompanied them to the competition, "They behaved and competed in an exemplary way and were so supportive of one another - a real Team Pensans spirit! Our congratulations go to both teams on this tremendous achievement.



CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR MEDAL MYSTERY?

A few weeks ago we sent out an appeal for any information from descendants of ex-St. Pauls School pupils (the name of our school before it became Pensans) who fought in the First World War, as we are looking to mark the Centennial anniversary of this war with an event in November.

As a result of this appeal the school has been given an Attendance Medal from 1903 (pictured left). This medal was given kindly given to us by a Mrs Hoole who unfortunately knows very little about its origins. The medal was presented from "**St Paul's Elizabeth Day Schools** Penzance". This is a mystery to everyone here on the staff who have never heard St Pauls School described by this name. If anyone has any information about this school we would love to know more please. The medal will be framed and used as an Attendance Trophy in the school as soon as possible.



THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS 'AWAY'

We all refer to 'throwing things away' when we have no further use for them. Magenta and Emerald visited the Sita Recycling Centre and the Flashpoint Life skills Centre in Bodmin last Thursday and discovered that there is no such thing as 'away' as our rubbish is rapidly filling up landfill sites unless we make the effort to re-cycle it. They are now all experts on how and why we should recycle, as well as how to keep safe in and around the home. They had a fantastic time and their excellent behaviour made us very proud. We are sure we will now have lots of safe and environmentally friendly, recycling households!



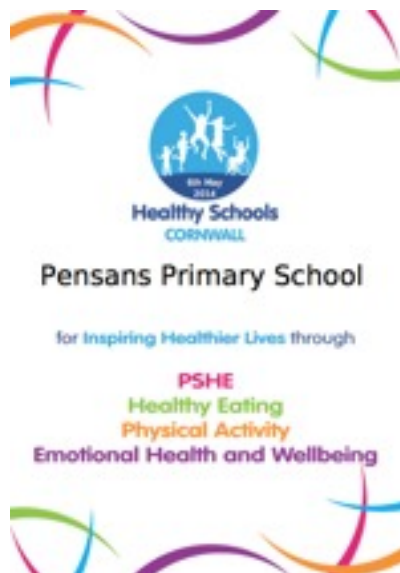
Pensans pupils take a tour inside the huge recycling centre at Bodmin to find out what happens to all the things we make the effort to recycle.



At the purpose built Life skills Centre children learn how to stay safe in the home and when out on the streets.

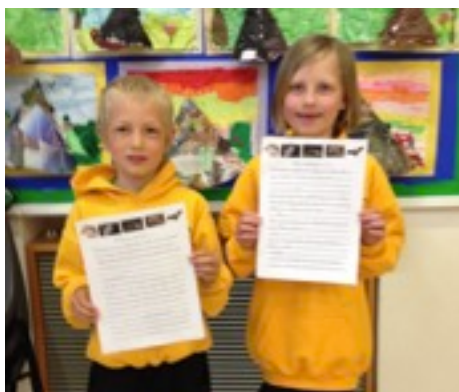
HEALTHY SCHOOL AWARD

Pensans has been given the Cornwall Healthy School Award for the sixth year in succession. The award recognises the school's high standards of education and provision in a wide variety of areas from PE through to Emotional Health and Wellbeing. Thanks go to Miss Keeley who co-ordinates our Healthy School curriculum with the support of all staff.



LIME CLASS BLOW MRS TROW'S SOCKS OFF (SO TO SPEAK)

When Mrs Trow collected in the test papers at the end of the Year 2 Writing Test this week, she was so amazed by the quality of the work produced by Lime that she fairly skipped into the staffroom to show the rest of the teachers. And who could blame her! Amongst the outstanding independent work produced were two pieces which were arguably at a writing level which Year 6 children are expected to reach. The two stand-out pieces by Nat and Bernadette (pictured right) showed an ability to use language and organise their writing which were exceptional for children of their ages.



WORLD RECORD SET

During our Science Week in March, we took part in an attempt to break to the forensic Fingerprint Investigation World Record. We are pleased that this attempt was successful with many Pensans pupils being amongst the 5675 students across the country who identified the correct suspect in the investigation. Thanks go to Mrs Trow for organising this investigation and the Science Week.



BUDGETING HELP FOR PARENTS

We work hard at Pensans to inspire and motivate pupils in order to help them too learn well. The trips and visits which we organise are a key part of this approach as they can help to bring curriculum to life. However, we are acutely aware that the cost of trips, visits and visitors can be a financial headache for parents, especially as budgets are tight for most people at the moment.

We often subsidise these events in order to help to make them affordable, for example the planned trip to the Minack Theatre next month is costing £11 per child but we are only charging £8.

Even so, £8 is a lot of money when working on a tight budget. We are looking for ways to help parents budget more effectively and plan **to provide parents with a more detailed year planner which will outline the trips and events planned across the academic year in advance and set an approximate yearly cost of these in September.** This will hopefully allow parents to plan their financial affairs with greater accuracy and minimise any short notice requests for money.

We are also planning to put a **£52* target ceiling on the total contributions we ask parents for during a single school year** for Swimming, Trips, Visits and Visitors (exclusive of school camp)

An example of this could be :

<i>Swimming (15 sessions x £1.30p)</i>	<i>£19.50</i>
<i>Termly School trip (3 x £8)</i>	<i>£24.00</i>
<i>Termly Charity Days (3 x £1)</i>	<i>£3.00</i>
<i>Theatre Visits to School (x2)</i>	<i>£4.00</i>
<i>Total for the Year</i>	<i>£51.50p</i>

**where younger classes swim every week this ceiling will have to be set at a higher point*

Again by doing this we hope to help parents manage their finances. Why £52? Well, we wanted to limit the outlay to a maximum of £1 per week.

In addition, as the most expensive trip during a child's life in the school is the Year 6 Residential Camp, this year's camp is costing £225 for example. We always offer a savings scheme for this at the start of Year 6 which helps to spread the cost over several months. However, given the significant cost of any residential trip we are happy to set up **a savings card scheme for this for any child in any year group.** For example if your child is currently in Year 2 this would allow you to spread the cost of the camp over 3 or 4 years and save a lot of hardship and worry for parents by the time Year 6 comes around. We cannot know exactly what the camp will cost by the time your child reaches Year 6, but this would provide the opportunity to pay off a large chunk of the future. There is, of course, no obligation on anyone to use this scheme - but should you feel it would be of use to you please see Linda in the School Office and she will be happy to set up a Savings Card for you.