

18<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
Newsletter



**We aim to create an exceptional school that harbours confidence, respect and a love of learning and prepares children for the challenges and adventures of life.**



Working hard on phonics. How many phonemes do you know?

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**SpIATS** – we are really proud of the confident way the children have approached their statutory national assessments this week in Year 2 and Year 6. Assessments, tests, quizzes whatever you call them are an important part of providing an effective education. The trouble can begin when the results of these tests are used to measure a school's performance and compare one school to the next. Children are all different, as are their cohorts, their classes and their schools. Education is about learning to read, write and use maths but we believe good education is about so much more.

We at Mousehole School are concerned about proposals to introduce a **Baseline Assessment** given to four year olds within the first six weeks of their school life. It is proposed that these tests will be introduced in 2020. If this concerns you too or you want to find out more about what concerns educational professionals about the high stakes use of assessments, please search online for *more than a score*.



At our last **Celebration Assembly** the **Star Awards** went to Amelie and Peter in Dinghy Class, Ted, Silvie, Gabriel and Zach in Skiff Class, Lucy, Merryn and Flora in Lugger Class and William, Oscar and Kyla in Schooner Class. This week the awards go to Alfie and Tom in Dinghy Class, Riley, Maisie and Chloe in Skiff Class, Esme, Bethany and Zach in Lugger Class and all the Year 6 children in Schooner Class. Congratulations, you are all Mousehole stars!

**Seesaw** is now up and running: we are really pleased so many of our families have already logged in. Thank you. If you have lost your QR code or there is another reason you have not signed up yet, please pop in and see us.



We hope that you appreciate our priority will always be the children's welfare and education and so there will often be a delay in replying. No system is perfect but we are hoping, once everyone is signed up, that by using one method as our main line of communication we can improve our communication with you, give you a greater insight in to what happens in your child's classroom and make communication more efficient for us so we can focus on creating the best learning experiences.

So that we can make the most of **Seesaw**, please can you:

- Only share the QR code with family members who are on our contact list otherwise we can't approve them.
- Encourage other parents to sign up so we reduce waste (paper and time) and communicate to all parents through the app.
- Make sure you sign a consent form - if you have lost the form you can sign the class consent form in the school office.

Hopefully you are finding it useful. We are intending to strike a balance between keeping you informed and not overloading you with notifications. It may change in the future but currently we will continue to update the calendar on the school website and to produce a fortnightly paper newsletter.



Please can we remind anyone who received a **Cup** at the end of last year to get their child's name engraved on it and return it back to school as soon as possible. Cups will be presented again at the end of this academic year at the leavers assembly.



We would like to **welcome Emma Symons** to our teaching team. We interviewed a really excellent group of candidates last week and felt that Emma was the best fit for Mousehole School for lots of reasons but particularly because of the way she interacted with the children. Emma is an experienced teacher with glowing references and we are really excited about what she will bring to the team.

**Classes for September** – After careful consideration and consultation with the governing body, we have decided to change our class set up for the academic year 2018-2019 so that the classes have a more even spread of children. We will have 19 children in year 6 next year and, so far, have a smaller cohort joining us in Reception. It seems very likely that we will have more children in Reception in 2019 so we are likely to return to the current class set up in 2019-2020.

### **Intended class set up for September 2018**

<b>Class</b>	<b>year groups</b>	<b>Estimated pupil no.</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Dinghy	R and 1	22	S Williams, S Eustace, B Tilley, A Hook (am) & E Bezzi (pm)
Skiff	2 and 3	31	E St Pierre, E Symons & K Matthews
Lugger	4 and 5	30	A Mullaney & G Perry
Schooner	6	19	K Smith & P Brocklesby



We would like offer **Mrs Williams** huge congratulations for completing her qualified teacher induction with flying colours. She has been working on various areas of her practice over the last four terms; thanks to her hard work and enthusiasm and the brilliant mentoring of Mrs Smith she has surpassed all of the various teaching standards and proved what we all knew. Well done!