

Newsletter

September 2018



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the start of another busy and exciting year for our children. I am sure you all enjoyed the summer break but were probably ready to hand your children over to us by the start of the new term!

We have experienced an incredibly settled and calm start to the year given the number of new children that have joined us.

When we opened the school in September 2016, our total pupil numbers including nursery was 101. Last September that grew to 175 and this September over 300 pupils. I think it took us all by shock, what impact that increase in numbers would have.

However, we have maintained a very happy, calm and organised environment for the children to enjoy and already classrooms are quiet with teaching and learning taking place, perhaps with the exception of Early Years in terms of 'quiet'!

The children look incredibly smart attending school in their uniforms, even our smallest children in Nursery! Thank you for maintaining the high expectation we have in terms of uniform, which includes no extreme hairstyles, no nail varnish, no jewelry (except small stud earrings and watches) and for following the school uniform guidance which can be found on the school website and in the Parents' Handbook.

Our Year 6 children look very grown up with their school ties, (when their shirts are tucked in!) identifying them as the most senior children in the school and with most responsibility to ensure our school expectations are modelled to the rest of the school population. I know they do a fantastic job with this!

So early in the term there is no news to report in terms of what different classes have been experiencing, however, there is lots of activity taking place in classes with regard to elections for School Councilors and House Captains, selection of Librarians, class and lunchtime monitors. This half term, teachers tend to plan a settled period to enable the children to become accustomed to the new expectations and routines in their new class.

Winning House for 2017-2018

The winning House last year, Blue Basilisk, enjoyed a lovely afternoon on Friday of last week at the local park. Temperatures were kept low by children and staff eating ice-lollies and on returning to school, there was much determination between the children to achieve the status of 'winning House' next summer. We shall see who will be victorious!

This Newsletter is an opportunity to remind parents/ carers of day-to-day operations that help the school to run smoothly.

PE Kit

I know there has been lots of 'mutterings' and confusion about the suggested changes to PE kits in school and for this I apologise.

Towards the end of the summer term I discussed at a Parent Panel Meeting, how parents would feel if the children came into school in their PE kit on the day they had their main PE lesson. The parents agreed it would be a better arrangement.

This was for a number of reasons; as the school grows, there will be a lack of space for our older children to change separately, lack of storage space for PE kits in classes and for the ease of our little children changing.

The children will need to have a pair of black trainers (no logos) or plimsols in school at all times for those additional opportunities of physical activity, dance or musical movement.

They will also need a plain, black tracksuit (no logos) to wear over their PE kit to travel to and from school and when the weather gets colder for PE lessons held outside.

PE Lessons:

Reception: Friday

Year 1CT: Tuesday

Years 1BT & 1ES: Friday

Years 2: Wednesday

Years 3: Thursday

Year 4: Tuesday

Years 5 & 6: Monday

This information will be included in the curriculum newsletter which will be sent home soon.

Communication

I am sure you have all seen the large Notice Board as you come through the gates at the side of the school building. Please do check it regularly for general information, administration information and events taking place in the school and local community.

Wise Pay

I am aware that Miss Reoch has recently sent out an email to all parents/carers apologising for the delay in accessing the online booking and payment system. Unfortunately, this has been totally out of our hands but we are hoping that it will be 'live' shortly.

Lunch Menus

With the new booking system, we have had to make some slight changes to how lunches are colour coded. Please **do not** assume that because you choose the yellow option (snack option) it **will not** be meat or fish. Please read the food option you have chosen carefully to ensure your child receives a healthy meal they will enjoy.

Sickness

It is important that if your child is ill, you report this to the school first thing in the morning. If your call is not answered, please leave a message.

Family Disco 21st September not 28th as previously advertised

Friday 21st September 6pm – 7.30pm the Parent/ Teacher Association will be holding a Family Disco to raise funds to establish the association. There will be ice creams/ lollies for the children (and adults) to buy and Mr Tully, our resident DJ will be commanding the mixing decks!

Those of you who attended our first Family Disco in the summer will remember there were a few 'hiccoughs'! We learnt much from that disco and are confident that this next one will run much more smoothly.

Tickets can be bought at the school office, £3 for a family ticket.

Buckingham Secondary School, Years 4, 5 and 6

Buckingham Secondary School (Sport Specialist School) will be holding an information evening for parents/ carers of children in Years 4, 5 and 6 on Tuesday 18th September at 5pm. They are presenting their school as another option for children attending Newton Leys and have said there are children living on Newton Leys that are already attending.

It may seem a little way off to some of you but the time for making your selections will soon come around and the better informed you are the more appropriate your choice will be for your child.

'Walking Bus'

Our aim when the school opened was to provide a 'walking bus' for those families living on the far side of Newton Leys. Members of school staff would collect children from parents at a central point on Willow Lake side of the development (probably the area of grass in front of what was Willow Lake Sales Office) and walk them to school. This would decrease the number of cars in the carpark in the mornings and assist families that find it difficult to walk children to school. If you would like to make use of the 'walking bus', please express your interest at the Reception Office.

I look forward to seeing you at the events planned this term and please do not forget; I am in school from 7.30pm to 6pm nearly every day. If you do have a query or concern, do not hesitate to speak to me.

Warm regards,

Pippa Villa

Dates for Diaries

September 18 th	Buckingham Secondary School Information Evening 5pm
September 21 st	Family School Disco 6 – 7.30pm
September 26 th	Open Morning 9am
September 28 th	McMillan Coffee Day
October 12 th	Harvest Festival Assembly 2.30pm
October w/c 15 th	Learn Alongside Individual photographs (winter uniform)
October 23 rd	Reception classes parent activity afternoon 2pm
October 24 th	Nursery classes parent activity afternoon 2pm
October 26 th (Friday)	Inset (children not in school)
<i>29th October – 2nd November Start of autumn half term holidays</i>	
<i>Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)</i>	
November w/c 5 th	Book Fayre (date tbc)
November 6 th	Parent/ Teacher Consultation Evening 5pm – 7pm
November 7 th	Parent/ Teacher Consultation Evening 4pm – 6pm
November 8 th	Parent/ Teacher Consultation Evening 4.30pm – 6.30pm
November 7 th – 9 th	Book Fayre
November 11 th (Sunday)	School to join Bletchley Remembrance Day Parade
November 16 th	Children in Need Peter Pan Pantomime
November 21 st	Parent Panel Meeting 8.45am
November 24 th (Saturday)	School choir to sing at Christmas Lights turn on in Bletchley
November 28 th	Open Morning 9am
December 18 th	Early Years Christmas sing-a-long 2.00pm
December 20 th	Christmas Lunch/ Christmas Jumper/ Father Christmas (EY & Yrs 1)/ Disco (Yrs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
December 18 th	KS 1 Christmas Nativity 6pm
December 19 th	KS 1 Christmas Nativity 2pm
December 21 st	School Christmas carol Service 2pm

<i>24th December – 4th January 2019</i>	<i>Start of Christmas holidays</i> <i>Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)</i>
January 9 th	Open Morning 9am
<i>18th February – 22nd February</i>	<i>Start of spring half term holidays</i> <i>Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)</i>
February 25 th (Monday)	Inset (children not in school)
March 6 th	Open Morning 9am
<i>8th April – 19th April</i>	<i>Start of Easter holidays</i> <i>Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)</i>
1 st May	Open Morning 9am
<i>27th May – 31st May</i>	<i>Start of summer half term</i> <i>Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)</i>
June 19 th	Open Morning 9am
<i>22nd July</i>	<i>Start of summer holidays</i> <i>Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)</i>