

# Mount Tamar Family News no 4- 10th March 2023

## Student Absence

If your child is going to be absent, please call this number to record this, giving your name, your child's name and the reason for absence. **07840 856030**

## Transforming Futures Trust

**We did it!** We hope you all received the email from Matthew Barnes, CEO of Transforming Futures Trust, our new Academy. Staff were delighted to hear that the conversion finally took place on 1st March 2023 and we are now part of Transforming Futures Trust.



As part of the conversion agreement, we were thrilled to hear confirmation of a £4.4million **rebuild** of the Row Lane Secondary building! This will mean a new PURPOSE BUILT provision for our students - nothing short of what they need or deserve, to enable them to enjoy their education time with us!

There will be lots of meetings and consultations prior to planning permission being submitted. Our wider community of families will be part of this process so do watch this space.

During this time we have had to make the decision to close our off site Wolseley Centre provision - the DT lessons will now take place on site at Row Lane. We have just appointed Mr David Perriam as our new teacher of DT - who is very excited about having a purpose built DT Room within the new Secondary build!

## NON PUPIL DAY REMINDER

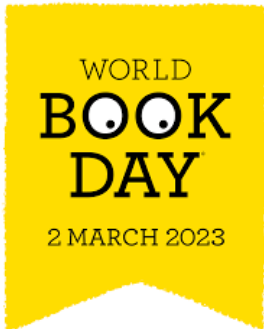
An additional INSET day has been agreed for us to undertake induction and health and safety training with the Trust. This date will be immediately after the Easter break - **on Monday 17th April**. The school will be closed to pupils on this day.

## SCHOOL DINNER MONEY

Texts and letters have been sent home this week to any parents / carers with arrears on their child's accounts. Please could you make sure that these accounts are paid up as soon as possible. Monies should be added to the accounts in advance each week, which will then ensure no debt is built. Thank you 😊

## TEACHER STRIKES

We plan to remain open for all the planned teacher strike days!



### Thank you for supporting World Book Day

Staff and students across all of our centres embraced the day and showed off their costumes!



### Student Attendance

30 students had 100% attendance in February and will be receiving their certificates this week - Well done!

## Things we are supporting in the coming weeks

### Red Nose Day - Friday 17th March 23

The theme this year is based on the Mr Men and Little Miss characters - feel free to encourage your child to come as one of their favourite characters from this series OR - wear something RED:)



### Wrong Trousers Day - Friday June 30th

This is simple! Send your child to school with their wackiest / weirdest trousers! All monies collected are for Bristol Children's Hospital - a very worthy charity.

***This letter was emailed to all parents / carers from Matthew Barnes CEO of Transforming Futures earlier this week. Mount Tamar Staff were glad to hear of Matt's permanent appointment - this will provide a strong, stable leadership for the school!***



Monday 6 March 2023

Dear Parents

Appointment of Mr Bindon as Headteacher at Mount Tamar School

Now that we have got the conversion of Mount Tamar over the line, I am delighted to let you know that we have appointed Mr Bindon as the permanent Headteacher at Mount Tamar School. I am sure you will want to join me in congratulating Mr Bindon on the formalisation of this appointment.

I know that many of you will have already had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Mr Bindon. If you have, I know you will already be feeling positive about the future of the school. We share that optimism and look forward to working with you and supporting Mr Bindon as we develop the school together.

Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

With very best wishes,

**Matthew Barnes**

**Chief Executive Officer**

## Information Received Regarding Product Recall on Mizzie the Kangaroo Teething Toys



This information was sent to all educational establishments nationally. If you are in possession of one of these toys - please return it to the retailer you purchased it from. The risk is asphyxiation - the risk is HIGH

## Useful Links

These links will be a permanent feature of the newsletter to ensure parents have up to date information and resources - all courses are free

### PLYMOUTH INFORMATION ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR SEND



Plymouth Information, Advice and Support for SEND (PIAS) provides information, advice and support relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) for parents, carers, children and young people within the Plymouth Local Authority area.

[PIAS website link](#)

### Place2Be - Parenting Smart Site

The [Parenting Smart site](#) is filled with a number of resources for parents and carers of 4-11 year olds. The new articles on supporting healthy gaming habits, developing a child's talent and safe social media for younger children can all be read or watched in under ten minutes. These are perfect for those with limited time!

[Parenting Smart site](#)

### Tik Tok! - what is it - how can I make it safe for my child?

Learn to feel safer and comfortable with your family using Tik Tok - use the link below for a useful 13 minute session

[Tech Tips - Tik Tok - click here](#)

## **ChatGPT Friend or Foe - The White Hatter**

The future is upon us. Or that is what the makers of ChatGPT would have us believe, touted as a true AI chat-bot (meaning it gives answers to questions) the makers of the software – OpenAI Laboratory, have rolled out an AI which generates content based on user demands. Launched in November last year, the programme has certainly made waves, with its supposed ability to answer essay questions, write computer programmes and create songs, poems and movie scripts. Indeed, so supposedly effective is it at enabling pupils to cheat their way to success in the classroom, that it will soon be referenced throughout the playground in an almost ubiquitous manner. So new and disruptive is this technology that some predict it will soon make google redundant, such is its ability to produce answers. And that leaves us in the educational sphere with a question, will ChatGPT be an ally or a hindrance to educating pupils. Well, The White Hatter has done its best to answer these questions, to find out more please follow the link below:

[What parents and educators need to know - click here](#)

## **Tech shock - online podcasts exploring digital family life.**

Subjects such as “are children being ripped off by online games”, “How we can children’s right to be on line with children’s right to be safe”

[Tech Shock Podcasts - click here](#)

## **National College - An introduction to “streaming”**

A 4 minute bitesize guide to online streaming

[Click Here for introduction to streaming](#)

## **National College - Annual Award for parents in “Online Safety”**

Separated into Key stages - click the one most relevant to your child

[Click Here for Annual Award in Online Safety](#)

A special BBC programme recently showed 2 parents who have bravely shared their experiences around County Lines - it shows the devastating impact that criminal exploitation has on families - it’s a hard but informative watch.

[Click here for BBC link](#)



Parents against Child Exploitation have updated their blog to share information on how to have a conversation with your child about online safety.

[Click Here for link](#)



### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS LINK**

If you think you might be eligible for **Free School Meals**, please check the eligibility criteria here <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolseducationchildcareskillsandemployability/freeschoolmeals>.

### **National Online Safety - Free online courses for parents**

Developed by safeguarding experts and presented by TV presenter, musician and passionate online safety advocate, Myleene Klass, these courses takes you on a detailed journey through your child's digital habits, explaining the type of online world they're experiencing now, what risks they might be exposed to and just what you can do to support. There are different links for different age groups - click on the link below and have a look ! They are **FREE**

[National Online Safety-link to parent courses](#)



## **Term Dates**

### **Easter Holiday**

**Last day of term: March 29th**

**First day back at school: TUESDAY April 18th**

**Coronation Bank Holiday - Monday 8th May 2023**

### **May Half Term**

**Last day of term: May 26th**

**First day back at school: June 5th**

### **Summer Holiday**

**Last day of term: July 28th**