



# SLIMBRIDGE

primary school

Newsletter 12 — 17.03.15

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are probably aware from September 2014 we introduced a new National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2. We have been and continue to work hard to fully implement the necessary changes across the school.

New English and Maths curriculum changes have been of high significance and public interest. In implementing the new curriculum, the Education Secretary was keen to ensure that standards in both core subjects were **raised significantly** by bringing learning from later year groups down into earlier ones. At the same time, National Curriculum Levels were abolished as they now only correspond to the assessment of the previous National Curriculum. Both changes continue to present a number of issues for state schools nationally but, most immediately, they have a significant impact on how we report progress to parents.

As the new curriculum has not been fully implemented and embedded, children have not had the time and opportunity of having been taught at the new age related standard year on year. As a result, many children will currently be assessed as falling short of the new 'Age Related Expectations' (ARE) in these subjects. **This is to be expected.** We would only anticipate these new standards being met by our pupils once they have been given significant time and opportunity to learn the new skills.

We have adopted an assessment system that is based on single year group criteria, therefore if your child is in Year 3 they will be measured against a set of skills and knowledge for that year group. This will be divided into whether the child are 'not yet achieving age expected levels', 'assisted', 'independent' or 'mastered' or 'exceeding expected levels'. We would anticipated that most children will be assisted at the start of the year and work towards mastery. Achievement of the English and Maths ARE will take varying degrees of time for children to reach, dependent on the individual, their stage in the school, whether they have Special Education Needs etc.

As children in Year 2 and Year 6 must be taught as per the pre-September 2014 curriculum then they continue to be assessed using National Curriculum Levels and so remain unaffected by the new system.

As time passes and we gather more school and national data surrounding pupil achievement under the new National Curriculum, we will strive to give you more contextual information as to the proportions of children achieving the ARE each year in each year group.

We hope that you can appreciate some of the difficulties that all schools currently face in these times of change and uncertainty. We appreciate both your support and patience during this period of transition.

Best wishes,

Alison Cooke

## IMPORTANT DATES.

Friday 20th March—Interstellar Science for Yr 4 & 5

Monday 23rd March—Physics Workshop in school

Friday 27th March—Easter Assembly 1.30pm at the Church.

Saturday 28th March—FoSS Easter Egg Hunt at Rosie's Wood. 10.00—12.00

Tuesday 7th April—Superstars Holiday Camp

Monday 13th April—first day of Term 5

Monday 27th April—Classes 1, 1A & 2 to Noah's Ark

**Slimbridge Sports Day—  
Saturday 13th June at 2.30**

## Clothing

We have had a number of children losing clothing and PE kit. Please ensure that all uniform and PE kits are clearly named so we can reunite them with their owners.

**All children need suitable PE kit, trainers/plimsolls for PE or they will not be able to take part in some activities**

**We again have cases of head lice across the school - please repeat treatment as appropriate**

## FOSS events for the coming year

Date	Time	Event	Event for
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	10-12pm	Easter Egg hunt	Family
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Pick up at 9am from British Legion	Bags 2 school 	
17 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	After school	Scholastic Book Fair	Children
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2015 (Provisional date)	5-6pm KS1 6-7pm KS2	School disco	Children
20 <sup>th</sup> June 2015		Summer Fair	Family

### Solar Eclipse

The journey into school will be like no other on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. You will be bringing your children to school during a 85-90% partial eclipse. Did you know that the next partial eclipse in Britain is not until August 12 2026 and the next total eclipse in will be in September 2090?



Have a look at some exciting resources, simply use the following link [http://www.parentapp.co.uk/Eclipse/?utm\\_source=Eclipse%20email&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Eclipse%20Email](http://www.parentapp.co.uk/Eclipse/?utm_source=Eclipse%20email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Eclipse%20Email)

### The BIG Question.

What makes a good friend?

