



School Events Newsletter

Tuesday 9th February 2015

Looking ahead to an eventful Half Term

As we return relaxed after our mid term break, this newsletter serves to let you know more about the events and activities coming up in the second half of this Spring term. There is a lot of information to digest as you read through this newsletter, much of which will be displayed in shorter chunks on our blog if you prefer accessing it in this way. Either way, be sure to keep an eye on your child's class noticeboard, along with posters displayed in the walkways, to ensure you are up-to-date with the latest news and know what is coming up, week by week.

Developments in our Computing (ICT) and Literacy Curriculums

This year as part of our school improvement plan, we have been focusing on the development of the teaching and learning of Computing and Literacy throughout the school.

Tapping into the wealth of expertise of our teaching staff, we have already been involved in a number of staff professional development workshops, exploring the teaching of these subjects, and sharing knowledge of exciting initiatives and resources that we can use to stimulate and enhance our students' learning.

There are a variety of computing and Literacy based activities for you to become involved in both at home and at school, this up-coming half-term:

E-Safety Learning

Children love using technology and the Internet and are learning to navigate websites, online games and consoles, and touch screen technology like iPads and smartphones from a younger and younger age. Technology is advancing at a phenomenal rate and we understand that children are experiencing things we never did when we were their age. Parents can sometimes find it challenging to keep up to speed with what children and young people are doing online. Also, as children grow, their use of technology and the Internet will in turn develop. Just as you as parents protect your children in the offline world, it is important to provide support and guidance when it comes to managing their lives online, encouraging them to use the internet positively and safely.

In school this last half term, classes in KS1 and 2 have been exploring the theme of e-safety as part of their Computing curriculum. We aim to teach our students to use technology safely and respectfully, focusing on them understanding the importance of keeping their personal details private when online, considering who they are talking to and making sure a trusted adult knows what they are doing. Older students also learn about where they can go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies. Continuing into the Summer term, we will be exploring the topic of age appropriate and healthy use of technology (age indicators for games, time spent and sites used, etc). Our older classes will also look at the topic of Cyberbullying, which in future will be a focus for all students in KS1 and 2 in the Autumn term. *Continued overleaf..*



E-Safety Learning cont...

We encourage you to explore the many websites that offer information and support for parents, such as www.thinkuknow.co.uk and www.childnet.com. We hope that you will join with us in reaching out to your children by asking them about how they are using technology and the Internet. Collaborative conversations between you and your child will enable you to guide them to learn to make safe online decisions and to feel happy coming to you when they feel they need help.



Safer Internet Day—“Let’s create a better Internet together”

Safer Internet Day is organised in February of each year to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially amongst children and young people across the world. The official day this year is Tuesday 10th but, as this is during our mid-term, we will recognise this day on our return on Wednesday through to Friday with a variety of class and mixed-class activities.

Ask your child about what they are learning about at school and look out for examples of our school e-safety learning at our Education Week Open House on Friday 6th March.

Keeping Healthy Week - “Do you have a Healthy Tech-life Balance?”

Each term we incorporate a ‘Keeping Healthy Week’ into our calendar of events. This term it will be during our last week of term (21st –27th March). Our theme will connect with our focus on our Computing curriculum: “Do you have a Healthy Tech-life Balance?”. It will act as a spring-board to more in-depth learning in the Summer term.

Tech to life ratio—What does your family consider a ‘Healthy’ Balance? We often hear the phrase - ‘Screen Time’, which helps to promote a happy medium that encourages children’s use of technology for learning, development and positive social interaction, while protecting them from developing addictive or compulsive behaviours with technology.



During the week we will be exploring this theme through a variety of in-house activities. To kick-start the school week, I propose that we pledge an ‘Unplugged Monday’ and have a day free of all technology being used in school. Our families could have a ‘Family Unplugged Day’ the day before on Sunday 22nd, between sunrise and sunset? Perhaps our PTA would be interested in organising a beach day as it will also be ‘World Water Day’. It will be interesting to reflect on these two days and to consider the impacts we will have experienced.

Aquaponics/ Garden News

Our Aquaponics is doing really well and we will have another harvest of basil and tomatoes to sell this week. We have been very fortunate to have Caren and Paula helping us with our garden this term. We have also had a lot of big pots donated by Natalie and a table & chairs set by Heidi.

Our roosters and chicken are doing well. Sadly, however, following some feline suspicious behaviour, we only have one quail remaining. The lone survivor is Nemo, who initially struggled to hatch from his egg and has a deformed foot. Go, Nemo!

PTA News and Up-Coming Events

With a successful Movie Night and Yard Sale already under their belt this term, the PTA prepare for further events and fundraisers for us to join in with and enjoy:

February

Friday 13th - Valentines Bake Sale
Friday 27th - Family Skate Night

March

Thursday 5th - World Book Day Storytelling
Friday 6th - Movie Night
Sunday 8th - Family Beach Day
Friday 27th - Annual Egg Hunt



Looking ahead to Theme Week 2015 (Mon 2nd - Fri 6th March)

Each year, we participate in our National Education Week celebrations by hosting a Theme Week. Centered 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 and some as a whole school. This year our theme will highlight aspects of Literacy and Computing, with the aim to explore, share and celebrate some new teaching initiatives that teachers have brought to the school through our professional development workshops:

Talk for Writing

The school is exploring the use of the 'Talk for Writing' approach to support the improvement of writing across school. It has been developed by educational writer and poet Pie Corbett and is a popular initiative in the UK that three of our teachers are already familiar with using with their classes.

