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Attendance Matters!

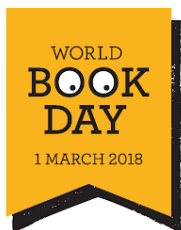


As further encouragement for children (and parents) who have missed just a short period of school at one point in the term, we have decided to issue 100% Attendance certificates each half term, rather than termly. We have selected a new reward, to replace the pen, so that there is an added incentive to collect the whole 'range'. The first of these will be given out at the end of this term!

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.

World Book Day



This year we asked School Council to help us make some decisions regarding how we should celebrate World Book Day on March 1st. After much discussion, they agreed they would like to be able to dress up as any book character rather than having a theme. So, please feel free to come dressed as any character from a book of your choice! Don't forget to bring the book to match your costume so that you can share it with others during the day as School Council also voted to do book related activities all day. We are going to create, discover, experience, explore, imagine and share!

School Council will be running a book sale during the day. We would be very grateful for any donations of books that you no longer want. Please bring to the school office for the attention of Mrs Barlow and don't forget to bring some money to spend on World Book Day itself!



Mother's Day

The 9th March sees our familiar invitation to all mums to join us in the classrooms for the afternoon, and afterwards at our wonderful assembly where you may be 'encouraged' by your eager offspring to help them present their work! This has become such a lovely tradition in this school and we look forward to seeing everyone. There will be no swimming on this day.

Open Classroom

At the end of last term the children and staff went to a great deal of effort to organise their Open Classroom for family and friends to come and see what they had been learning; I understand some lucky people even had snacks and chocolate! The children have asked to do this again so expect an invitation for 26th March at 3.15!



FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please can we ask that if you need your child picked up early, need to pick up from the office or someone else is collecting your child you let us know no later than 2.45pm. After this time we cannot guarantee to be able to pass your message on in time. We know this isn't always possible but it is the busiest time in the school office. Thanks for your assistance.



The Easter Story

This is something new for us, so we hope you enjoy it. Rev Phe has invited us to the church to perform our version of the Easter story: 'Halleluiah Rock!'. Rehearsals have begun with the singing already sounding wonderful and Mr Fraser will be leading his orchestra to accompany. We will start at 2pm and, as with Christmas carols, you are welcome to take children home when it has finished.

Swimming

The changed approach to swimming continues to be 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 4, 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.

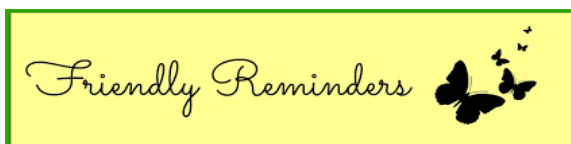


Outreach

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.



Personal toys in school

Please do not allow children to bring their own toys into school. We have had several incidents where toys brought in have been lost or broken, which causes a great deal of upset; a particular favourite at the moment are the pots of 'slime'. If staff see toys in school, they will be taken away until the end of the day. If children wish to bring in something special to show, this should be handed to the class teacher for safe keeping and then taken home.

Dinner money

Meal prices are £2.25 a day; £11.25 a week. Please can you keep your dinner money accounts topped up. Thankyou



Wellies

Outdoor Learning is part of our curriculum, so named wellies and outdoor clothing are essential for children to participate actively.

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.



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. 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.



1st March: World Book Day

2nd March: Night Emerald Class Assembly

9th March: Mother's Day afternoon (no swimming)

15th March: Reports Home

16th March: Sapphire Class Assembly

22nd March: Report Consultations (Please make an appointment if necessary)

23rd March: Fox Class Assembly

26th March: Open Classroom 3.15pm (Please pick children up from the classroom)

28th March: The Easter Story in church 2pm (All welcome)

29th March: Final Assembly 1.30pm (All welcome)

Summer Term Headline Dates

Inset Days: 4th May 2018 and 4th June 2018

9th May: Class photographs

14th – 17th May: KS2 SATS week

28th – 1st June: Half Term

12th – 15th June: Year 5 Residential

18th – 21st June: Year 6 Residential

28th June: Sports Day

2nd – 4th July: Year 4 Residential

12th July: Back-up Sports Day in case of cancellation

20th July: Last day of term Final Assembly 1.30pm (All welcome)

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