



The Flying Start Federation Newsletter 11 January 2015

Issue 8

[www.buckland-brewer-
primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Happy 2016 and welcome back to the Spring Term. I hope you all had a good Christmas holiday. The children have all come back with fresh enthusiasm for their new topics which you should have had information about. If you missed it you should find that information on the federation website- <http://www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk>. We are trying to keep the website up to date with up coming events and latest news- so please put this web address into favourites.

School Dinners: Please try to get all orders for dinners in on time. All food is ordered according to demand so that there is no waste, and in some cases we have had five or more extra children than expected, because their orders have not come until the first day of the new menu. From time to time children forget to bring in their packed lunch—that is not a problem, you can ring or text Milly, school catered directly on 07340710693

Packed Lunches: We will be talking with children over the next few weeks about what makes up a healthy lunch box. We have noticed some lunch boxes with mainly sugary and fatty foods and drinks everyday. We strongly encourage children to bring a drink of plain water, rather than squash which is either full of sugar or saccharin, neither of which is good for children on a daily basis. Once children get used to flavoured drinks which are often high in sugar content- it is hard to break this habit. Please help support us support your child in developing life long healthy eating habits.

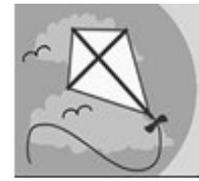
Severe weather: We are coming into that time of year when severe weather can effect the schools opening. We aim to keep the schools open at all times, but sometimes severe ice or snow, or even floods can not only make the schools sites unsafe, but also make it dangerous for staff to travel to work. We only close a school or go for a later opening time if the conditions are making it dangerous to be on site or for staff or children to travel to the school site. Sometime we might be able to keep one school open, in which case all children in the federation can go to that school if they can travel there safely. If the school is open and your child can get to it safely then they would be expected to be there. Taking a day off because they want to play in the snow would be unauthorised.

Attendance As you will see on the school pages our target for overall attendance is 97% . If we can achieve this, it will put us in the top 10% of schools. Ofsted do take into consideration the absence rate for a school when making a judgement about school effectiveness and welfare of pupils. At the moment Buckland is on track and Parkham is just below.

Seasonal illness often hits small schools hard and this will affect our percentage rates, however all other absence can be avoided, which is why although taking holiday in term time can be very tempting because of reduced cost, they will not be authorised unless there is a very exceptional reason, other than cost. I do think it time that we as parents put pressure on the government to look at the way holiday providers charge extortionate fees during school holidays.

FOPPS DATES: 6 Feb: Quiz
11 Feb: Film Night

REMEMBER TO BEAT THE BUGS by wet combing your child's hair with a nit comb at least once a week.



News from Ladybirds



Ladybirds came back from the Christmas holidays with lots of enthusiasm and questions about their new topic - All Creatures Great and Small. We welcome our new Ladybirds to FS1, who have settled incredibly well so far and are showing a great deal of independence in their new environment. Last week the builders were in working on the new play area, they hope to be finished this week so please make sure your child has a pair of wellington boots in school so that they can use the area safely.

Learning Leaves
Millie-Stickability
Morgan-Thinking

The FSU from January is now admitting children into the pre-school at the beginning of the term in which they turn 3. It is also registered to accept 2gether funding. Please contact the school for more details.

News from Dragonflies

All Dragonflies have had a really positive first week back to school and have got straight into learning! We have been thrilled to welcome Natalie and George into our class and they have settled in really well. The children have really enjoyed starting to learn about dinosaurs and are already experts about Triceratops thanks to the There's a Triceratops in the Treehouse book that we have been reading this week. We can't believe how many facts they have retained! We have had a multiplication and division refresher week this week in maths before moving onto shape next week. We are really impressed with how hard all children have been working on their counting and using mental strategies. We are very excited about Jiggly Wiggles this week and continuing with our dinosaur topic work. Learning Leaves: Milly - Thinking. Ruby - Responsibility.



News from Fireflies



Within literacy, we are focussing our quest writing on the visual aid 'Journey 2 The Mysterious Island' as well as the text 'King Of the Birds'. We have already begun looking at how we can include expanded noun phrases within our writing. Over the next week or so, we will be thinking and learning about character dialogue and the punctuation we will need. Within numeracy, we have been learning about the connections between fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have been using these links to order, compare and discuss differences between given amounts e.g. 0.6, $\frac{1}{2}$ 70%. Over the next week, the children will be using this knowledge to solve and investigate problems before moving onto our next sequence 'Measure – time' Within our Topic work, we have already made predictions based on the gravitational pull of a large foam dice and a small plastic dice. We have conducted the experiment, ensuring that it is a fair test and are now going to use our results to write a conclusion. The children will then plan and conduct their own gravitational investigations. Learning Leaves: Kaitlin for settling in so quickly and demonstrating her understanding and skills. Holly—for taking more responsibility for her learning.

Reading Challenge Prize Draws

Well Done to Georgina and Jack at Parkham and Lauren and Bethany at Buckland Brewer for winning the autumn Reading Challenge Prize Draw, each person won a £5 book voucher. Don't forget that you can start collecting your raffle tickets for the spring draw now by reading Reading Challenge books! Good Luck and Happy Reading!

Whole School Attendance:
Target 97%

Birthday Celebrations:

Samuel
George
Holly



Clubs at Parkham

Tues: Computer Club with Mrs Roe (5 weeks)
Thurs: Cookery with Mrs Bird Yrs 3-6
Netball at BB
Fri: Multisports with First for Sport Yrs 1-6



News from Jets

Jets had a fantastic start to the Spring term and our topic of Dinosaurs. The children have already asked some very interesting questions that we look forward to trying to answer.



After School Clubs: There is a little confusion over whether Reception can come to clubs. Usually the age range is stated on the clubs letter- which indicates the suitability of the club for a particular age group. Sports Club on a Friday is very popular and can only take a maximum of 20 participants and is for Y1 upwards. However I understand that Adam or Jenny who run the club are happy to have reception age children providing there is space after Y1 to 6 have signed up. Providing everyone returns the clubs forms this week we should be able to confirm if any Reception children are able to attend the club this half term- with preference given to those who expressed interest last term and are on the waiting list.

News from Rockets



We welcome Charlie who started with us last Tuesday. He has settled in really quickly.

We had a busy week last week starting to find out about dinosaurs and linking them with a time period in history. Our English this term is linked to the theme and we have begun the topic by watching the opening ten minutes of a quest film which is about searching for something lost on an island. The class are excited about the theme and we are going to be learning about character and setting linked to the film and to several books about dinosaurs. In maths we are learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. The class will be getting an extra short play one afternoon this week as for the first time ever everyone had their P.E. kit on Friday. Well done Rockets.

NETBALL CANCELLATION. Owing to staff sickness Netball club is cancelled for Thursday 14th January.

Whole School Attendance: Target 97%

Birthdays to celebrate

Donna
Amy
Theo



REMINDER; Children should not be bringing chewing gum into school.

Clubs at Buckland Brewer

Mon: Activ8 with Miss Jago/Mrs Brookes Yrs 1-6

Thurs: Netball with Miss Jago Yrs 3-6

Fri: Multisports with First for Sport Yrs 1-6



OFFICE HOURS:

Parkham: Mon—Thurs 8.45—3.45pm
(please note there is no one in the office on Fridays)

Buckland Brewer: Tues 8.45— 12.45pm

Mon, Wed—Fri 8.45—3.15pm- please avoid making requests when office is not manned.

Term Dates

Spring Term: Tues 5 January — Thurs 24 March

Half term: Mon 15 February

Summer Term: Tues 12 April—

Friday 22 July

Half Term: Fri 27th May

Safeguarding- is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns about the safety/wellbeing of a child outside of school, that you know, you can ring MASH (Multi Agency Hub)..TEL: 0345 155 1071 or the police directly. TEL:101 If you pass your concerns to us in school- we will log these concerns and assess the risk using the Devon Threshold Tool (this can be found on the Federation Website).

Sometimes this will lead us to make an enquiry to MASH or social care but in all cases parents will be informed of this- unless we feel that by doing so the children will be at greater risk.



Parkham

Buckland Brewer

Wed 13 Jan: Jiggly Wrigglers 11.15-12pm Ladybirds & Drag- onflies class
Wed 13 Jan: Jiggly Wrigglers 1.15-2pm Jets class

Thurs 21 Jan; GTS pupils reading at Parkham

PGL REMINDER: The final instalment for the PGL residential to Beam House is due on 15th January. Please send your payment in a sealed envelope with your child's name, PGL, and amount clearly written on the outside. Cheques payable to Devon County Council.

Milly Lane: School Caterer 07340710693 If it is necessary to make a change to a meal request please text between 7.30-9.30am. For general queries please telephone or text between 2-5.30pm

Uniform: We encourage children to be proud of their school and their uniform. Please be aware of school uniform expectations and especially PE kit. Children are expected to have a PE kit in school everyday which comprises. BB = red T shirt, black shorts, trainers,
Parkham: white T Shirt, black/navy jogging bottoms/shorts .

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