



Providenciales Primary School

School Newsletter

Tuesday 25th February 2014

Looking ahead to an eventful Half Term

As we commence our second half term, this is a good opportunity to share some of the exciting recent developments at the school and to let you know more about the events and activities coming up. There is a lot of information to digest as you read through this newsletter, so be sure to keep an eye on your child's class noticeboard, along with posters displayed in the walkway, to ensure you are up-to-date with the latest news and know what is coming up, week by week.

Reports and Parent Consultation Meetings

Reading all of the school reports for Kindergarten to Year 6 that were emailed home to you yesterday, I am very pleased to see how our students have such a strong positive attitude towards their learning and that great progress is being made across the school. Through on-going assessment in school, the teachers and students continually reflect on how learning is progressing, see where improvements can be made and identify the next steps to take.

Your child's report demonstrates their unique personalities, their social and emotional development and their key learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Science (Yr 2 up). It highlights their many strengths and celebrates areas of enjoyment. It also communicates where further support, reinforcement or extension would be of benefit. Here at Provo Primary, we recognise that your support and active involvement plays an important part in your child's future success and we look forward to sharing more about your child's progress, and how we can work together with you on this, at the parent consultation meetings this week.

Developments in our Mathematics Curriculum

This year as part of our school improvement plan, we are focusing on the development of the teaching and learning of Mathematics throughout the school.

Through a series of whole staff meeting and staff professional development workshops, we have explored the teaching of number and have reflected on recent research on how children learn number concepts. We are currently producing a policy for the teaching of calculation strategies (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) which aims to reflect the progressive and consistent approach our students access as they journey through the school.

Parents can sometimes find helping their child with Maths homework at home to be a challenge, as methods they learnt when they were at school are not the same as ones their children are learning today. We greatly value the role of parents in supporting their children's learning and feel that creating and sharing a parents' guide to this policy, and the methods we use in school, will enable teachers and parents to work collaboratively to best support the students learning of Maths.

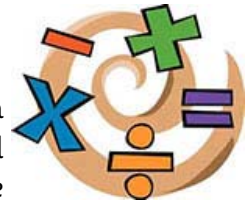
We hope to have the parents' guide to our calculation policy available at beginning of the Summer term. In the meantime, our 'Maths Calculation' theme week showcases (see page 2 for details) will be an opportunity for you to find out more about how we teach Mathematics and allow our students to demonstrate the methods we teach through a variety of hands-on activities.



Theme Week 2014 (Mon 3rd - Fri 6th March)

Each year, we participate in our National Education Week celebrations by hosting our own Theme Week. Centred around a chosen topic, we come together as a school, learning and exploring this through a variety of fun and creative activities. Some of these activities take place within individual classes, others through mixed age groupings, some as a whole school.

This year our theme is '**Maths Calculations**' with the aim to explore, share and celebrate the amazing range of Maths skills that students have in our school. Here is a brief outline of some of the school activities we have planned. Individual teachers will pass on further details about what is going on in their own classes.

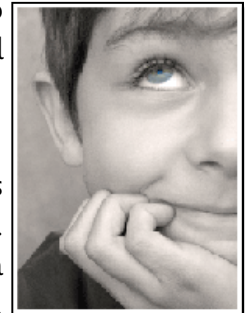


Year 1—6 Daily Team Challenges

Each day after morning play, the students will be organised into mixed Year 1-3 & 4-6 teams. The teams will work together and compete against each other to solve practical Maths-based problems.

Homework

Homework in Year 1-6 will take on a new slant this week with class teachers setting Maths theme related challenges that will include opportunities for families to work together. Alongside this, a specific age-appropriate Maths task will be set that will focus on developing the rapid recall of number bonds, times tables, counting on or back in 2s, 5s, 10s, etc.



Showcases

Early Years - Year 1 Open House - Wednesday 5th March, between 8:45 and 9:15am

Our Early Years curriculum and activities help develop children's initial building blocks for mathematical thinking, reasoning and problem solving. Building strong foundations are important to children's later success in Mathematics. Our Toddler, Preschool, Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Year 1 classes will be having an 'Open House' morning on Wednesday 5th March, between 8:45 and 9:15am. During this time, parents and visitors are welcome to see a glimpse of the range of mathematical experiences we offer in our early years classes.

