



Bottisham Primary School Newsletter

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Spring Term
1st March 2019

Signs of Spring

It was lovely to welcome everyone back after half term and subsequently, what a glorious week of weather we have had! All the signs of Spring are around us, daffodils blooming, trees blossoming, and the first day of March. As we all take advantage of our outdoor environment both at school and at home, I wanted to remind you of our new arrangements for dropping off and collecting children in Acorns, Oak and Ash classes. From Monday 4th March, the gate into the nursery playground will no longer be used. Children will need to be brought around the school to the KSI playground gate where initially Oak and Ash staff will receive pupils and then at 9:00, Acorn staff will receive pupils. At the end of the day, the same gate will be used with Acorn handing off pupils to parents first at 3:00 and then Oak and Ash staff handing their pupils to parents at the gate. Although there will inevitably be some teething issues as we transition into the new arrangements, we thank you for your support as we seek to improve the outside learning opportunities for our EYFS children and make the most of the wonderful Spring weather...while it lasts!

Mrs Perry

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all of you who made time to come and meet with staff to discuss your children's progress, attainment and behaviour. It was good to see so many of you over the two days. We know that when home, school and child all work together it has maximum impact on a child's learning.

Attendance

As you know, we are required to closely monitor the attendance of all the children and classes in our school. If a child's attendance has dropped below 96%, for whatever reason, we are required to inform you of this by sending a letter home

to make you aware of the amount of learning time missed by your child. Please see the letter sent via InTouch for more details.

Every week we calculate the class attendance percentages. This week:

1st Acorn 100%
2nd Willow 98%
3rd Cedar 97%

E-Safety

It's important to note that new challenges to children's safety and well-being are arising on the internet all the time. We wanted to share two of the current warnings, which many of you with older children may already be aware of, about MOMO and RoBlox

Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges (like waking up at random hours) and has even been associated with self-harm. See the Parent Safety Guide on the school website for more information.

We have also been made aware of a game that many younger pupils and those with an interest in 'Lego-like' building games with avatars, are taking an interest in. This game has been used to groom and display inappropriate images and it may be prudent to check whether your child has RoBlox and if so monitor content and communications from other 'avatars'. This link www.familyzone.com/blog/roblox-parents-review will give more detail of some parental experiences and the potential dangers of Roblox.

We continue to suggest that parents monitor their children's on-line activities and talk to their children about making safer decisions whilst online.

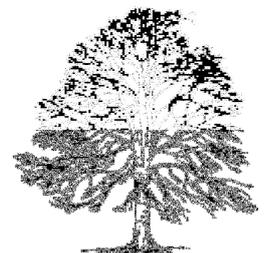
Diary Dates 2019

Spring Term

Thursday 7th March—YR/Y6 Height and Weight check
Friday 15th March—Red Nose Day
Monday 18th March—PTA Mothers' Day Shopping Event
Monday 18th March—Y5/6 Science Festival Trip
Friday 29th March—Y3/4 Class Trip to Wicken Fen
Tuesday 2nd April—Y3/4 Production
Friday 5th April - Spring Term Closes

Summer Term

Tuesday 23rd April - Training Day
School closed to children
Wednesday 24th April—Summer Term opens.
Monday 6th May—May Day – School is closed
Monday 13th to Friday 17th May— Y6 SATs Week
Thursday 16th May—Vision Screening— Reception Children
Tuesday 21st May—Maple Class Trip
Friday 24th May— Training Day
School closed to children
Monday 27th to 31st June.—Half Term
Summer Term closes – Wednesday 24th July



School Dinners

Thanks to all of you who pay in advance for your child's school dinner at the start of the week. This really helps Mrs Hobson and Mrs Halpin to manage monies and payments. Of course, you are able to pay for the half term in one payment if you prefer. Payments can be made using the school's online payment system Agora. If you do not yet have an Agora password or need help in using it, please speak to the school office. Alternately, payments can also be made using cash or cheque. Please make cheques payable to Bottisham Primary School.

School dinners are free for children in YR-Y2. Prices for children in KS2 are as follows:

- £2.30 per day
- £11.50 per week

Please see the school office for more information.

Football Success

Congratulations to our girls' football team who won the County Final and will now represent the county in the regionals on the 29th March. More information about this will follow. Mr Wild has kindly offered to coach our girls in preparation for this event. The coaching will take place every Monday on the school field from 7:50 to 8:45

A Cautionary Tale

After an accident over half term, we were contacted with regard to passing on a warning to our parents, to take care whilst their children are playing in public parks.

A child was playing in a children's sandpit area with friends. A hollow needle, which had been dropped and left in the sand, got stuck in the palm of her hand. It went in deeply and her hand was bleeding. Obviously this was a painful and unpleasant experience and could also lead to infection. Do be vigilant whilst using public facilities even around Children's Play Areas in order to reduce the risks.

Comic Relief

On Friday 15th March, we will be celebrating Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. When we donate to Comic Relief we're supporting vulnerable people and communities in the UK and internationally. We are helping to create a just world, free from poverty, by supporting this charity which funds amazing organisations doing amazing things.



During the week leading up to Red Nose Day, the School Council will be selling noses, which this year cost £1.25 with all proceeds donated. On Friday 15th, Bottisham pupils—and staff—are invited to come to school wearing red clothing for a donation of 50p and all monies will be donated to Comic Relief.

Eco Council

The new Eco Council met on Tuesday February 26th, led by Mrs Crown and Mrs Sheppard.

They discussed ideas about what they could do as an Eco Council to help both our school environment and the wider world. The members had lots of fantastic ideas about this!

The ideas put forward included:

Educate the school about taking care of our school environment, eg in the forest, our classrooms, being careful around flower beds, turning off lights.

Make / put up bird boxes

Put up bird feeders

Get a bin put in the forest area to keep it clean

Remind all classes to use the recycling bins for paper

Remind everyone to use both sides of paper for scrap before recycling it

Y6 to label their recycling bin, to make sure everyone knows which bin is for paper

Do litter picking

Collect crisp packets for recycling

Get a recycling bin in the lunch hall for packed lunch rubbish

Plant some flower beds for birds, animals and bees to enjoy (as well as all of us)

With all these ideas and some national Eco initiatives to talk about, it's going to be a busy time for the Eco Council!

A Fond Farewell

This week has been Mrs Clowes' last full time week, working at Bottisham School. We are extremely sad to be losing her as she has been such an important part of the school. Our community has loved her calm friendly manner, and her kind and gentle care for staff and children but we are convinced that she has made the right decision to grab a belated 'gap year' as she and her husband take the opportunity to travel together. Bev will be a tough act to follow but Mrs Hobson will continue to work in the office in the mornings and our newest member of staff Mrs Halpin will, initially, work in the office for some afternoons. We would be grateful if you would seek to contact us primarily between 8:30 and 12:30, apart from in an emergency, during the next month whilst we transition to our new arrangements. Thank you all for your patience and understanding as the new team seek to fill some really big shoes.

Sing for Your School Finalists!

Congratulations to Olly and the whole Year 5/Year 6 team whose song was chosen to become part of the finalists concert at The Corn Exchange. We are waiting to find out our ticket allocation so that we can let you know how many children will be able to go along with Mrs McMahon to enjoy this special event.

Any Donations Welcome

Our EYFS team are excited at the prospect of developing the outdoor learning spaces for YR and Nursery children. If over the next weeks you decide to have a clear-out at home, they would be extremely grateful for donations of toys that you no longer need. For example:

small world toys, toy animals, plastic pipes and tubes, plastic containers for capacity play, construction toys Lego/Duplo, dressing-up clothes etc

Many thanks.