

## Headteacher's Newsletter

October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have already packed so much into our first month back at school! The children have returned to school with a fantastic attitude and have really got stuck into their learning with enthusiasm. Our newest members of the school have settled in well, as have our new members of staff.



There has been plenty to celebrate this month – Achievement Assembly has been packed with fabulous examples of children showing the attributes of Active Learning in so many different ways already. The new raffle ticket and 'Golden Ticket' system to reward excellent behaviour has also caused much excitement during a Friday afternoon. In each Achievement Assembly all the children who have been given a raffle ticket over the week stand up and we hear from a selection of these children why they received their raffle tickets. This has highlighted again and again what kind spirited and community minded children we have here at Bledlow Ridge School.

The Progression in Phonics evening was a great success and this has been followed by the 'Stay and Play' sessions in Class R, where parents have been given the opportunity to accompany their child into school and to stay and see a Phonics session in action. Year 1 have been busy making a boat for their outdoor area to link in with their topic on Explorers and Year 2 had a very informative and successful trip to Claydon House to support their work on Florence Nightingale.

Years 5 and 6 have recently visited the National Portrait Museum in order to prepare for their Art topic on portraits and were able to analyse and gather lots of ideas and information from the museum led sessions and from being able to look at Tudor and contemporary galleries.

Finally, Years 3 and 4 gave the whole school a treat with their Harvest Festival reminding us of how fortunate we are and how we can help others who are in need. The performance itself was planned by the children and incorporated many of their ideas and suggestions for how to present their theme. The donations you have given will go a long way towards helping many families in need around High Wycombe through One Can Trust – thank you for your generosity.

### Farewells and New Faces

We have had to say goodbye to two members of staff this year. Mrs Bennett has relocated to Wales and we wish her every success in her new adventure. Mrs Meakes has also left Bledlow Ridge School after 23 years! She was one of the few members of staff who saw all of the children every day and her work was appreciated across the whole school. She has left to spend more time helping to look after her new

grandson. As a school community we appreciate all the time and dedication both Mrs Bennett and Mrs Meakes have given during their time here.

I am pleased to say that we have recruited two new members of staff. Mrs Tania Gardiner will be joining Mrs Cook as part of the school office team and Mrs Delia Tyllyer will be joining us for one day a week as our Finance Officer.

## **Midday Supervisor**

We do still have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor. If you would be interested in this role, please contact the School Office. At the moment we are struggling to resource the setting up and tidying of the tables each day. If we do not fill the vacancy the children will need to eat in their classrooms rather than the hall. If you are able to help on a part-time or voluntary basis then we would love to hear from you!

## **Parent Parking**

As we move towards winter and the weather becomes increasingly wet and windy, more pressure will be put onto our parking facilities at school. Please can I ask you to park considerately at the beginning and the end of the day, in particular when parking on Chinnor Road near the junction with Church Lane. Cars parked too close to the junction obscure the view for children crossing the road on their way to or from school as well as for cars trying to exit Church Lane.

## **Uniform**

As I mentioned in my last newsletter at Bledlow Ridge School we aspire to have high expectations of our children in all areas of school life, including our appearance – both on the school premises and before or after school. Please can I ask you to remain committed to the high standard set for our school uniform? We want our community to be proud of all areas of school life – and this includes pride in the school badge and the uniform the children are wearing.

## **Can you help?**

We are already beginning to look towards our provision of clubs in the Spring Term. Given the wide range of talents and skills within our school community it seems sensible to try and utilise these as far as possible! If there are any parents who are interested in using their expertise to help provide an after school club then we would love to hear from you. The duration of the club can be flexible – you may be willing to commit to a short term 4 week club, or be able to help provide something that runs for the whole term. We would be willing to consider anything you have to offer, whether that is something we have run before (drama or dance) or something we have never tried (robotics or baking?).

## **Matched Funding**

If any parents work for a company that runs a matched funding scheme the BRSA would love to hear from you! There are many opportunities to get involved with different aspects of running BRSA events, and with matched funding we could also increase the money raised towards running projects within the school.

## Thank you

Towards the end of September Mr Grimmett very kindly came in and took some excellent photos of the children at work during the school day. We plan to use these around our school environment as well as to update the images on our website. I would very much like to thank Mr Grimmett for the time and effort he gave to spending the day working with us – the staff and children are very pleased with the results!

May I again thank you for your continued support of what we do in school, and your offers of help in class and on trips. Many events would not be able to run without you!

Mr. A. Haywood  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

20.10.16	Parents' Evening Class 4	30.11.16	School Disco
21.10.16	Walkathon	02.12.16	Christmas Fayre 1:00pm – 3:30pm
21.10.16	Finish for half term @3:00pm	08.12.16	KS1 Christmas Performance @ 9:30am
31.10.16	Children return to school	09.12.16	KS1 Christmas Performance @ 1:30pm
02.11.16	BRSA Committee Meeting @7:30pm	13.12.16	Choir perform at Village Hall
11.11.16	Film Club for KS2	15.12.16	Carol Concert
23.11.16	Parents' Information Evening - Maths	15.12.16	Christmas Parties
25.11.16	Hot Dog Friday	18.12.16	BRSA Panto Trip
		20.12.16	Finish for Christmas @ 1:30pm