



Providenciales Primary School

School Newsletter

Settling into the New School Year

October 2017

A month into the new school year, it is very pleasing to report that everyone seems settled and industrious in their new classes after a somewhat disruptive start. We are so grateful and thankful to have our Provo Primary Family back together again along with new families and staff! Like the leaves on the trees around school - we are bursting with new ambition; keen to keep growing and learning!

Our new Toddlers and Preschoolers are settling well and finding their feet. Across the school, with routines established and exciting topics in progress, as usual, there promises to be a multitude of events and activities to engage the children as we continue this term. I encourage all children to enjoy all the experiences on offer, to work hard to achieve their very best in all that they do.

With lots of information to pass on, 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.

PTA News: Exciting plans to restructure the PTA into Parents' Association!

As a school, we have always valued the importance of parental participation in children's learning and school life, while promoting the positive impact this has on academic attainment and educational outcomes. We have a wide ranging tradition of successful and enjoyable PTA events built into our yearly calendar that are much enjoyed by both children and parent alike.

At the first PTA meeting of 2017-2018, proposed plans to restructure the present Parent Teacher Association (PTA) into a new Parents' Association (PA) were introduced. For details on the initial outline of this, please refer to the minutes of the meeting that have been emailed out to all parents. We would like to thank the previous PTA officials and supporters for the tireless hard work they have invested in recent years. We trust that with a positive liaison between the new PA and the school, we will continue to enjoy and build on the work that the PTA has accomplished in the past to enhance the school.

Please note that the first meeting of the PA, due to take place on 15th November, 2017 @ 6pm, has now been brought forward to this **Wednesday at 12pm at Lemon to Go**. All parents are invited to attend and feel encouraged to participate in ways that benefit all our children and our community. Lise Gula and Steph Seguin have agreed to continue as PA Treasurer and Secretary at the last meeting, although Steph will be resigning from the position of secretary at the upcoming meeting on Wednesday.

If you would like to take on one of the key roles within the new PA - President/School Liaison Officer, Chairperson, Secretary etc. please note that these will be nominated at the upcoming meeting.

Please email Steph (seguin@gmail.com) or Lise Gula (paws_37@hotmail.com) if you cannot attend this particular meeting, but would like to be nominated for any of the above positions or have suggestions you would like to make.

Other Events:

The school looks forward to working together with the PA on community based events and activities throughout the year. A number of upcoming, planned events have already been mentioned in the PA minutes, so look out for more details on these from the PA soon.

PTA News—Continued...

Playground News:

Fortunately, all our new playground equipment (the boat, the teepee and the boat) withstood the force of the hurricanes. Unfortunately, the large play fort did not fair as well. The damage has been assessed and we await the decision of the new PA who are planning to discuss supporting the school with its repair or replacement.

The new basketball system has been installed and is ready for action.

Indoors, new soft play additions are being enjoyed by our younger children.



Halloween Party:

The Provo Primary Halloween Party is a much-loved, fun night for families on Provo.


Unfortunately, as explained at the recent PTA meeting (see the minutes for details), the School feels that it would be inappropriate to host a party this year.

School News:

Reading/General Expectation Meetings

Class Reading/General Expectation Meetings continue this week. K and KS1 Reading Meetings will take place this upcoming week – see your email inbox and class noticeboards for details. We hope that these meetings are both informative and helpful as we continue to strive to collaborate between school and home. With a strong commitment to continue to develop and update our reading resources, the school continues with its ongoing efforts to replace well-read and worn home reading books, to purchase new editions, utilise reading and phonic apps and to invest in further guided reading books for our upper year groups. New books are on the shelves and in classrooms and additional books are soon to arrive or be ordered, so look out for more new books as the year goes on.

Parent/Teacher Consultations (25th – 26th October)

 Parent/Teacher Consultations are available to all families. They provide opportunities to celebrate each individual child's unique personalities, strengths, interests, enjoyment and the contributions they make to their class, our school, community, and at home. They allow us to reflect on how a child is socially interacting and behaving in class and with other children in the school. They are an important time to discuss progress in a child's learning, talk about ways in which they seem to learn best and to set individual targets to work on. They also allow for collaboration on how to support and extend a child's school experience and learning at home. Our greatest investment as a school is in our quality teachers, and we encourage parents to come and meet them with a readiness to share positive attributes that they see in their child, with questions they want to ask and to be open with any areas of concerns that they feel. Appointment times are sent out to parents in SK-Yr.6. Early Years parents may sign up for meetings if they wish to arrange one.

Sports News

We are pleased to welcome to Mrs. Emma to our Sports programmes across the school this year. With lots of new equipment and new sports added to our curriculum (inc Gaelic Football!) Mr. Toby (PE Coordinator) is confident that we are set for an active year of sports and games across the school.

Unfortunately, due to damage at the National Stadium venue, our KS2 (Years 3 – 6) Athletics programme and Sports Day will be postponed until later in the year.

Clubs and Lunches

Our after-school club programme is underway. A few clubs are full, but there is still an opportunity to sign up for some clubs so check with Mrs. Stef or on [IsleHelp](#) to see what is available. Remember to send in extra snacks and water!

Water

Please ensure that your child brings adequate water for the day (with more on P.E. and club days). Should children run out of water, **emergency water** is available for top ups.



Curriculum and Resource News

Under the coordination of Miss Cara and Miss Claire, our Phonics and Spelling programmes are specific areas of focus for this year. After mid term, teachers will be using **Letterland** more and more across the school, and a **new spelling programme** will begin in Years 1-6. Miss Claire will also continue to promote **Talk for Writing** across the school.

