

## Headteacher's Newsletter

May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

There have been many exciting events since Easter, with many more to come as we approach the second half of the summer term. Class R have been looking the Gruffalo book, and have visited the Gruffalo trail at Wendover Woods. They have also been exploring how animals are adapted to the habitats they live in. Year 1 have created some fabulous artwork using paint to create some colourful skylines. Year 2 have enjoyed weekly Science walks looking at habitats in the local environment such as hedgerows, woodland, chalk meadow land and ponds. Year 3 have made an excellent start to their swimming tuition and Year 4 have been writing adventure stories based on Treasure Island. Year 5 and 6 have been on two interesting and informative trips to do with their river topic – one to the River and Rowing museum in Henley, and the other to do fieldwork at the Desborough Recreation Ground.

Coming up this term, we have more trips in the offing and other annual events such as the Golden Welly and our Sports Day. Year 6 will also be researching and holding a mock election after half term. Some groups will be creating their own political parties whilst others will be representing existing parties. After writing and sharing manifestos the school will hold its own general election soon after the election in June.

### Mathletics

Following a successful trial with Year 4 and 6, the school has recently purchased Mathletics (funded by the wonderful work of the BRSA) for all pupils. This is an excellent online Maths programme where children can compete against other children worldwide in Maths races, completing challenges around all aspects of the Maths curriculum and problem solving activities. They can even access times tables songs! Your child will be given a username and password before the half term holiday to allow them to play and explore the website during the holiday if they wish. The children really enjoy the competitive nature of Mathletics, and each correct answer earns points they can use to add costumes to their avatar. Mathletics can be found at <http://uk.mathletics.com>. The homepage has a Hall of Fame – I wonder if any Bledlow Ridge students could get their name in lights?

### Key Stage 1 Lunches

Over the last few weeks it has become apparent that more and more children in Key Stage 1 are bringing their own lunch. As you know the government provides lunch for all children in Key Stage 1, but the school is required to pay the up front cost and then we receive a grant. This grant is dependent on the two most recent School Census' (a snapshot of the school on a given day). We receive funding for the average number of lunches on both of these days. If we have a very low uptake on one of these days, this will affect our income for the rest of the year. Should the number of lunches needed then rise (in September with a

new intake, for example) then the school would not receive the funding to cover the extra lunches that are being ordered.

Some children have specific reasons for providing their own lunch (for example dietary requirements). If you think this applies to your child, then please contact the school office to make this arrangement. I will be exploring hot meal providers over the coming weeks to see if it is feasible to offer a hot meal for Key Stage 1 rather than the current sandwich option.

## **Breakfast Club**

You should have all received a flyer for the Breakfast Club starting in early July. As a school, we do not have the capacity to run this ourselves, so we are extremely grateful that this club has been set up for the children of the school. Should you require any more information please contact [sarah@ridgekids.co.uk](mailto:sarah@ridgekids.co.uk).

## **Uniform**

Please could you ensure that the children are wearing their uniform correctly when they arrive at school? As the weather gets warmer, and children are not wearing jumpers, untucked shirts become more obvious. I stopped counting after 30 children arrived at school with untucked shirts on one day last week! Ties remain a part of the uniform for boys during the summer months, and for any girls who are wearing shirts with a collar and top button.

## **Summer Weather**

Please could you ensure your child is well prepared for any hot spells we may have? Ideally, your children will have a sun hat and sun cream in school as well as a water bottle which can be refilled during the school day. With regards to sun cream, we are unable to apply it in school so please make sure your children are able to apply it themselves or arrive at school with an all day cream, (such as P20), already applied.

## **Playground Equipment**

A polite reminder – as there is no teacher on duty after 3:00pm the playground equipment is unsupervised after this time. Children need to remain off this equipment after school for safety reasons.

As always, your support is hugely valued and without it the school could not operate as it does.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term, and don't forget the INSET day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June!



Mr. A. Haywood  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

05.06.17	INSET Day
06.06.17	Children return to school
07.06.17	Y4/5/6 Athletics tournament for competing children
08.06.17	Y2 trip to Tring
09.06.17	Film Club for Key Stage 1 and 2
13.06.17	Secondary Transfer Evening for Y5 parents
19.06.17	Barton Hall trip leaves
27.06.17	Team and Class Photos
28.06.17	Golden Welly
29.06.17	Art Day
30.06.17	Art Day
04.07.17	Changeover Day and Y7 Induction Day 1
04.07.17	Alice in Wonderland theatre performance in school
05.07.17	Y7 Induction Day 2
06.07.17	Y7 Induction Day 3 (Princes Risborough students only)
07.07.17	Annual reports out
08.07.17	Summer Fayre
10.07.17	Yr 6 Show - afternoon performance
11.07.17	Yr 6 Show - evening performance
13.07.17	Sports Day
13.07.17	Opening Evening
17.07.17	Cycle Proficiency training for Y5 and Y6
19.07.17	Y4 Living Rainforest trip
19.07.17	Class R picnic
21.07.17	Leavers' assembly
21.07.17	Finish at 1:30pm