

# Bletchingley Village Primary School

*Aiming high Working together Achieving our best*

**Newsletter No.1**

**Topic: Around the World in Eighty Days**

**Value focus: Respect**



Despite the rather disappointing weather over the summer, everyone has started the new year enthusiastically and looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

We are extremely fortunate to welcome several new members of staff: Miss Chapman class teacher in Year 1; Miss Rice class teacher in Year 3; Mrs Nuttall class teacher in Year 5, Mr Newman who is teaching Music on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; Mrs Moorfoot our Welfare and Attendance Officer; Mrs Elliott our Curriculum Support and Mrs Hodgson teaching assistant in Reception

Our refurbishment programme has continued over the holidays, as those of you who have been into the office already have seen. The classrooms will be completed, hopefully this term, with new flooring and updated ICT equipment to place everyone in the best position to deal with modern day demands.

Development will also continue outside with our five-year grounds improvement programme. This will include a Mile-a-Day track, an outdoor classroom and larger gardens for each class to plan, plant and harvest. If you are interested in supporting in any way, please pop into the office!

## **Car Park**

As it is the start of a new school year please can we remind you that parking in the school grounds is only available to school taxies, 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. Many thanks.

## **Timetable**

We are trialling a change in timetable which will give the children a longer morning break and slightly shorter lunch break. We have also staggered lunch times so that children go straight from class into dinner then outside. This is giving children a more useful length of time in which they are able to organise and enjoy meaningful activities. So far, it is working extremely well with both staff and children saying how much they are enjoying it! We will continue to monitor and seek children's ideas for clubs and activities as the year progresses.

On this note, please ensure all children bring in named wellies and a change of clothes which can be kept in school. Much of their break and lesson time is spent outside and as the ground becomes muddier, children are bound to get dirty, which many of them start to worry about. If you would like to send in waterproof trousers for when your child works outside, please do.

A reminder, too, that children need to bring a coat to school for the colder weather.



A full calendar of events for this term is now on the website. Our Harvest and Christmas celebrations held in the church are yet to be confirmed so, once this has been done, a text message will update everyone.

## **Uniform**

Due to the heavy workload in the office, uniform will now be sent out on Tuesday only. It can be ordered and paid for any time either on line, by a form from the office. If you need to try uniform on, this can be done on Tuesdays also, form 2 – 3.30pm. Many thanks for your understanding with this.

## **Dinner money**

Meal prices have now increased to £2.25 a day; £11.25 a week; £76.50 for the first term; £83.25 for the second term and £159.75 for the whole term.



You are invited to join the teachers of your child's phase in the hall for a general welcome back and overview of the phase from the Phase Leader. This will be followed by an opportunity to chat with your child's new class teacher and see the classroom where your child will be based for the year. There will also be an opportunity to talk to Mrs Gregori, Mrs Kerr, our Assistant Head for Inclusion and Miss Corteen our Assessment Leader. We look forward to seeing you!

- Phase 1 Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup> Reception at 2.30pm in the classroom; Year 1 at 3.30pm in the classroom
- Phase 2 Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> Years 2, 3 and 4 at 3.30pm in the Hall initially, then individual classrooms
- Phase 3 Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> Year 5 and 6 at 3.30pm in the hall initially, then individual classrooms

### Parent Consultations

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November from 3.30 – 6.30. These appointments are obviously time-limited however, should this be insufficient, you are very welcome to make a longer appointment for another time. Appointment sheets will be in the office from Monday.

### Open Classroom

This will be an opportunity for children to share what they have been doing over the term on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm. Class teachers will be on hand for a chats and to make appointments should longer be needed.

### Magic Maths!

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November from 9 – 10. Informative and fun! Come and join us in Maths for a chance to see what your children are learning and how they are doing it.



There is always so much we would like to offer the children but so little time to fit it all in! If you have some spare time and would like to offer a skill or time to the school, it would be very much appreciated. Whether spending half an hour listening to children read or helping with a club in a break time, every minute gives the children something they would not have otherwise had – and they do

love a visitor! A new project we would like to set up is gardening; likewise any other skill such as knitting, sewing, painting, first aid etc. Many of these are already part of the curriculum but children often find something they would like to take further but time restraints mean teaching has to move on. If you enjoy a hobby and feel you have time to share your knowledge and enthusiasm with our children, please pop in or e mail!

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

### Mr Jones' private music lessons

Private piano lessons for Mr Jones' current pupils will start again soon as the necessary arrangements have been formalised.



**Mrs Gibson, the previous head teacher, has asked to send a message to you all:**

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday, despite the rather miserable weather.

This is to thank you all so much for all your kind words and wishes at the end of last term, and for the wonderful gift of the visit to Denbies and a wine voucher. My husband and I are really looking forward to going and to choosing some wine to take home as well!

I wish you all a happy and successful year and thank you all again for such an amazing send-off.

Kind regards  
Stephanie Gibson

## 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