Year 2 - 6 Maths Calculation Showcase - Friday 7th March between 2:15 - 2:55pm

On Friday 7th March, parents and visitors are invited between 2:15 - 2:55pm to experience Maths learning higher up in the school. Each class will be setting up 'Maths Stations' which will demonstrate how students calculate and approach various areas of the Maths curriculum. Students will lead activities for parents to participate in and have the opportunity to speak about and explain their learning. We hope the Showcase will be a good opportunity to visit each class and discover the phenomenal knowledge and understanding that takes place in a child's mathematical learning during these mere 5 years through Years 2 to 6.

World Book Day (Thursday 6th March)

World Book Day falls during our theme week, so on this day we will redirect our focus slightly away from Maths and explore the theme of 'Bedtime Stories'. Throughout the day, classes will share their favourite stories and join in with cross-curricular activities about books and reading.



We are in the process of planning a special 'Bedtime Storytelling' evening. This has been a very successful and enjoyable event in the past, with the children returning to school in the early evening for a collection of stories, dressed in their pajamas, hugging their favourite bedtime cuddly, drinking a glass of milk and munching on a cookie. Do let us know if you would like to be a storyteller and join us for the evening. Look out for further details early next week.

Wildlife Connections!

A number of community wildlife events are taking place over the next few weeks and here at Provo Primary we are keen to be involved in projects that promote nature conservation and teach children about the beauty, value and need to protect our wildlife.

World Wildlife Day Photo Competition

There is still time to enter the DEMA and the Department of Agriculture 'Wildlife Digital Photo Contest'. It has been great to hear that many students are considering entering. Get snapping this week and join in the celebration. We have some truly amazing native wildlife all around us. From plants to animals, big and small - take a photo of what interests you and captures your vision of the beauty of our island wildlife.



Here at the school these past weeks, we have enjoyed seeing many Bahama Woodstar hummingbirds in our aloe flowers and Moringa tree blossom. We have also seen and heard mockingbirds, along with a few visiting and resident warblers and bananaquits with their bright yellow chests. How lucky we are to have such amazing wildlife right here in our busy playground.

The competition is open to all Provo Primary Students - from Toddlers to Year 6! Submissions need to be in by 4:00 PM on Monday 3rd March and first prize is \$100. See the full competitions on our blog.

Fabien Cousteau to Visit Provo

You may already be aware that Fabien Cousteau is visiting Provo during the week of 28th February - 6th March to support the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund's (TCRF) environmental efforts. Fabien is a world-renowned conservationist and environmentalist and the grandson of Jacques Cousteau.

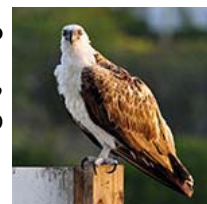


As part of Mr. Cousteau's visit, the TCRF have organised an Educational Outreach event for the TCI Student Community. Our Year 5 and 6 students have been invited to attend a presentation on Tuesday 4th March where Mr. Cousteau will be speaking to the students about the importance of protecting the marine environment. We would like to thank the TCRF for organising this fantastic opportunity for our students.

You can learn more about TCRF and the many community events and fundraisers that are planned whilst Mr. Cousteau is here at their website, www.tcreef.org.

World Osprey Week

Did you know that it is first ever World Osprey Week during the week of 24th - 28th March? This is an exciting opportunity for families and schools to learn more about our local ospreys, to follow the amazing migratory journeys of satellite-tagged ospreys around the world and to make contact with schools on migratory flyways. Check out www.ospreys.org.uk/ website for more details and see our school as one of the Osprey Flyways Project Schools.



Here in the Turks and Caicos we are fortunate to have ospreys nesting close to the beach for us to observe. With ample food all year long, our sub-species lives here throughout the year. Why not plan a family trip to one of the nesting sites in Turtle Cove or Leeward to watch these majestic birds of prey.

During World Osprey Week we are organising a special assembly. We have invited experts from the Department of Environment and Marine Affairs (DEMA) to come and give us presentation about our local ospreys. Vet, Mark Woodring has recently been nursing an injured osprey and we hope that he will be able to come along to tell us about his experience. DEMA will also possibly be having a special art competition for our students during this week. Look out for further details in the coming weeks.

