



Belmont Primary School Newsletter September 2nd 2016



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new year! It has been fabulous this morning to walk around to see how quickly the children have settled into their new classes and also looking so smart. We hope that you have all had a pleasant break and enjoyed spending some time with friends and family.

Puzzles Daycare

Last Wednesday, without any forewarning, Puzzles Daycare ceased operating with immediate effect. This will obviously cause inconvenience to a great many of you. I have been in contact with the local authority a number of times over the past week and shall be meeting with them next week to discuss how we can move forward and the provisions which can be put into place. We will ensure that you are kept updated with all developments as they happen. In the meantime, the school's breakfast club will be operating now from 8.00am so if you would like your child to attend, please inform the office so provision can be made. Further to this, there is a Freephone telephone number operated by the local authority which can assist in finding appropriate childcare solutions. This number is 0800 073 8800.

Parent Information Sessions

At the start of the school year, we feel it is helpful for parents to receive an overview of the expectations and curriculum for their child's class. With this in mind, we will be holding Information sessions for you to receive this information. The sessions will be held at 4.30pm in the Key Stage One hall on the following days:
Monday 12th September: Years One and Two;
Tuesday 13th September: Years Three and Four;
Wednesday 14th September: Years Five and Six;
Thursday 15th September: Reception

We really do hope that you are able to attend what we feel to be worthwhile sessions.

Timetable Alterations

We have decided to make minor amendments to the way the sessions are organised during the day. This will not affect starting and finishing times. Morning break will now begin at 10.10am until 10.25am and assemblies will take place in the afternoon. We feel that children are, on the whole, more receptive learners in the morning therefore it would seem sensible to make the most of that time..

School Lunch Money

For those who like to pay half termly, the cost for this half term is £72 (thirty six days).

School Reports

We have decided to introduce termly reports for Years One to Six. These will be shorter than the annual reports produced in February but we hope that more regular input, along with the Parents' Evenings, will provide greater insight into your child's progress at school.

Reading Draw / Reader and Writer of the Week

These initiatives will be continuing throughout this year to help encourage the children to work extra hard to make progress in their English skills. It was, however, disappointing last year to see how few children actually qualified for the book draw. For those unsure of how the book draw works, here is the guide:

All children must get at least four signatures acknowledging that reading has taken place each week. If they do this, a draw ticket is awarded. In Key Stage Two, the draw is fortnightly, in Key Stage One it is weekly. If your child's ticket is drawn from their class' box, they can choose a brand new book from those we have on offer. Further to this, each ticket awarded over the term is kept for a termly 'super draw' where Kindles in KS2 and book tokens in KS1 can be won. We hope to see all children entered on a weekly basis.

Diary Dates

The list below is quite extensive but we are trying to give as much notice as possible in relation to events throughout the year. Of course, more will materialise as time goes by but we do realise that many of you may need to organise time from work to attend some of the events below:

Monday 12th September: Years One and Two Parent Information Meeting (4.30pm);
Tuesday 13th September: Years Three and Four Parents' Information Meeting (4.30pm);
Wednesday 14th September: Years Five and Six Parents' Information Meeting (4.30pm);
Thursday 15th September: Reception Parents' Information Meeting (4.30pm);
Tuesday 11th October / Wednesday 12th October: Scholastic Book Fair;
Thursday 13th October: Harvest Festival (KS1 parents invited to attend);
Tuesday 18th October / Thursday 20th October: Parents' Evening;
Friday 21st October 3.10pm: Break up for half term;
Monday 31st October: Return to school;
Friday 25th November: PD Day: school closed;
Monday 28th November: PD day: school closed;
Friday 2nd December: Christmas Fair;
Wednesday 7th December: Nativity performance (Reception parents invited to attend);
Friday 9th December: Key Stage One / Two reports to go out;
Wednesday 14th December: Christmas lunch;
Friday 16th December: End of term;
Tuesday 3rd January: Return to school;
Friday February 10th: Break up for half term;
Monday 20th February: Return to school;
Wednesday 22nd March: Year Five residential visit to Robinwood;
Friday 24th March: Year Five return;
Monday 27th March: KS1 and KS2 reports to go home;
Monday 3rd April / Wednesday 5th April: Parents' Evenings;
Friday April 7th: Break up for Easter;
Monday 24th April: Return to school;
Monday 1st May: Bank holiday: school closed;
Monday 8th May - Friday 12th May: Year Six SATs Testing Week;
Friday 26th May: Break up for half term;
Monday 12th June: Year One Phonics Testing Week;
Thursday 6th July: Sports Day

This is rather an extensive list but I do hope that you find this useful.

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend,
Yours Sincerely,

Chris Gibson