

*Our value for the half term is Caring, with a focus on caring for ourselves in order to be able to care for others. At a time when there is concern nationally for the physical and emotional wellbeing of so many of our children, it is vital that they are given the tools for understanding how to keep themselves well. We will be looking at caring for both body - in particular getting enough exercise, eating the right food, keeping our bodies clean and getting enough sleep - and mind – staying calm, being kind, enjoying 'the moment' and reminding ourselves of all the good in our lives. **A healthy body and a healthy mind lead to a happy life!***



**School Matters!**



Our focus on attendance continues this term. All children are expected to be 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, on a regular basis, can quickly impact long term progress; one day's absence is actually 5 missed sessions of learning, which are impossible to fully catch up with.

Children will be ill. But that is all the more reason to ensure that where at all possible, *no* other days are missed.

Following the first meeting of the Parent Council, we listened to the concerns raised regarding 100% Attendance Awards and how children who had worked extremely hard towards achieving this felt when they missed out, through no fault of their own. Several suggestions were put forward which were taken to staff and Governors. As result, it was agreed that 100% Attendance would continue to be celebrated, but in more 'low key' fashion.

It has become apparent that there may be some misunderstanding regarding attendance percentages. We aim for 100%. The Government expect all schools to achieve at least 95%. Attendance in the 80% band may sound good but, in attendance terms is actually very poor. We will alert parents and carers as soon as attendance drops below 95% in order that they are aware and can take steps to improve it as soon as possible. If this does not happen, meetings will be arranged to discuss support that we can offer but, if attendance fails to improve sufficiently, we are obliged to refer to the Educational Welfare Officer.

At any point, parents and carers are welcomed and encouraged to come in to talk with us. We are not seeking to be difficult; our job is to ensure all children have the very best opportunities to access education. It is no coincidence that children with persistently poor attendance rarely make good academic progress and none of them make the best progress possible. If your child is struggling, attendance is the first thing to look at and is probably the area you, as their parent or carer, can make the greatest difference.

On occasion, missing school cannot be helped. When this is the case, we aim to work to support learning in a number of ways: if the absence is planned, work can be taken home or if unplanned, extra work can be done outside of lessons, in school or at home, to try to off-set some of the learning lost. This is not a punishment. If children have missed learning, we all, parents, carers and teachers, need to support them to do the best they can.

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

## 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. This is obviously in confidence.



**Many thanks to SANDERSTEADS** for their support with shredding of all our confidential waste. It is much appreciated.

## Safeguarding

We would remind parents and carers about the need for care when disseminating images of children. No photographs or images of other people's children can be shared on a social media site. We allow video and photographs of our seasonal productions to be taken, on this express understanding. Live-streaming of an event must be treated in the same way.

## Twitter

Follow events from BVPS on Twitter @bletchingleyVPS

## Swimming

The changed approach to swimming has been extremely successful! The Government's expectation is for all pupils to leave primary school, able to swim 25metres; nationally, a quarter of all children move onto Secondary school unable to do this. Until now, we mirrored these numbers, despite our robust and committed approach. Since focussing mainly on those unable to swim, we have supported the vast majority of children in years 5 and 6 to achieve their 25 metres certificate and goggles, donated by the HEART Foundation. For those still unable to swim, we have bought floats, which we loan, and negotiated subsidised swimming sessions in a bid to promote this potentially life-saving skill. Our goal is for all children to leave Bletchingley Village able to swim well enough to save their lives, should the need arise. We would like to thank Tandridge Leisure Centre for their support.

## Early mornings

In a bid to encourage activity and keep early arrivals in the playground busy, Mr Allen will be out in the playground from 8.30 with a range of equipment which children are welcome to use. Ball games will be allowed in agreed areas, so please be aware of this when standing with younger children.



## Uniform

A reminder that uniform is clearly described in our policy. Should there be a temporary issue, please let the class teacher know as this is never a problem. However, parents and older children will be questioned or reminded should non-uniform continue to be worn. Please understand and respect the fact that staff are doing as they have been asked by the Governors.

Uniform can be ordered and paid for any time either online or using a form from the office, while stock lasts. 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.

## Dinner money

Meal prices are £2.25 a day; £11.25 a week. Please remember to keep your dinner accounts in credit as we cannot supply meals unless they are. Thankyou.



### **Wellies**

Named wellies and outdoor clothing are even more important now that the weather has turned 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.

### **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. Please also remember to turn the right way out of the car park at busy times i.e. 8.30 to 9.15 and 3.00pm to 3.30pm. 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. This is now running and is full. Years 3-6 will be offered places in the autumn term. Summer term will be open to anyone. Sessions will cost £5 a week and run from 3.15 – 4.00 every Monday in term time. Forms will be available for the summer term later on in the year.

### **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](http://www.surrey.cc.gov.uk/arts).

**Half Term Holiday Club** OSCAHS, who run the Breakfast and After School Club service, will be open over February half term. The theme for our holiday club is 'Winter Olympics'. OSCAHS is open from 8am – 6pm and provide children with a safe place to play, have fun and participate in activities. Parents can book a 'School Day' (8.45 – 3.15) for £22.00 a session/ There is discount for siblings as well as other discounts available. If you are interested in booking with OSCAHS this February, please speak with our Club Manager, Sue, or send an e mail to [info@oscahs.co.uk](mailto:info@oscahs.co.uk). You can visit the website for more information at [www.oscahs.com](http://www.oscahs.com)



9<sup>th</sup> March Mothers Day afternoon

15<sup>th</sup> March Reports Home

22<sup>nd</sup> March Report Consultations

26<sup>th</sup> March Open Classroom 3.15pm

29<sup>th</sup> March Final Assembly 1.30pm

Exciting English – TBC

### 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

#### 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

Friday 4th May 2018 (giving families a long weekend with Bank Holiday Monday 7th May)

Monday 4th June 2018