



Newsletter 1

September 13th 2013



Diary Dates:

October

25th – Non-pupil day

28th – 1st Nov

Half-Term

December

20th – Last day of term

Welcome back. I hope you had a good summer and enjoyed our fantastic Devon weather! Everyone would like to give a warm welcome to our new children in Reception and to our children who are joining us further up the school: Charlie Metcalfe in Yr 1 and Oliver Metcalfe, Maddie West and Emilia Bridge in Year 3.

The children have all started the new term with a fantastic attitude and excellent behaviour. Well done to all of them.

New parents may not know that we are starting the year with exciting links to Tiverton High School. As part of our new management partnership, **Andrew Lovett**, the head of Tiverton High School, is now our Executive Head Teacher. This means that we are able to enrich our children's education by tapping into Andrew's considerable experience as well as the High School's expertise and resources. We are already seeing these benefits, both in RE and also in science with many more plans in the pipeline.

Claire Joyce takes on a new role as Head of Teaching and Learning and will be teaching Class 3 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Thereafter, she will be focusing on enriching and developing all aspects of our children's teaching and learning. We will be asking you to share your views on the school in the near future so we can work together to give our children the best possible education.

New Staff

We would like to welcome **Mrs Bradley** who will be teaching Class 1 on Mondays and Class 3 on Thursdays and Fridays. Also, **Mrs Maunder**, who will be taking over from **Mrs Lester** as the new administrator. **Mrs Sibthorpe** takes on a new role as SENCO.

Who to talk to if you have any concerns

If you have any worries about your child, please talk to your class teacher in the first instance as they will know your child best. Claire is also very happy to talk over any concerns. We would rather you spoke sooner rather than later so we can resolve any issues as quickly as possible.

House System

As part of our closer link to Tiverton High School we are trialling their house system here at Rackenford. The children enjoy a sense of belonging and it is a good way to promote team work, cooperation and positive behaviour.

Homework and spelling

We are reviewing all our homework and spelling policies and will be giving you more information about this in due course.

Second-hand Uniforms

Every day next week at 3.30pm, there will be second-hand uniform available to parents in the hall. A donation per item would be appreciated. So, if you were planning a clear-out, now's the time! Please bring unwanted school sweatshirts, polo shirts, trousers etc into school on Monday if possible.

Wenlock

Wenlock says thank you to everyone who looked after him during the holidays. He enjoyed his travels and is hoping that some more kind children will offer to care for him at weekends. Please let the school know if you can help.

PE Kit

Please make sure that children have their PE kit in every day. They need shorts, a T-shirt and trainers.

Snacks

Snacks are provided for children in Yrs R, 1 & 2. There is a small charge for children in Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6. This is optional. If your child brings in their own snack, please make sure it is something healthy.

Naming uniform

Just a reminder to make sure that all your children's belongings, shoes, uniform and PE kit are clearly named.

Payments for School Meals etc.

Please try and make payments for school lunches, school trips etc. on a Tuesday. If this is not always possible, or if your child decides to have an additional lunch in the week, please wait until the following Tuesday to make a payment.

We cannot give credit for lunches of more than two weeks and ask, please, that you send your child with a packed lunch until the arrears have been paid.
If there is a problem, please speak to Mrs. Maunder in confidence.

Guitar Lessons

These start next week.

Clubs

All clubs start next week.

Monday – **Football** (lunchtime)
Wednesday – **Netball** Yrs 2 - 6
(lunchtime) **Gym** Yrs 1 – 6 (after school)
Thursday – **Science** Yrs 4 – 6
Friday – **Animation** (lunchtime)

Forms to follow.

And finally...

It's been a great start to the school year.
We look forward to this exciting new phase in the life of Rackenford School.