Miss Cara (Spanish Coordinator) and Mrs. Yorcka will continue to introduce and use their **Spanish Passports** across KS1 and 2. Learn more about these on our website [here](#).

Starting after mid term break, Miss Laranda (Gardening Coordinator) will be working together with classes on setting up and developing the **Aquaponic and garden areas**. She will begin by working with the Year 6 class. The Gardening Club members were excited to start their first club experience with her last week, planting a new coconut plant in the playground.

New Geography and Maths games aim to bring excitement, interest and challenge to these subject areas across the school, and **more hands on Maths equipment** aims to build foundations and develop numbers sense in our Early Years and KS1. We also have **new STEM toys** for Early Years **a set of 10 new iPads**. Our school-wide network and Wi-Fi have been repaired and are also in the process of being upgraded. These are just a few examples of the many new teaching resources we have invested in this year, in addition to the usual on-going materials purchased each year. Mr. Jason (Science Fair/Quiz Coordinator) also oversaw the purchase of new **Science resources** funded by our FortisTCI National Science Fair prize money.

Christmas Shows (Yrs 1-6: 8th & 9th Dec / Early Years: 13th Dec)

We are excited to announce our Christmas Shows for this year. Early Years will be taking on a Letterland theme with Provo Primary production - **'A Letterland Christmas'**. Letterland is a phonics-based approach that we use to teaching reading, writing and spelling throughout the school. Letters and sounds are transformed into Letterland characters who all live in an imaginary place called Letterland. We look forward to stepping into Letterland at Christmas time and watching our youngest children up on stage.

Years 1—6 will be performing **'Pantastic'**. It's an adventure like no other as Peter Pan whisks the intrepid Darling children off to the fantastical world of Neverland. It's a world of Lost Boys and villainous pirates, fearsome natives and enchanting fairies.

Mrs. Niki continues to offer her talents to our Theatre Arts programme and, after a first half term focus on singing, after mid term she will be primarily rehearsing the show with the children and developing their performance skills during her Theatre Arts lessons.

School Council and Community Outreach:

Developing a sense of responsibility to help and support the concerns of all in our community and the environment, both locally and around the world, is a fundamental aspect of learning at Provo Primary. We believe that it is important to empower children and encourage them to create positive change through their individual and collaborative work.

Our School Council will enter its 10th year next year and in its time, has achieved much for our school, and our local and wider community. The school Council allows the children to participate in discussions and be involved in the school's decision-making processes, in order to give them the opportunity to make real choices and understand consequences. Their views are listened to and acted upon where appropriate. School Council Elections took place recently and the children who stood for election were praised for their courage to do so, their willingness to represent and do things for others and for their great ideas. Two School Council representatives were chosen for each class and will take on the responsibility to take the views of their classmates to the School Council meeting and to lead projects in the year ahead.

The School Council and its coordinator, Miss Mani, are excited about setting up the **new garden resources** that were purchased with funding they requested from the PTA last year. The aim is to further enhance this area as a quiet play and reading area. The new councilors have met today to decide upon the placement of the hanging seating and hopefully these will be up by the end of the week—fantastic!



Our **'Loose Parts' outdoor play resources** continue to develop under the Coordination of Mrs. Amanda, together with the school Council. She has gathered additional small world play and role play items from around the school that will be available for the children after mid term. It has been wonderful to see some children recently choosing to express their imagination with the loose parts. From a waterslide park adjoined to the water butt, to a stage built entirely out of wood pieces and then today a drum kit—everyday it's something new! It's also great to see all the age groups working together and coming up with such creative play.

The School Council is bursting with new ideas for the year ahead and are keen to spend the remainder of their Dress Down funds from last year to enhance the play areas further. Look out for a new chalk wall in the garden and extra ropes to use with the climbing trees. Throughout the school, our play areas are ever-evolving thanks to the direct inspiration of the children!

One of the projects our School Council will be involved in this year is our **South Caicos School Outreach Pen Pal Programme**. The school plans to connect closely with the two primary schools on the island. Creating a Pen Pal bond, the children will get to know each other and support each other after the recent hurricane events and throughout the year.

Miss Laranda, Ms. Alison and myself travelled to South Caicos to meet the District Commissioner and to visit the schools. We also took over some of the donations from the Aggressor ship based here on Provo. All schools on the island suffered structural damage and it is pleasing to hear today that all children will be back at school this week. We were able to meet with Mrs. Minett, the principal of Calvary Christian School, who showed us around and told us about their hurricane experiences. We are currently sharing news and pictures of the schools with our children and they are now creating 'hello' cards and pictures and writing letters to introduce themselves and our school.

We are also planning to work together with Sailrock and have met with Matt and Tara Bywater. Sailrock has donated 300 school bags to the children on South Caicos this week and Tara commented on the children from the Calvary Christian School's delight and appreciation when they delivered these. This week, Matt will be taking across hurricane relief donations collected at the school. These also include three suitcases of supplies that Mr. Toby recently brought over from families from his school last year in the UK. As our outreach programme develops, we are hoping that Sailrock will also be able to help support us with transporting groups of children to visit South, and children from South to visit us, so the children can meet up in person and share events and activities together. It is hoped that after mid term, the School Council will be able to travel over to deliver our 'hello' cards and letters in person and start to develop friendships. They will also research potential opportunities to put their recent generous \$195 Dress Down Hurricane Relief donations to good use.

A few other ideas are already in the pipeline, so look out for more news about our School Outreach Pen Pal programme as it gets going after mid term and throughout the year.

So here's to a great first term and upcoming year at Provo Primary. As always, 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. **Kind regards, Miss Sian (Principal)**

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www.provoprimary.com