

Bledlow Ridge School

Distribution: Family list

8th January 2016

Dear Parents,

First of all I should like to thank you for all the kind words, Christmas cards and gifts I received at the end of last term. They were very much appreciated. The children have returned to school - rested and having enjoyed a good holiday, and I am pleased to say they have readily settled back into school routines.

School Achievement

We were extremely pleased with the attainment levels our pupils achieved last year. However, it was not until the national data was published in the infamous 'League Tables' mid-December that we realised just how exceptionally well our Y6 pupils had done. With an APS (average point score) of 33.1, we were once again top in Buckinghamshire - a position we have held several times before - and joint 35th in the country!

Staff Changes

At the end of last term, Mrs Fossil left to take on a similar position at Godstowe Preparatory School, and Mrs Kingman also moved on. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best for the future. We are in the process of recruiting new support staff to replace them.

Clubs

School clubs have all resumed this week. The new KS2 Creative Dance Club will go ahead on Wednesdays, starting next week on 13th January. Please let the office know if you would like your child to participate in this and we will put you in touch with Ms Walker. There will not be any more Cheerleading this year.

M & M Theatre Company – Monday 1st February

This year's pantomime is 'Dick Whittington'. It will take place in the afternoon of Monday 1st February in the school hall. In order for us to host such events, which the children obviously thoroughly enjoy, we request that parents contribute towards the cost, which will be £5 per child. Please send in the money with the permission slip provided. Parents are welcome to join us. We hope that all the children will be allowed to attend, but of course it is not compulsory and separate arrangements can be made for pupils not wanting to view the performance. If any parent is experiencing financial difficulties and not able to pay for their children, please let me know; naturally such requests are treated in confidence.

Assessment Meeting 2nd February

On Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30 p.m., we will be holding our annual Assessment Meeting. This will be of relevance to all parents. Teachers will explain what is involved in the e-profile, the Y1 Phonics Test, the changes to the national Key Stage 1 and 2 standard assessment tests (SATs), and how you can help and support your child at each stage. We will also explain how the new system of 'assessment without levels' works, following the introduction of the revised national curriculum. Details of the new age-related expectations for each national curriculum year will be made available during the evening.

Global Village

As part of the successful Global Village Project held last term, we raised £85. The children will now be consulted as to what to spend this money on; we will donate to organisations such as Oxfam and Christian Aid who organise 'living gifts'. Thank you to all who contributed.

School Website

Mr Haywood and Mrs Edwards (Parent Governor) have been updating the School Website. If you have any suggestions as to how it can be improved still further, including information that you would like to see on it, please let us know.

BRSA

We continue to be very grateful to the BRSA Committee and all their supporters. The Christmas Fayre was once again an extremely successful event and the Walkathon raised £3808 in sponsorship, which was tremendous. The children are excited at the thought of the brand new Interactive Whiteboards, which are being installed this week to replace the old malfunctioning ones. The new staging that arrived just in time for the Reception Nativity Play was also greeted with much excitement.

The next BRSA event is the annual Quiz Night, to be held on Saturday February 6th in the Village Hall, and we hope that many of you will be able to attend.

School Term and Holiday Dates 2016 - 17

In case you have begun to think of holidays for next year, here are next year's holiday dates:

Autumn Term 2016: 5 th September – 20 th December	Half-Term: 24 th – 28 th October
Spring Term 2017: 5 th January – 31 st March	Half-Term: 13 th – 17 th February
Summer Term 2017: 18 th April – 21 st July	Half-Term: 29 th May – 2 nd June

In-Service Training Days for teachers are Thursday 1st September 2016, Friday 2nd September 2016 and 4th January 2017. The two additional in-service training days will be determined at a later date. An academic calendar showing term, holiday dates and in-service training days is available to download below.

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/2965586/Schools-Term-Dates-2016_17.pdf

Retirement

Finally, as the Chair of Governors informed you, I will be retiring at the end of the school year, after 21 years as Headteacher of Bledlow Ridge School. It will be 40 years since I started my teaching career. Governors have already begun the recruitment process for a new Headteacher and interviews will take place in a few weeks. I am confident that the school will go from strength to strength under new leadership, and can only wish that my successor will be equally well-supported and will find his/her time at Bledlow Ridge School as enjoyable as I have. My years in teaching have been immensely fulfilling.

Just a reminder - if you have any concerns or issues that may affect your child's well-being, please do make contact with me. I will always endeavour to make time to talk with you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

R T Rochefort
Head teacher

Dick Whittington 1st February 2016

I enclose a voluntary contribution of £5 per child. If paying by cheque, this should be made payable to **Bledlow Ridge School Fund**

Child / ren's name (please print)

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Please let us know if you would also like to attend the pantomime. It usually starts at about 1.15 – 1.30 p.m.