

# Bletchingley Village Primary School

Part of the Tandridge Learning Trust

*Aiming high Working together Achieving our best*

**Newsletter No.3**

**Topic: Out of this world**

**Value focus: Tolerance**



Twitter @bletchingleyVPS

**Studybugs** 

Almost there! We now have over 80% of families signed up to Study Bugs and over 90% for Marvellous Me. Not only is this supporting our 'paper free' initiative and allowing celebratory pictures to replace paper certificates, but the cost to the school is more than offset by the savings we are making on text messages. As we, along with all other schools nationally, continue to look for ways to keep costs as low as possible without harming provision, we would like to thank everyone who has supported this.

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>

**Please can we ask anyone who hasn't signed up to do so if you can, as this is now our main way of sending messages. We are now not sending out e-mails or texts. If this causes a problem, please drop into the office and have a chat. Many thanks**

## Online Safety

**Online safety for our children has become one of our major concerns.** One of the most concerning areas is live-streaming, which can leave unsupervised children vulnerable to grooming. Another area is that of children watching inappropriate content and playing inappropriate games. We are seeing this seeping into school in the form of playground chat and even their writing.

The Governors will be discussing how the school should respond to this, as currently most guidance is just that, and so is not necessarily illegal. We will be considering how this aligns with safeguarding and well-being, and what action would be appropriate for the school to take.

In the meantime, we are now holding weekly sessions in each class to ensure children know how to keep themselves safe and understand why certain apps, games and videos have an age guide. If you would like more information or guidance on what is happening within the classrooms please contact Mrs Fletcher on [sarah.fletcher@bletchingleyschool.co.uk](mailto:sarah.fletcher@bletchingleyschool.co.uk) who leads Online Safety. We will be sending out regular support to parents. Please use this link <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/seven-questions-to-ask-your-child> to see what we have been working on in the classroom



## Online Parent Forum

**Following unsuccessful attempts to establish an 'actual' Parent Forum, we are delighted to announce our on-line forum.** We have begun sending out draft documents to parents who have volunteered to review them and send back comments. The Home School Agreement has now closed, but the collection of Skills, Knowledge and

Experiences that should be included in the children's curriculum is open to contributions until the end of this term. If you would like to join, please contact the office [info@bletchingleyschool.co.uk](mailto:info@bletchingleyschool.co.uk)

Future discussion documents (in no particular order):

Homework Policy

Online Safety Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Attendance Policy

### **Home School Agreement**

**This will be sent out to all families via Study Bugs, will be on the website and on posters around school.**

As it is no longer a required document, it does not need to be signed, but we feel it does help to make expectations for, and of, everyone clear. We have consulted with teachers, children, governors and parents, so feel it is genuinely representative of all involved. We ask that it is read and used as a basis for true home – school collaboration, in order that those we work together to support, namely the children, are able to achieve the very best possible in terms of mental and physical well-being and academic success.

### **Staffing Update**

As Year 5 parents will already know, Mrs Nieuwoudt is sadly leaving us at Christmas to return to her native country. We will very much miss her as she has quickly become part of our community, but we do wish her well.

### **Reports**

**These will be sent home on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.** A quick reminder that we are trialling shorter, more frequent reports, going out in the second half of each term. These will be shorter than before but, hopefully, contain more useful information. Formal teacher meetings will take place in the first half of each term, meaning that you will get either a verbal or a written update every half term. We would welcome feedback at any point in the year.

### **Oxted Library**

On Saturday 1st December Oxted Library are having a 'LEGO Card Swap Meet' at Oxted Library from 11.00 - 12.00. Children (and others) can simply drop in and swap their duplicate cards with other collectors and (hopefully) complete their collection.



### **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](http://www.surrey.cc.gov.uk/arts).

### **Armistice Memorial**

Finally, if you can find time to come to the reception area and see our commemoration of the Armistice Centenary, do. Every child made a poppy, which was presented at our Armistice Remembrance Assembly and then used to create our memorial. It really is stunning. Thank you to Mrs Smithson who designed it, Mr Ward who put it all together and all the staff who organised the children to do such a wonderful job.

