

Bushey Heath Primary School

Newsletter: September 2018



A vibrant school inspiring children to realise their potential

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to the start of Autumn Term, and a particular welcome to our new parents and pupils.

This newsletter will have a slightly different format to the usual ones as I wish to share with you some of the exciting things that are happening at the school at the moment. I think it is important to keep you informed of the hard work going on behind the scenes (by both your children and the teachers).

I am very excited to say that the school has been selected to join the Primary Mathematics Teaching for Mastery Work Groups. Led by Mastery Specialists from the Matrix Essex and Herts Maths Hub from the National Centre for Excellent in Teaching Maths, they will be working with the school to develop approaches to teaching from mastery and greater depth within primary mathematics. This programme has been partly informed by the teaching of mathematics in high performing South East Asian jurisdictions. We are delighted to have been accepted as part of this initiative and will keep you informed as it develops.

DIGITAL MEDIA HUB UPDATE

The plans for the design of the Hub and the list of hardware and software that we will need to acquire have been submitted to support our grant application. We will learn in October whether we have been successful in securing the grant for the Hub. Thank you to all the children/parents/carers that have contributed to our fundraising effort, whether via our wonderful crowd funding page, the school summer fair or through other fundraising initiatives last year. The Digital Media Hub will go ahead regardless of whether we are successful with the grant - although we may have to adapt our expectations.

If any parent has an idea for other fundraising initiatives, please feel free to drop me a line.

RED TRUST FOOD BANK

Our Harvest Festival Service will be held on Monday 15 October 2018 at 9.15 am and we are collecting for the Red Trust Food Bank. I am sure that you will all want to contribute to a very worthwhile cause.

Please can you send the items into school from Monday 8 October 2018. The main hall doors leading onto the infant playground will be open first thing in the morning when you bring your child to school. Just pop the items inside the door. The items they require include canned meat / fish / vegetarian options, canned vegetables and fruit, tea, coffee, long life milk, cereals, washing up liquid, washing powder and sanitary items.

I regret that due to the size of our hall the invitation to parents must be restricted to parents of pupils in Years 6 only.



WELL DONE

I would like to share with you an excerpt from a letter I received recently from Herts for Learning:

I am writing to congratulate you and your staff on your wonderful Key Stage 2 results. I was impressed by the percentage of year six pupils who reached age-related expectations in reading writing and maths combined and the percentage that achieved greater depth. Your school is one of 11 in Hertfordshire whose pupils achieved or exceeded 85% ARA and 30% GD.

I also note that your progress measures for reading, writing and maths were all positive. This is a great achievement and I'm well aware of the hard work, commitment and no excuse culture that lay behind outcomes like these.

Please do pass on my congratulations to everyone in your staff team and thank you for your fantastic work.

Yours sincerely
Rachel MacFarlane
Director of Educational Services

'LOOKING AFTER MYSELF'

Our healthy living programme continues to grow. The current title for the programme at the moment is 'Looking after me: healthy body healthy mind'. This encompasses a variety of activities and programs designed to increase physical and mental health, for example:

Competitive sports: we continue to develop our football teams, netball teams, running club, table tennis provision and - in the summer - cricket provision. By investing in professional coaches we help develop the skills of the teachers as well as that of the children.

Self improvement: the school believes it is really important that all school children are able to access physical activity. Therefore, all children are equipped with pedometers and are encouraged to set themselves challenging daily step targets. These are inputted into an Excel spreadsheet and then fed through to our "walk to the moon project". All children are provided with skipping ropes and again are encouraged to skip throughout the day. Our new PE curriculum has introduced several new physical activities, for example Yoga and Pilates.

"From Seed to Plate":

As part of this project children are encouraged to understand where their food comes from and to appreciate their impact on the natural environment. To this end we have the following:

- "Forest School" project: the school has joined the Forest School Programme and we will be planting 30 trees and 30 hedge rose bushes in March to begin the creation of a forest area in the junior field.
- We took delivery of eggs, which Mr Moody and his class are carefully nurturing, and shortly the newly arrived chicks will be placed in our new chicken run. I am very grateful to the Friends of the School for raising the funds to allow this to happen.
- The greenhouse project continues to ensure that children are able to grow fruits and vegetables and hopefully this will become more successful as we will become more skilled in keeping the plants alive! We are always looking for parents that may support us in this endeavour.

Healthy Mind

The school places great importance in ensuring that children are able to manage their emotions and are given strategies to help when necessary. The school practices Mindfulness and Growth Mind-set throughout the day and our PSHCE lessons and regular assemblies ensure that eSafety training remains a priority.

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL - PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Hopefully you will nominate two representatives to sit on the Friends Committee and to act as Parent Representatives.

As a committee member on Friends you will be helping raise funds for school projects. This vital role has ensured we have had the funds to build our wonderful library and, moving forward, will enable the school to purchase a generously sized and, I have been assured, fox proof chicken run and will contribute to the development of the Digital Media Hub.

As a Class Representative you will liaise between the school and your class, meeting with the Headteacher on a termly basis. The Class Representatives of 2017 to 2018 have made a vital contribution towards the development of the school and I look forward to working with new representatives in the coming year.

Please note that the first class representative meeting will be held on 2nd November 9am.

ATTENDANCE

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success – both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child develop important social skills and friendships, and they are significantly more likely to succeed academically.

For example, young school pupils who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind in reading. As a parent you can prepare your child for a lifetime of success by making regular school attendance a priority.

Our new chicks have arrived – names to be announced shortly



BUSHEY HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL - DIARY DATES

Autumn 2018

Date	Event
28 Sept 13:30	Year 6 Science Outreach at The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School (2)
4 Oct at 16:00	Parent Consultations 16:00-19:00
5 October	Year 5 Activity Day - Merchant Taylors' School
9 Oct at 15:30	Parent Consultations 15:30-18:00
12 Oct at 13:30	Year 6 Science Outreach at The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School (3)
15 Oct at 09:15	Harvest Festival - Year 6 Parents Invited
29 Oct-2 Nov	Half Term
12-16 November	UK Parliament Week
14 November	Individual Photos
16 November	Flu Nasal Vaccination (Year R - 5)
14 December	KS2 - Aladdin Pantomime at The Radlett Centre
21 December	Autumn 2018 Term ends

Spring 2019

Date	Summary
7 January	Spring 2019 Term begins
18-22 February	Half Term
5 April Spring	Term ends

Summer 2019

Date	Summary
23 April	Summer 2019 Term begins
23 April	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 1
30 April	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 2
7 May	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 3
13-17 May	SAT's Week
14 May	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 4
20-24 May	Year 6 Boreatton Park Trip 2019
21 May	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 5
27-31 May	Half Term
3 June	Inset Day
4 June	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 6
5-7 June	Year 5 Hayling Island Trip 2019
11 June	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 7
18 June	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 8
25 June	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 9
2 July	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 10
9 July	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 11
16 July	Year 4 Swimming Lessons 12
19 July	Summer 2019 Term ends
22 July	Inset Day (1)
23 July	Inset Day (2)
24 July	Occasional Day