

Headteacher's Newsletter

September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you all to a new school year at Bledlow Ridge. I trust you have all had a relaxing and restful break and made the most of the sunshine when it did appear. Over the holidays the teachers have been working hard to create a wonderful learning environment for the children and the classrooms are looking inviting and ready for learning! I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new Year R children and parents as they join our school community. I hope your time at Bledlow Ridge will be a very happy one. We are also welcoming two new teachers this year – Mr. Geraghty who is teaching in Year R and Mr. Walkden in Year 5.



At the start of this term we looked at teamwork in our first assembly. We considered some of the greatest sport teams ever and looked at the fact that even though they did have players who were considered to be some of the greatest of all time, they would not have achieved what they did without every single member of the team contributing. I stressed to the children that every single one of them contributes something to our school team and they all bring something special and unique that no-one else can offer. We thought about the attributes that make a successful team and how these transfer to school life, whether that is in their class team, a friendship team or a music team.

As part of this focus on teamwork we also revealed the new names for our houses. There were many excellent entries ranging from planets, elements, authors, buildings and airspace pioneers but several names did come up in several suggestions that were made. We decided that the house names should be something for the children to aspire to, something or someone they could look up to and use as a role model. With that in mind, the names that were chosen were Parks, Pankhurst, Mandela and Wilberforce. The children have already been researching these people this week and will continue as we move through this half term. In assembly, we spoke about the fact that these people had no super powers – they were ordinary people who took a stand for what they believed was right, something we are all capable of doing.

Meet the Teacher

As usual we will be holding our Meet the Teacher sessions at the beginning of the school year. These are an excellent way to meet the staff team who will be helping your child, to find out about the routines of the year group and to ask any questions you may have. These will be taking place on the following dates, all beginning at 2:30pm:

Year R	11.09.17	
Year 1	12.09.17	
Year 2	13.09.17	
Year 3	14.09.17	
Year 4	15.09.17	
Year 5/6	18.09.17	(in Year 5 classroom)

These will be useful and informative sessions, so I hope as many of you as possible can attend.

Clubs

Clubs will be starting again from week beginning 18th September. The teachers have worked hard to produce a timetable of varied and exciting clubs. This term we are going to trial signing up for clubs using eschools in the same way that Parents' Evening sign up worked last year. Each club will be set up as a separate Parent Evening with time slots for each available place in the club. The booking will open at a set time allowing you to go on and sign up for the clubs at home. The teacher led clubs on offer this year are:

Tuesday	Country Dancing Football	Years 1 -6 Years 5 & 6	Mrs. Rankin Mr. Walkden
Wednesday	Board Games	Years 1 & 2	Mrs Mace
Thursday	Homework Knitting	Years 3 - 6	Mrs Bulmer

These clubs will be supplemented by Premier Sports and Art Club. Information about this will be sent out by these providers. If you need a reminder of your eschools password then please contact the school office. We will advise you of the exact time that booking will open next week.

If your child is participating in a sporting club, please could they bring in their own kit from home (this does not have to be school PE kit). This means their PE kit can remain in school for the duration of the half term, cutting down on children who do not have it for their PE lessons on the days following a club.

Reading Challenge

Thank you to everyone who supported the reading challenge over the summer holiday. It was wonderful to see the children coming into school so excited about the books they had read over the summer holiday. Plenty of house points have been given out for the new houses already!

Can you help?

As always, we welcome any help that you are able to offer on a voluntary basis in school. A sign-up sheet will be circulated next week so please do think about any time you may be able to offer. If you are able to offer a particular skill we would love to hear from you as well!

Parking

Please can I remind you to remain considerate when parking at pick up and drop off times. The car park in Church Lane is always busy and it is not helpful for the traffic flow if cars park in unmarked spaces in order to drop children off. The safety of the children is paramount and any cars that may be blocking children's views or moving from an unexpected position threaten this. With this in mind, please can I ask you not to park within 10 metres of the junction between Chinnor Road and Church Lane as again, this can impair the view of children who are crossing the road in order to get to school. There have also been a few incidents reported of cars blocking the junction to Church Lane in order to make a drop off. This exacerbates the parking problem as cars are not able to enter or leave Church Lane to ensure a flow of traffic.

BRSA AGM

The BRSA AGM will take place on Thursday 21st September at 7pm. This is an opportunity to hear about all of the events that took place last year, what some of the funds have been spent on and to begin to plan for next year. Already this year the school has benefitted from new cameras, new resources in Year R and new furniture in some of

the classrooms. Joining the committee is an excellent way to meet new people and help in what is vital fundraising for the school.

Breakfast and After School Club

After starting at the end of last term the Breakfast and After School Clubs are up and running for this academic year. If you would like any more information please contact sarah@ridgekids.co.uk.

Thank you

As always, the work that we do in school would not be possible without the support from home. Parents remain a child's first educator and by working together in partnership we have the best chance of ensuring that every child is able to reach their full potential during their time with us at Bledlow Ridge.

Mr. A. Haywood
Headteacher

Diary Dates

September

11.09 Year R Meet the Teacher @ 2:30
12.09 11+ Familiarisation Papers
12.09 Year 1 Meet the Teacher @ 2:30
13.09 Year 2 Meet the Teacher @ 2:30
14.09 11+ Actual Papers
14.09 Year 3 Meet the Teacher @ 2:30
15.09 Year 4 Meet the Teacher @ 2:30
18.09 Year 5/6 Meet the Teacher @ 2:30
18.09 After School Clubs start
21.09 BRSA AGM @ 7pm

October

03.10 Phonics in Reception evening @ 6:30pm
03.10 Progress in Phonics evening @ 7pm
06.10 Year 3/4 Harvest Festival
10.10 Parents' Evening Year R, 1, 2, 3
12.10 Parents' Evening Year 4, 5, 6
13.10 11+ Results Published
17.10 Parents' Evening Year 4, 5, 6
19.10 Parents' Evening Year R, 1, 2, 3
20.10 Walkathon
20.10 Break up for half term @ 3pm