### **Events**



### **Christmas Craft Fair in Nutfield**

**Saturday 24th November, 10am to 2pm Church of St Peter & St Paul, Church Hill, Nutfield RH1 4JA**

Please join us for a wonderful Christmas Craft Fair in Nutfield. The Church will be taken over with Christmas stalls, selling handmade Christmas goods, gifts, decorations, candles, arrangements, bunting, crackers, cakes and more. All your Christmas shopping under one roof! A Children's face painter will be there to paint some festive faces. Refreshments will be available to buy and entry is free. Parking can be found in the car park opposite the church. Please note that most stalls will only accept cash payments. This event is not to be missed.



### **Planting Day**

**This will be on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>.** As part of our on-going grounds development, we have received a delivery of shrubs and small trees. FOBS are organising a 'Plantathon' and will be providing tea and cake for all helpers. The children absolutely love the time they spend around the grounds, so if you are able to give donations of shrubs, bulbs or time, it would be hugely appreciated by everyone.

### **Christmas Nativity and Carol Concert**

**We have our usual Christmas events to look forward to this year – please remember to check the dates.**

**Whilst the vast majority of people were able to enjoy the effort the children and staff put in to the Harvest celebrations in church last month, some were not. Please be respectful of everyone watching. Excessive noise is distracting for the children and their parents, so please do not take offense if this is mentioned to you. Thank you.**

### **Book Fair**



This will be held in school between 3.15 and 4pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December. 11.30 to 12.00 and 3.15 to 4pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 11.30 to 12 and 3.15 to 4.00pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. Please come and have a look for your Christmas gifts.

### **Gentle reminders**

#### **Attendance**

**Following an excellent improvement in attendance last year, our target is now to be in line with national, which is great news.** We will continue our drive for improving attendance, and so children's learning, as this is one of the most effective ways we can ensure their best possible future in terms of both GCSEs and employment.

If your child needs to leave early for a medical appointment, please request permission in good time. This can be by letter, e-mail or, if this is not possible, by telephone before 2.45. Requests made later than this may not be successful as office staff are by then busy with parents and telephone calls and so cannot leave to find children. If this happens, please accept our apologies and remember that staff will always do their best to help.

#### **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

## **Outdoor clothing**

**Children are still arriving in school without wellies or even coats.** Please make sure children do have a warm, named coat and shoes they are able to get dirty, preferably wellies in this wet weather. We struggle to keep mud out of the corridors and classrooms at this time of year, so your support is appreciated.

## **Uniform**

**Our uniform policy is available on our website.** Please ensure children are wearing the correct jumpers, trousers and shoes. If there is a temporary problem, let the class teacher know or come and have a chat at the office; if we can help, we will. If incorrect uniform is persistently worn, please expect a member of staff to ask about it.

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 £1.40. So please ask at the office.

We have a quantity of size 22" school polo shirts (age 2-3) for £3 or 2 for £5. Please speak to the office if you would like to take up this offer.



- 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Inset Day
- 26<sup>th</sup> November – Inset Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – Starlight Diamond Bake off
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Immunisations
- 1<sup>st</sup> December – Planting Day (free refreshments for volunteers)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December Book Fair 3.15-4.00pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fair and Making Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal 9.30
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Play 9.30 (Adults only)
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> December - Book fair 11.30-12.00
- 12<sup>th</sup> December – Aladdin, The Hawth (Whole School) – Class parties
- 13<sup>th</sup> December – School Christmas Dinner
- 14<sup>th</sup> December - Music & Mince Pies 1.30
- 14<sup>th</sup> December – Emerald Assembly
- 17<sup>th</sup> December - Open Classroom 3.00pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Concert in Church 2.00pm

## **Term Dates for 2018 – 2019**

### **Autumn Term**

4<sup>th</sup> September Inset Day

School returns on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Half term week Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> October

School returns Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
PLEASE NOTE 23<sup>rd</sup> November is an inset day  
PLEASE NOTE 26<sup>th</sup> November is an inset day  
School returns Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

### **Spring Term**

4<sup>th</sup> January Inset day  
School returns Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
Half term 16<sup>th</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> February  
School returns Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter 6<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018

### **Summer Term**

School returns Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
Half term Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE INSET DAY  
School returns Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.*