

26th March 2024
Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are keeping well.

The Spring Term has flown by with a couple of days left until the Easter Holiday!

The children continue to flourish in our schools producing some remarkable pieces of work and can talk about their learning with confidence and enthusiasm. There has been a great deal of activity in all the schools this term. To see more news blogs of the learning experiences children are enjoying, please visit your child's school website.

Bridge Schools has celebrated its tenth anniversary

The multi-academy trust has grown significantly over the last decade one successful Ofsted has led to another, and more schools have joined. There are now 14 primary schools. The trust has attracted attention for its success in supporting schools to improve and the many positive Ofsted inspections have reflected this over the years.

Staff say that the support of the trust positively impacts their well-being and workload. In the Autumn term, Blisland Primary Academy also received a glowing report and Ofsted inspectors pointed out that; The trust and the school, work together effectively to realise their ambition for pupils. They have utilised collaborative opportunities with other trust schools to develop the effectiveness of provision.

Lego Champions!

On Thursday of last week, a small group of children from Darite Primary went to RNAS Culdrose to take part in the second day of the regional tournament of the First Lego League. The team "The Darite Virtual Pros" were up against a total of 60 other teams over the two-day tournament, which also included secondary schools! The children were judged on their attitude, professionalism, teamwork and graciousness towards each other and the other teams. No-one was able to top their score and, for the second year in a row, Darite were awarded the trophy for the "Robot Performance"!



To the children's delight, they were also awarded the Champion's Award for the highest overall score for the day. Winning the regionals has earned the "Darite Virtual Pros" a place to compete at the National Finals in Harrogate, against all the other regional winners from across the whole of the UK in the summer term. We are extremely proud of their achievement and look forward to seeing how they get on. Good Luck!

Click [here](#) or visit Darite's website to read more about their innovation project and robot coding game.

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New Leadership Appointments

This term we have seen staff and pupils support interviews for new appointments across the Trust. After Easter, Wadebridge will be welcoming Mr Chris Wathern as their new Headteacher. Mrs Lee-Elkins has secured a Deputy Head post at Charlestown for September and will start the transition after Easter. Brunel will also be welcoming a new Headteacher in the Autumn term as Mrs Cooper looks forward to retiring after 36 years within teaching. Mrs Oliver at Pelynt and her husband will be moving to Hampshire over the Easter break, where she has secured a new headteacher role. Pelynt staff and children will enjoy having the familiar faces of Mr Alex Knight as Senior Teacher and Mr Dave Hannah Head of Duloe as interim Head after Easter as we continue our recruitment drive for the school. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Lee-Elkins, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Oliver all the very best for the future and welcome our new Heads as they arrive in school.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Please check to see if your child is entitled to receive free school meals as it not only helps your child but also the school receive additional funding to provide additional resources for the whole school to enjoy.

All reception, year 1 and year 2 children are eligible for universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You don't need to do anything for your child to receive these. However, if you are in receipt of the qualifying benefits listed below, you may be eligible for benefit related free school meals (FSM) if your child is aged 2, 3 or 4 (not yet in reception class) and is attending sessions both before and after lunch on that day or if your child is in year 3 and above.

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seekers' Allowance (Income-Based) and equal based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR) and equal based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) with an annual income of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Guarantee Element of Pension Credit (GPC)
- Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (IAA) Supports

Your child may also be entitled to free school meals (FSM) if you receive any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2025.

Click here to apply: [**Free school meals.**](#)

Even if you do not want your child to eat the meal, by applying for free school meals you help your child's school who will receive extra funding. It is also possible to send your child to school with a packed lunch of your own and add to it with food from the school kitchen.

Easter Holiday

We will close for the Easter holiday on Friday 29th March (Good Friday) and all schools will reopen on Monday 15th April as normal.

I am privileged to lead an incredibly talented set of staff with supportive trustees, members and governors who work hard to give the very best education we can to support all our children and families.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools