

Headteacher's Newsletter

November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term, I hope you all had a refreshing and restful break. Much was achieved during the first half term of the year with Year 3 and 4 treating us to a lovely Harvest Festival. Thank you for all of your generous donations, they were greatly appreciated by One Can Trust who commented that we donated far more than they get from many larger schools. The food that was donated will make a real difference to lives in our local area. We have also held our first round of parents' evenings which I hope you found informative and useful. Do feel free to make an appointment at any time to speak to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns you wish to discuss. Some of our Year 5 children attended an Anti-Bullying conference and have become Agents for Change within the school. Year 5 have also competed in two football tournaments returning with two third place finishes. Year 2 also visited Claydon House as part of their studies about Florence Nightingale.

We have many exciting events coming up during this half term as well. Year 5 and 6 are visiting Soldiers of Oxford as part of their work into World War II and Year 3 are visiting the Ashmolean museum as part of their work about Ancient Greece. We will also be having our usual Christmas events including school discos, our carol concert and a Key Stage 1 Christmas production.

Walkathon

Thank you to all who came and supported the Walkathon, it was a fun-filled, if slightly muddy, afternoon! The children worked extremely hard to complete as many laps of the field as they could and looked wonderful in their fancy dress. If you have collected any sponsorship money please could this be returned to the school office as soon as possible. As I mentioned earlier in the year we will be donating 10% of what has been raised to the NSPCC. They are attending an assembly on Monday 20th November to collect the money we have raised.

Hot Lunches

We are excited for hot lunches starting on Monday 6th of November. Please can I remind you that orders for the next week must be placed by midnight on Friday 3rd November. These cannot be changed once they have been placed. All children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free hot meal as part of the Universal Infant Free School meals programme.

Parking

Parking is constantly an issue being raised by parents. Please can I ask once again for as much consideration as possible to be given to the safety of the children when parking and moving around Church Lane, and especially when close to the junction with the main road.

Tutors and Safeguarding

My attention has been drawn to an NSPCC article regarding tutors and the fact they do not statutorily need a criminal records check. The article can be found at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/criminal->

[record-loophole-private-tutors-must-close/](#). I am sure you already aware of this, but if you are using a tutor please can I encourage you to ensure you are taking all possible steps to ensure the safety of your children.

Can you help?

As always, we welcome any help that you are able to offer on a voluntary basis in school. If you are able to offer a particular skill we would love to hear from you!

Breakfast and After School Club

As before, 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.

Help for an ex-pupil

Please find attached a letter from an ex-pupil, Max Gowers, who has been selected to represent the Scouting Association at the Scout Jamboree in America in 2019. In order to raise funds, he is offering a Letters from Santa service this year.

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

November

06.11 Hot Lunches start
17.11 Key Stage 2 Film Club
22.11 Parents Information Evening - English

December

06.12 KS1 Christmas Play @ 1pm
07.12 KS1 Christmas Play @ 9am
08.12 KS1 Christmas Play @ 1pm
12.12 Choir performing at Village Hall
13.12 School Disco
14.12 Carol Service at St Paul's Church
19.12 Finish term at 1:30pm