



Bromesberrow News

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Newsletter No. 14

1st February 2019

Dear Parents,

What a lovely bit of snow to begin February. The children have enjoyed some quality time making snowmen, having snowball fights and generally playing in the snow with their friends. Thank you to all those parents who have had to make other arrangements or a big effort in getting their children to school. We really appreciate it. Class 3 used the opportunity to write some wonderfully descriptive paragraphs about the weather.

Last Friday, Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a visit from Mr Wyatt (John Masefield HS) and some former pupils who chatted about what life is like at John Masefield High School. This is all part of our transition activities for Year 6.

Curl up with a Book Day - 3.10pm Monday 4th February

Thank you to all those parents who have returned their form for 'Curl up with a Book' afternoon. We look forward to seeing you on Monday afternoon.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 5th February

On Tuesday we will be taking part in National Safer Internet Day. In next week's newsletter, we will share with you, the activities that the children took part in.

Counting Sleep Day - Thursday 14th February

This is an opportunity for us to teach the children about the importance of sleep on their physical and mental development. On that day the children, if they wish, can come to school in pyjamas or onesies and bring slippers to wear indoors.

BFG – Fabulous Fundraising February

To begin February, the children will be coming home with a tube of smarties to eat. We would ask you to try and put as many 20ps into the tube in exchange, and bring it back to school by 27th February. You never know where you will find a stray 20p – down the side of the sofa or pockets of old coats maybe?

Please think about having a clear out and filling up the **Bags4schools** that will be sent out to you shortly. It's a win win situation - every filled bag raises funds for school and decluttering is good for the soul! Every child bringing back a bag gets a raffle ticket to be entered into a prize draw. More bags means more tickets.

Our achievement assembly, on 1st March will be accompanied by a cake stall - always a firm favourite, especially with the children.

Dates for the Diary:

Monday 4 th February	Curl up with a Book (3.10pm)
Thursday 14 th February	'Counting Sleep' Day
Friday 15 th February	Last Day of Term
Monday 25 th February	First Day of Term
Friday 1 st March	Achievement Assembly & Cake Stall 2.40pm
Monday 4 th March	Bags for Schools +collected.
Tuesday 26 th March	Last Swimming Lessons for Year 5 & Year 6
Friday 5 th April	Last Day of Term
Tuesday 23 rd April	First Day of Term
Monday 6 th May	May Day – School Closed
Friday 24 th May	Last Day of Term
Monday 3 rd June	First Day of Term
Friday 19 th July	Last Day of Term
Wednesday 4 th September	First Day of Term

From Mel Orgee (Chair of Governors)

Dear Parents,

Many thanks to all who filled out the Two Stars and a Wish sheet that we handed out at the Class 2 & 3 Christmas play. Apologies to parents of children in Class 1, who didn't get one. We will make sure that you get your chance very soon. It was great to read all the positive points that you made in the stars – I'm thrilled to hear how many of you feel that the school is a great place for children to feel nurtured and valued, how staff and children alike treat everyone with respect, and in the words of one parent, how children are "supported to be the best they can be."

I have read through and collated all the points you raised on the Two Stars document. Every comment was shared with governors and at our last full governing board meeting on 22nd January, we reserved a place on the agenda to discuss ways that we and teachers could act on points you raised. Here are some of the wishes you expressed, along with responses and actions that we will take:

- **Homework in years 5 and 6 as better preparation for senior school** – Miss Mison already had plans in her curriculum for Year 6 children to receive homework from January onwards.
- **.....if a parent complains, the child gets an award that week** - all teachers and Head Teachers assure parents that this is not the case at all. Children receive awards based on their effort and achievements.
- **...some parents may prefer to choose the charities they donate towards. There is little choice and a lot of pressure to contribute. I may wish a different cause to the one the school has chosen.** – The school takes part in the national fundraising event, such as Children in Need and Red Nose Day because children are highly aware of them through the media, siblings etc. The School Council are asked to choose smaller charities to benefit from fundraising, so much is decided by the children themselves – for example they chose to support Riding for the Disabled because a child from school is supported by them. However, governors and teachers felt we could extend this – if families have charities that they know need support, we ask that you let the school know of the details. Children can then research all the suggestions, maybe write to them to ask if ambassadors can come in to school to talk. Children can then decide which to support and put together fundraising ideas for the next year. Please let Elaine or your class teacher know.
- **...More varied fundraising, with teachers and staff involved** – we make sure that details of meetings to discuss fundraising plans are advertised in the newsletter. It would be great if as many parents as possible to come along with ideas. Once ideas have been put forward and dates set, I and other governors will attend as many as we can to support all parents and staff.
- **...My only issue is maybe to drop off earlier, or maybe a breakfast club for the working parents** – the school works in partnership with Bubbles Nursery at Eastnor so that parents who need to drop off early can take their children there, to be collected by a school staff member in time for the school day. This is working well for those who use it, and indeed has been a factor attracting children to start at our school next September. Please give it a try.
- **More performance/art/music/practical hands on science... forest school for class 2** – of course, all these things have great value for children. However, it is a fact that the depth of curriculum that teachers need to cover for the core subjects, such as literacy, maths, PE, history and RE does take up a lot of time across the week. Teachers work to find time between all of these subjects for children to access as much curriculum enrichment as possible. The school has paid for music teachers to teach whole classes brass instruments, the ukulele and other instruments. A private piano teacher comes into school and children can take time out of the class to receive lessons. The scope of children's experience at school is vitally important, which is something that governors and teachers on the Curriculum committee will always look at in detail to make sure we can offer as many enhancements as possible. This will be an ongoing focus.

Ok, I've taken up enough space. I hope what I've written will show you that gathering and acting on parents' views or concerns will form an important part of my role as Chair of Governors. Thank you again for taking the time to write you Two Stars and a Wish. We will repeat this with you in June or July, and after Easter give a similar form to the children themselves so that we can hear their likes and wishes too.

In the meantime, please remember that Alan Green and Natalie Crickett are your Parent Governors, there to let the governing board know of any concerns or comments you have. Please talk to them about things that are important to you. My email address is chair@st-marys-bromesberrow.gloucs.sch.uk.