

Dear Parents,

Annual Written Report to Parents

The children's annual written reports will be sent out on Friday 15th July, along with their SAT results.

Parents of pupils in Reception will receive a detailed written report, explaining the Early Years Foundation Stage, how their children have been assessed and the progress they have made during their first year in school.

Pupils in Years 1 - 6 follow the National Curriculum, which has been completely revised. This academic year saw the introduction of the new National Curriculum across the whole age range, where assessment levels are no longer used. Instead pupils are now assessed according to whether or not they have met national age-related expectations. The government's expectation is that children will have a secure understanding of 100% of the Programmes of Study for their Year Group; there is no longer the possibility of using a 'best fit' judgement, as was the case previously. Consensus amongst education professionals is that this is very harsh requirement and although I agree with high expectations and aspirational targets, I believe this is going to be difficult for a number of our pupils, especially if they have special educational needs. In the pupils' annual reports this year, we have decided to leave most of the report unchanged, apart from the addition of a section reporting on the level of understanding that has been reached in reading, writing and maths. This will be recorded as a percentage of how much of the Programmes of Study, a pupil has secured. In Key Stage 2, the English Programmes of Study span a two year period, whereas in Maths, each Year Group has its own syllabus.

Class 3 and 4 pupils have already read their reports through and discussed them with their teachers. Younger pupils have not seen their reports yet as we leave it up to parents to share the contents with them as appropriate. When you receive the pupils' reports, please would you sign the attached slip, adding any comment you might wish to make in the space provided. The slip must then be returned to school in order that we can check you have received your child's report. Parents' comments will then be attached to the pupils' reports and kept on file. **Or** you may simply return the original report **signed** (with or without a comment) for us to copy for our records and we will send the report back to you to keep. Please note the grade on page 2 of the report relates to **effort** not attainment. If you wish to discuss anything on the report, please make an appointment to see me or your child's class teacher.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the teachers for all the huge amount of thought and effort that has gone into writing these reports; they are immensely detailed and I hope you find them helpful. Most of the reports are very encouraging and the vast majority of our pupils are to be congratulated on another excellent year of work and progress, which is a lovely way to end the year.

Sports Day - Friday 15th July

Sports Day will take place, tomorrow on Friday 15th July, with a reserve date of Monday 18th July, in case of really bad weather. Races will start at 9.15 a.m. and the event should finish by 11.30 a.m. Parents and friends are very welcome to come and watch. Could all participants please try to bring House colours to wear i.e. Columbus – Green, Cook – Yellow, Magellan – Blue, Scott – Red? Children also need something to sit on, like a small towel, and a drink. We aim for everyone to be in at least one race and encourage team events and races, so that children can work together for their House. Please remember to send children into school with sunhats and sun cream if appropriate. If you would like your child to buy an ice cream, please send in £1 in a named envelope.

Music Concert – Wednesday 20th July at 2.15

On Wednesday 20th July at 2.15 there will be a concert for all the recorder players, band, belle-plates and violins, led by Mrs. Reading. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Bucks County Show – Thursday 1st September 2016 - Free Tickets

I have 25 free tickets for children to attend the Bucks County Show on Thursday 1st August. If you are planning to go and would like tickets to allow free entry for your child/children, please let me know.

Peripatetic Strings Tuition

If you would like your child to have violin lessons next year, please let me know; there is a charge for peripatetic tuition.

Lost Property

There will be a display of lost property on Wednesday 20th July. Please do come and look for any items that have been mislaid by your children. Items that are not claimed at the end of the term will be disposed of.

End of Term – Thursday 21st July

Term ends on Thursday 21st July at 1.30 p.m. As usual the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly will take place at 10 a.m. and parents of Y6 will receive separate invitations to this. The new school year will begin on Monday 5th September at 8.40, with Inset Days (Staff Training Days) on 1st and 2nd September.

Thank you

I must thank everyone who came or contributed in any way to the lovely leaving party for Mrs. Dougall and myself that took place after Open Evening last Thursday. It was truly wonderful to see such a great crowd of friendly faces, including so many parents, pupils and staff from the past, who came back specially. Thank you too, for all the expressions of thanks and good wishes both last Thursday and at the amazing BRSA Summer Fete, and for the gifts of a sundial and water colour picture, which were greatly appreciated.

During the evening the BRSA very generously handed over a cheque for £25,000 to the school and their new story telling area was officially opened at the front of the school.

And finally...

As this is my last letter, I need to record my very grateful thanks for the unswerving support of the governing body and many staff over the years and for the help and huge support of successive generations of parents at Bledlow Ridge School, including those who have served on the BRSA Committee. None of what has been achieved at Bledlow Ridge School could have happened without that strong partnership we brokered together.

Although, as I said on Thursday, I am sorry to be leaving, I am sure that the school will go from strength to strength into the future under the leadership of Mr Haywood. I trust that parents will give him all the support you have given me.

I should like to take this opportunity to send all my very best wishes for the future to all our leavers – staff, pupils, parents and to Mrs Dougall, our Chair of Governors. It has been an immense privilege to be Headteacher of a school with such supportive and committed people. Have a lovely summer break.

Yours sincerely

R T Rochefort
Headteacher