Promoting Health and Fitness - Let's Get Physical

Physical Education (PE)

Our Physical Education Programme continues to develop with new sporting opportunities that have been introduced this Spring term. In Key Stage 2 (Yr 3-6), alongside our established Tennis and Gymnastics units, we have introduced Field Hockey. Using the new equipment purchased with PTA funds, the students have been excited to learn this new sport. In particular, they have found it interesting to compare the similarities and differences between it and the roller-blade hockey that many students play in the Provo Hockey League (PHL). Last week, we had our first of two hockey showcases with many parents coming along to support their children. It was an exciting tournament and it was impressive to see the students play with such a high level of skill and game play knowledge after only a short time of learning. Our next showcase will be on Tuesday 8th April. Well done Miss Mani, Mr. Toby, Miss Cara, Mr. Jason and Mrs Shara for your continued excellent PE teaching.



Keeping Healthy Week

Each term we incorporate a 'Keeping Healthy Week' into our calendar of events. During the week of 7th-4th April, in keeping with our school curriculum focus on Mathematics, we will be exploring the theme of the 'Calculating Health!' as we promote healthy lifestyles through a variety of number-crunching activities.



Early Years and Key Stage 1 and 2 Sports Day

This half term in Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Yr 1-2), students are all preparing for their Sports Days. These will take place during 'Keeping Healthy Week' on Wednesday 9th April on our green field and at the Graceway Sports Centre.

Two Provo Primary Students Represent TCI in an International Soccer Tournament

Congratulations to two of our Year 3 students who represented the TCI in a recent International Under-nine Soccer Tournament in Orlando, USA. Team TCI were the only unbeaten side in the group stages, winning all three games up to a penalty shoot out in the semi-finals. Their coach commented, "All of the players can hold their heads up high. This was their first ever competitive test and they competed very well indeed." Well done, boys!

Inter-School Competitions

We are awaiting confirmation on this year's Inter-school Soccer Tournament and hope to send an athletics team to the Interschool Track and Field Classics on Thursday 10th April. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and is interested in these events, then joining the Soccer and Athletics after-school clubs is encouraged—spaces are still available. Look out for more details on these two events later in the term.

Cricket Club Starting Next Term!

We are pleased to announce that Matthew Green from the TCI Cricket Association (TCICA) will be offering an after-school Cricket Club as part of their youth development programme. With school clubs already on everyday this term, he will offer a couple of taster sessions during school time towards the end term with a view to offering a club throughout the Summer term. As previously, with our parent-run after-school Soccer Club and our TCIRFU Rugby Club, we will charge \$5 for each session and all of this money will go towards the purchase of additional cricket and sports equipment.



NEWSFLASH - Look out for details of our triathlon school fundraiser planned for the first week of April.

School Council News

The School Council have been busy planning and thinking about ideas to develop our school grounds. Working together with the school and PTA, check their recent [blog posts](#) to learn more of what they are working towards.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support our School Council Recycling project. We hope that the recent 'What can we recycle?' posters have been helpful in reminding you about which types of materials we can accept.



Up-coming PTA News

We have a number of up-coming PTA events this half term to look forward to.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our PTA meeting early this term. Please feel welcome to look through the PTA folder that is kept in the office to see the minutes from the meeting.

Family Skate Night this Friday!

Don't miss the PTA's 3rd Annual Family Skate Night at 6pm, this Friday the 28th of February at the Graceway Sports Centre.



Get your skates on and come dance, skate to great music, enjoy fresh baked goodies or just socialise with a drink on the bleachers!

Tickets are \$10 for skaters, \$5 for non-skaters, children under 3 free; the puck shooting contest is an additional charge (prizes will be given out to winners). All children need to be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Skaters under 18 must wear a helmet.

Volunteers are needed, sign up sheets will soon be posted by your child's classroom door.

Family Beach Day

Sunday 9th March - 3pm-6pm.

Hunting for Eggs

Our last day of term promises to be an 'egg-citing' fun-filled morning of traditional activities.



We will start the day with our Early Years Spring Bonnet Parade followed by our PTA Egg Hunt. We are so egg-static, we can hardly wait!

Please see Haley if you are able to help with organising and running this event.

PTA Cocktails and Curry Fundraiser Next Term

With the smashing success of last year's event, we are working on a similar theme for this year's PTA fundraiser. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 16 at Bay Bistro.

Tickets will be \$55 and include a gorgeous curry buffet with desert, silent and live auctions. Only 135 tickets will be available. Plans for a post-party are in the works as well.

Please see Haley if you are able to volunteer with organising this event.

And finally...

Thank you for taking the time to read through this bumper edition of the School Newsletter. As always, thank you to the children, staff and parents for all your hard work and continued support. If you have any questions or queries concerning the school or your child/children, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher or contact me at school.

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Remember to keep checking our School Blog to see a glimpse of what is going on around the school.

www.provoprimary.com