

“The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.” Alan Watts

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is my last newsletter for the year and for my time at Bletchingley Village Primary School. Today we said our formal farewell to Diamond Class and so for them as well as for me change is very much on my mind. It is always sad to say goodbye and scary to sail into uncharted and unfamiliar waters, but change is a necessary part of life and without it we cannot progress, either as individuals or as communities. I am confident that Year 6 and the other children who are leaving us this week will move on as confident and positive citizens who will always aim to leave wherever they are in the world a little better than they found it.

I would like to thank you all for entrusting your children to my care over the past ten years. It has been a great privilege to serve the community of Bletchingley, and rewarding in more ways than I could ever have expected. I will take with me so many happy memories to treasure.

Thank you also for your kind words and good wishes. Have a happy and restful summer holiday, and I hope to see you from time to time next year at some of the many events and celebrations that BVPS offers.

Finally, I would like to wish each and every child success and happiness for the future. I know that they will continue to thrive at our amazing school thanks to the commitment of our staff and governors, and I hope that they will always learn from yesterday, prepare for tomorrow, and, above all, live for today.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Stephanie Gibson
Head Teacher



End of term arrangements

You are welcome to join us for our final assembly tomorrow, 21st July, at 1 pm. Hopefully you have already returned the slip to let us know your preferences for collecting children on Friday. Please note that all children other than those going to Oscar's will be brought out to meet you on the playground. If you have not returned a slip, please contact the office as soon as possible.



Summer Production "Eureka!"

Well done to the children and staff for another very enjoyable show last week. There was some excellent character-acting and singing, all beautifully staged with great scenery, sound and lighting. Thank you for your donations – this has raised a welcome sum for our Drama Fund which will help to support future productions.



Mile a Day

This initiative has been shown to have really beneficial effects in many schools, and the children are enjoying a morning walk. Teachers have noticed that a brisk walk has set the children up for the day's learning. We shall therefore be developing this further next year, with the laying of an all-weather surface, so that the children can have regular walks interspersed with Jumpstart Jonny and Wii Wednesday. We also have a computerised Mile a Day tracking system which the children are very keen to use. This tracks individual and class distances, recognising and rewarding their milestones. So that they can accurately record their walks, the children need to track their laps each day. We feel that the easiest (and most fool proof!) way to do this is with a water-based, washable felt pen dot on the back of the hand. This will be easy to wash off and thus should have disappeared by the end of the day. If you have any concerns about this, please would you mention it to your child's class teacher.



Holiday Book Swap

We encourage you to make use of our Book Swap days so that children can keep reading during the holidays. It makes such a difference when they return to school in September.

We shall be open on the following dates:

Friday 28th July 10.30 to 11.30

Friday 11th August 10.30 to 11.30

Thursday 17th August 10.30 to 11.30

Wednesday 23rd August 10.30 to 11.30

Thursday 31st August 10.30 to 11.30



In September, we will be auditing our stocks of PM books and buying some new copies to help maintain our quality and variety of reading books. Please would you have a good look at home over the holidays and make sure you return all books to school as soon as we come back. Thank you.

Summer Fair

We were fortunate with the weather and enjoyed some great games and activities as well as a barbecue. This event will raise money to help buy the things our dwindling budgets can't quite stretch to! Many thanks to FOBS for all their hard work organising the fair, and to all those who helped on the day.



Uniform

There have been a few children wearing trainers and other non-uniform footwear over the past week or so, as they have outgrown or worn through their school shoes. Please make sure all children have the correct uniform ready for when school re-opens in September. Thank you.



Attendance

It was great to see so many children with 100% attendance this term and a great achievement to have had over thirty children who have been to school every day this year! Some children are also to be commended on their much-improved attendance which has made a real difference to their attainment. Well done to them all!



Head Lice

A reminder that it is really important to check everybody's hair for head lice during the holidays. This enables the whole cycle to be removed so that everybody is nit-free for the new school year. Head lice can be treated with a generous coating of hair conditioner and a nit comb, or with head-lice products as you prefer, but remember to re-treat two or three times in order to catch all unhatched eggs.



Term Dates and Holidays 2017 – 2018

Autumn Term

Tuesday 5th September to Wednesday 20th December

Half term: Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

Children return Tuesday 31st October

Spring Term 2018

Thursday 4th January to Thursday 29th March

Half term: Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16th April to Friday 20th July

Half term: Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June



Inset Days 2017 to 2018

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