*What is
Talk for Writing?*

'Talk for Writing' is powerful because it enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally through a 'talking text', before reading and analysing it and then writing their own version. It emphasises the importance of speaking and listening skills and performing texts using actions before moving on to writing. If a child knows the genre style and key language of a text really well, it makes the task of writing easier because they do not have to compose at the same time as tackling handwriting, spelling and punctuation. Talk for Writing works with any genre of writing and with both young and old children, even beyond the primary level. Children enjoy doing it, particularly as it also involves lots of language games, and role-play and drama activities, such as 'hot-seating', at various stages of the reading-writing teaching sequence. Look out for more information about 'Talk for Writing' that we will send out before the Open Houses below.

Early Years - Year 1: Open House - Friday 6th March, between 8:45 and 9:15am

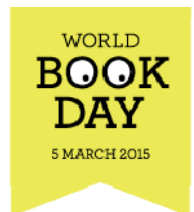
Our Early Years curriculum and activities help to build strong foundations that are important to children's later success in literacy. During the Open House, parents and visitors are welcome to glimpse of the range literacy based experiences we offer in our early years classes. Discover how the benefits of introducing 'Talk for Writing' at this young age will pave the way for children to make a good start on becoming independent readers and writers later on.

Years 2 - 6: Open House - Friday 6th March between 2:15 - 2:55pm

On Friday afternoon, parents and visitors are invited to experience elements of our Literacy and Computing teaching and learning higher up in the school. Each class will be setting up 'stations', which will demonstrate learning in these subjects. Students will lead activities for parents to participate in and have the opportunity to speak about and explain their learning. We hope this will be a good opportunity to visit each class and see how 'Talk for Writing' is developed and is of benefit to your child as they progress through the school.

World Book Day (Thursday 5th March)

World Book Day falls on the Thursday of our Theme Week. All students will be invited to come to school dressed as one of their favourite story characters and parade onto the stage to share who they are and to display their creative costumes. Throughout the day, they will join in with cross-curricular activities about books and reading. Together with the PTA, we are in the process of planning a special 'Storytelling' event under the gazebo in our new garden area. Let us know if you would like to be a storyteller and join us for the morning or afternoon.



Promoting Health and Fitness

Key Stage 2 Physical Education (PE) Showcases

The focus of our Years 3 - 6 Physical Education Programme this term is on Gymnastics, basketball and volleyball. We are fortunate to be able to access the Graceway Sports Centre facility for these activities and would like to thank them for their continued support. We will be hosting two showcase sessions this upcoming half term for you to come along to: Tues 17th Feb and Tues 24th Mar, both starting at 9AM.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Sports Day

This half term in Early Years and Key Stage 1, students are all preparing for their Sports Days. These will take place during 'Keeping Healthy Week' on Wednesday 25th March on our green field and at the Graceway Sports Centre. More details will follow closer to the date.

Soccer News

Inter-School Competitions

We are awaiting confirmation on the arrangements of this year's Inter-school Soccer Tournament. It will be a one day under 11s competition and we hope to enter at least a couple of teams of enthusiastic players who would like to take part. Mr. George, our PE Co-ordinator, will send out more details on this event.

Two Provo Primary Students Represent TCI in an International Soccer Tournament

Congratulations to Jasmin and Kate, two of our Year 6 students, who played for the U15 Girls National Team in a recent KPMG Football Fest in the Bahamas. The team made it all the way to the semi finals.

Early Years Soccer Club—a great success

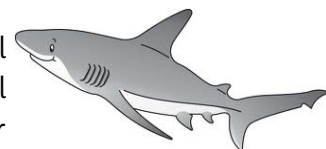
Our younger students are thoroughly enjoying our parent run soccer club on Tuesday afternoons at 4pm. Please come along if you are interested in your child attending. The \$5 donation will go towards purchasing new soccer balls and sporting equipment for future school/club use.

Celebration Assembly

Every Friday afternoon the children from Years 1 to 6 attend our Celebration Assembly. This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight community and personal sports achievements, so please let us know - be it horse riding, gymnastics, dance, swimming, hockey, ball and racket sports, martial art or any other sport. Early Years teachers would also be excited to learn of our younger children's sporting experiences.

Shark Poster Competition and Talk

Rob Stewart: director, photographer, and a conservationist will be making a special trip to TCI at the end of our Spring term. Rob is an active shark advocate and will be here to increase education and awareness about the importance of sharks in our environment. Look out for more details later in the term.



And finally... What a busy half term we have planned! 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. *Sian Jones*

PROVIDENCIALES PRIMARY SCHOOL
 Graceway, Providenciales
 Turks and Caicos Islands, BWI
 Phone: 649 441 5638
 E-mail: principal@provoprimary.com
info@provoprimary.com

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

www.provoprimary.com