

Bletchingley Village Primary School

Part of the Tandridge Learning Trust

Aiming high Working together Achieving our best

Newsletter No.1

Topic: Out of this world

Value focus: Respect



Twitter @bletchingleyVPS

As we start another exciting year at Bletchingley Village Primary School we welcome new children, parents, staff and governors; we hope they will all quickly feel at home and enjoy their time with us.

We have begun the year focussing on the value of Respect, particularly talking about respect for the older members of our community, who can often feel isolated. Understanding the depth and breadth of their knowledge and experiences can only enhance young lives and encourage more positive, active engagement. With the cold winter months approaching and the accompanying challenges many older people face, it is a good time to remember that supporting those who may be struggling is how good citizens can make a difference.

School Matters!



A huge Well Done and Thank You to everyone who supported our attendance drive last year. Parents, children and staff have all worked extremely hard to bring our Persistent Absence rate in line with that nationally and, although here is still some work to do, we have been extremely successful.

National Persistent Absence (PA) is about 8%, meaning that roughly 8% of children nationally have attendance below 90%. The year before last, our PA was 16% - double that of national. Last year ended with a PA at about 10%. This represents excellent progress towards our target to be at least equal to the national figure.

Poor attendance is one of the main causes of lower than expected attainment, with research showing that children with poor attendance in primary school very often go on to have poor attendance in secondary school also. This has a huge impact on attitudes to work, learning time and eventual life chances, which is why we take it so seriously. Good habits in place at a young age are more likely to lead to good habits later on too.

Our work will continue this year, so if there is anything you think we can support you with regarding improving your child's attendance, please ask at the office.



This is a new app, completely free to parents, through which we are able to send unlimited, free messages. As we move towards becoming a paper-free school, this will replace texts and many e-mail communications from September 2018, so please could you use the link to download it.

The app is also an easy, simple way for you to report illness to the office and receive a response. Medical help, sourced from NHS guidelines will appear for your information when you type in the reason for absence, which we hope you will find useful.

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Tandridge Learning Trust



Last year, Tandridge Learning Trust entered two bids on our behalf, for Government funding for building projects. One, to improve our lighting system following the fire last September, was successful with work completed during the summer holidays. We now have new lighting and new ceilings across most of the building. The second bid, to replace our aging boiler and heating system, was very close but unfortunately failed. We are hoping that this will be resubmitted this year. We are also hoping for a kind winter!

Open afternoon

We will be holding an Open Afternoon on Thursday 8th November. Please could you pass this information to anyone who is thinking of bringing their children to our school. Thankyou

Extended hours

With the school essentially being a community building, we are exploring the possibility of using it in a way that serves the area in a wider way. With this in mind we will be sending out a questionnaire, inviting views on expanding Nursery to include 30 hour and FEET (Funded Early Education for Two year olds) provision, as well as Wraparound Care to support working parents unable to secure a place at Oscas's. Questionnaires will be available on the website, at the office and, as this is so important, sent home with children in the next couple of weeks..

Nut Free School

Please can we remind you that we are a nut free school. Please can you make sure that no nut products are put in lunch boxes this includes peanut butter, Nutella etc. Thankyou

Parent meetings

We are holding the first of these closer to the half term, so that a more complete discussion can take place about how the children have settled in. The dates are Wednesday 3rd October and Monday 8th October from 3.30 until 6pm. There will also be an Open Classroom at the end of the autumn term, where there will be an opportunity to look at work done across the term. The exact date to be confirmed.

Reporting to parents

In an effort to provide parents with the most relevant and up-to-date information, whilst also ensuring the best use of teacher time we will be trialling a more frequent, but condensed reporting to parents. Short reports will be sent out in the second half of each term, with an opportunity to then meet with the class teacher to discuss any issues. We would be very interested in any feedback you may have throughout the year and we will review everything at the end of the year.

Music Lessons

If your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument please take a look at the Surrey Arts website or pick up a leaflet from the office. www.surrey.cc.gov.uk/arts.

One Way System

Can we just remind you that there is still a one way system operating at peak school times. Please adhere to this as it makes life much easier for parents dropping off at school.

School Entrance

Please use the designated school path and do not bring your children in through the front car park or walk up the exit ramp. There is a lot of vehicle movement at peak times. Thankyou

Photographs

Most of you will by now have seen our new web site. If you would like any of the photographs on there, they are available in digital form for £1 from the office. Many thanks to Richard Hughes who has helped us with this.

Uniform

Uniform is available to order through the website under "Parents information" then school uniform link. Plain white t-shirts and grey trousers from other sources are also perfectly acceptable for school. We have decided that we will stock water bottles in school and will be able to offer them at a reduced price of £1. So please ask at the office.

School Dinners

There will be an increase in the cost of school dinners next year. These will now be £2.30 per day, £11.50 per week, first half term £75.90. There are a large amount of outstanding dinner monies. Please can we remind you that these need to be paid for at least a week in advance.



POTTERY CLUB a message from Heidi Sumner

"Dolphin Dream Pottery will be on a Monday at 3.15 – 4.00 in September, starting back on 17th September through to 3rd December. This club is now full for this term but if there are any , Mums, Dads, Nans, Granddads, Aunts, Uncles or carers who would like to commit to a term as a helper; this would enable me to have more spaces available. Please contact Heidi Sumner on 07713139778 as soon as possible and we can discuss this further."



- 17th-18th September 2018 - Bikeability – year 4
- 21st September 2018 - Year 6 heights and weights check
- 28th September – Sapphire Bake Off
- 3rd October – Parent Consultations
- 5th October – New parents coffee morning
- 8th October – Parent Consultations
- 1st-18th October 2018 - Bikeability – Year 6
- 26th October - Emerald Bake Off
- 29th October – Halloween Disco
- 8th November – Open afternoon prospective new parents
- 17th November – Planting Day (Further information to follow)
- 30th November – Starlight Diamonds bake Off
- Mufti Day
- 7th December – Christmas Fair
- 5th & 6th December - Nativity Play 9.30
- 12th December – Aladdin, The Hawth (Whole School)

Term Dates for 2018 – 2019

Autumn Term

4th September Inset Day

School returns on Wednesday 5th September to Friday 19th October

Half term week Saturday 20th October to 28th October

School returns Monday 29th October to Thursday 22nd November

PLEASE NOTE 23rd November is an inset day

PLEASE NOTE 26th November is an inset day

School returns Tuesday 27th November to Friday 21st December

Spring Term

4th January Inset day

School returns Monday 7th January to Friday 15th February

Half term 16th February to 24th February

School returns Monday 25th February to Friday 5th April

Easter 6th April to Monday 22nd April 2018

Summer Term

School returns Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 24th May

Half term Saturday 25th May to Monday 3rd June

MONDAY 3RD JUNE INSET DAY

School returns Tuesday 4th June to Wednesday 24th July

Regarding Penalty Notices

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that each parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice.

If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.