

Bletchingley Village Primary School

Aiming high Working together Achieving our best

Newsletter No.3 Topic: Around the World in Eighty Days Value focus: Tolerance

School Matters!



One of the main focus areas for this year will be improving our overall attendance and lateness rate. Although the vast majority of children do have good attendance, we have too many that do not.

The expectation is that children are in school 100% of the time, unless there is a good reason why not.

If children are not in school, they are missing lessons which cannot be caught up. Over a surprisingly short period of time, this can not only have a significant impact on a child's education and attainment but set poor habits for working in later life. If children arrive after 9.30 it has to be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

We would like to set up a Parent Council to update the current Attendance policy alongside the School Council, teachers and governors. If you would like to take part, you are most welcome to contact the school office and leave your details so that we can arrange the first meeting. We look forward to hearing from you.

In the meantime, we are obliged to remind parents that failure to ensure adequate attendance could result in a Penalty Notice (please see the end of the newsletter)

Poppy Sales

We will be selling poppies from Monday 6th November.



School Photos

All school photo orders need to be returned to school by Tuesday 14th November or can be ordered online.



Children in Need

The School Council have organised fundraising for Friday 17th November. Children are free to participate in any/all/none of the following:

Wear spotty clothes for a donation of £2.

Bring a teddy to have lunch with for £1. Or, donate any old round pounds you may still have which the charity will be able to realise.

Outreach

Nowadays so much in life requires the internet or complicated form filling, which not everyone is confident doing. We frequently have parents asking for support in this area, which we are happy to offer through Mrs Marshment. She will be available on Tuesdays between 2pm and 3.30 so please call into the office to arrange a time if you would like to.



Bletchingley Christmas Market

Saturday 22nd December 10.00am to 3.00pm at St Mary the Virgin, Bletchingley.

Join the magic that is Christmas...

This is our 10th year! Our beautiful Norman church provides a unique backdrop for this popular event. Saturday is always a busy day in Bletchingley but ample free parking can be found in the village hall car park behind Lawrence's Auctioneers which is just a short walk from the church. We offer a fabulous variety of gifts to choose from for that extra special Christmas gift as well as the usual church stalls. With children in mind, there will be face-painting, Name the Bear and Santa will be popping in between 10.15 and mid-day. He can't stay long because as you know he is really busy this time of year! And, not to disappoint, you will find the Christmas Café downstairs in the Church House nearby. Here, refreshments will be on offer throughout the day, accompanied by a choice of yummy tray-bakes and delicious lunches!

Entry is free so we look forward to seeing you!



Uniform

A reminder that uniform can be ordered and paid for any time either online or using a form from the office. Orders will be sent out on Tuesdays. If you need to try uniform on, this can be done on Tuesday afternoons, from 2 – 3.30pm.

A reminder about dinner money

Meal prices have now increased to £2.25 a day; £11.25 a week and £83.25 for the second half term. Please keep your dinner accounts in credit as we should not supply meals unless they are. Thankyou.



Wellies

Named wellies and outdoor clothing are even more important now that the weather is turning colder and wetter. We have installed outdoor rubber matting to reduce the amount of mud being brought into school. However, as the weather worsens and mud increases, children who do not have a change of footwear will not be allowed to roam on the muddy areas and will need to stay on the playground, which would be a great shame.

Earrings

At present, we are following the Surrey health and safety policy regarding earrings and PE, which states that NO earrings may be worn. Please could we remind parents and carers that we are not allowed to remove earrings either so they need to be removed at home. PE is part of the curriculum and so children have to take part, unless physically unable, in which case a note from home is required. If there are any problems regarding this issue, please make an appointment at the office so that we can discuss it. Many thanks.

Front door

The vast majority of children are now coming in through the playground which is what we ask. This has meant congestion issues in the entrance are improved but not solved. From next week, no children will be able to come into school via the front door, without prior arrangement, before 9am. This will mean that if they do come in this way, they will be registered as late. If there is a particular reason that you are unable to bring your child into the playground with all the others, please get in touch so that we can discuss it.

Car Park

Please can we remind you that parking in the school grounds is only available to school taxis, blue badge holders and school staff. It is important that the car park is kept free of pedestrians to ensure everyone's safety, so please make sure you use the path available to walk around to the playground. If you are reminded about this by a member of staff, please respect the fact that they are simply doing their job. Many thanks.

Pottery

Over the past two years, Dolphin Dream Pottery has held a pottery afterschool club here at Bletchingley Village. This year they would like to include lower Key Stage classes, so have decided to offer places for Year 3-6 in the autumn term, R- Year 2 in the spring term and have the summer term open to anyone. Sessions cost £5 a week and run from 3.15 – 4.00 every Monday in term time. Forms are available from the office.



Music Lessons

If your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument please take a look at the Surrey Arts website or pick up a leaflet from the office. www.surrey.cc.gov.uk/arts.



Upcoming Events!

Tuesday 14th November Magic Maths (an opportunity for parents to spend time with their child/children during a maths lesson) from 9.15 – 10.15 followed by an invitation to roam from 10.30 until 11.00. It is rather muddy, so do come prepared!

Friday 17th November Diamond Class Assembly
Parents are welcome

Fundraising for Children in Need (see above)

Friday 24th November Evening Emerald Class Assembly
Parents are welcome



Tuesday 5th December
9.30am All welcome to Phase 1 Nativity

Thursday 7th December
9.30am Adults only welcome to Phase 1 Nativity

Friday 8th December Making Day followed by Christmas Fair from 3.30 to 5.30pm

Wednesday 13th December Christmas Dinner (children only)

Thursday 14th December Panto and Parties! (children only) followed by Open classroom at 3.30 - an informal opportunity to spend time in your child's class to see their work and talk to the teacher. All welcome

Friday 15th December Music and Mince Pies at 1.30 by invitation

Monday 18th December Phase 2 and 3 Carol Service in church from 2 – 3pm.
All welcome and children may be taken home directly from the church afterwards.

Wednesday 20th December Final Assembly at 1pm
All welcome and children may be taken home afterwards.

Thursday 21st December Inset

Friday 22nd December Holidays begin - Merry Christmas!



Regarding Penalty Notices:

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

*Please be aware that **each** parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for **each** child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice.*

If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Autumn Term

Tuesday 5th September to Wednesday 20th December 2017
Half term: Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2017
Children return Tuesday 31st October 2017

Spring Term

Spring Term 2018 Thursday 4th January to Thursday 29th March 2018
Half term: Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018

Summer Term

Summer Term 2018 Monday 16th April to Friday 20th July 2018
Half term: Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June 2018

Inset Days

Monday 4th September 2017
Monday 30th October 2017
Thursday 21st December 2017
Friday 4th May 2018 (giving families a long weekend with Bank Holiday Monday 7th May)
Monday 4th June 2018