

# Newsletter No. 9

Topic: *Brother Eagle Sister Sky*

9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Focus Value: *Teamwork*

## Sal's Shoes

A reminder that it is Sal's Shoes day tomorrow. Bring in a pair of shoes that you no longer wear, and wear your trainers (or equivalent) You'll need to collect a voucher from School Council when you hand your shoes in. See the recent flier for further details.



## Academy Status

You will shortly be receiving by email a letter from our Chair of Governors, Mrs Lisa Thurston, giving you an update on our progress towards conversion to academy status. Please request a hard copy from the office if you do not use email.

## Homework

We keep our homework policy under constant review, making sure that we are aware of any new research that may help us to ensure that homework has the maximum impact on children's progress whilst causing minimum stress to families. Recently, Radio 5 Live had a whole programme devoted to homework, including a phone-in. You may be aware that Gary Lineker spoke passionately against homework, but he was roundly criticised by almost all the callers. The overall message from research seems to be that homework is beneficial during the primary years, as it gets children into good habits of independent study as well as developing the key skills of reading, spelling and times tables, and this is what we will base our policy and homework schedule on.



The policy itself is available on our website and is not changing. A key strand of our policy is that homework should not be onerous or cause stress at home. Therefore, the time spent on homework should be no longer than the time indicated, and if it is causing stress, parents should talk to the class teacher.

The homework schedule is being slightly altered and we have bought some new resources that we think will simplify homework for children, families and teachers. There is a brief guide below, and the full schedule is attached by e-mail or available as hard copy from the office.

- Phase 1:           Nursery: sharing books; talking; practising counting.  
                      Reception and Year 1: daily reading; Mathematics
- Phase 2:           Year 2: daily reading; spelling practice; Mathematics  
                      Year 3 and 4: daily reading; English skills book task; maths skills book task; Mathematics
- Phase 3:           Year 5 and 6: regular reading; English skills book task; maths skills book task; Mathematics; SPAG and revision for SATs

Children from Years 1 to 6: optional extras e.g. topic-related longer term challenges.

We will be offering Homework Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays on a regular or drop-in basis. Further details of this will come by separate e-mail or via your child's class teacher.

## Toys and Personal Belongings

Below is a reminder of our rules and guidelines for bringing in toys and other belongings. The rules are there to prevent the distress that can be caused when items brought in go missing, so please follow them:

- No toys to be brought into school (including football cards etc) unless children have been invited to bring something in for a learning-related activity. In this case, the items must be given to the class teacher for safe-keeping.
- A small tennis-sized ball may be brought in for playtimes (not footballs, as these are provided).
- Children up to Year 2 should not bring in pencils etc as these are supplied in class.
- Children in Years 3 to 6 may bring in pens and pencils if they wish, although they do not need to. You are strongly advised not to bring in costly or precious items.
- If you think your child needs a particular item due to anxiety or to help with concentration, please discuss this with the class teacher, who will make arrangements with you.
- Items brought to school without the teacher's permission are at the owner's risk.



## Head Lice

Please remember to check the whole family for head lice during the holiday, and treat as necessary. Remember to repeat the conditioning and combing every three days to ensure all the unhatched eggs are removed.



## Attendance

Emerald class won the attendance award for last week with 97.2%. Well done to them!



## Online Safety

***The importance of this issue cannot be overstated.*** This week, the children have learnt about how to use photographs safely online. They have learnt that they must "think before they post" so that they are aware of exactly who would be able to see what they are putting online. They must always ask permission of others before they take photos or post them online, and they must think carefully about what personal information they might be giving away.

We hope to see many of you at our Internet Safety parents' training session later this term where Miss Jowitt and Miss Vigar will be sharing really important guidance with you.

In the meantime, we urge all parents and carers to be extremely vigilant about what children are doing online and to abide by the age limit laws and guidelines, which are all designed to help children stay safe.



## Online Safety Tip

### Photos and videos

Be careful about which photos and videos you share on social media sites - avoid photos of your home, work, school or places you're associated with. Remember, once you've put a picture of yourself online, other people may be able to see it and download it - it may not just be yours anymore.

## Bletchingley May Queen 2017

Would you like to take part in this year's May Queen? The May Queen year is about to start with the annual dress fitting on Saturday 4th March. This is where the girls will get their outfits for the year. The May Queen Festival is an English tradition that has been going since before the war. The present festival was founded in 1949 in association with the London and Merrie England May Queen Festival, and it has continued as a colourful part of village life ever since.

Who can join? Girls aged between four and nine with a connection to the village can join the Bletchingley May Queen Festival. Annually, the longest serving girl is chosen to be May Queen and so the younger you join the better. What does the May Queen do? Once a year the May Queen and her attendants meet with other May Queens from around London on Hayes Common, for the crowning of the London and Merrie England May Queen. The event includes a street procession, picnic and maypole dancing. In June the May Queen leads a procession through Bletchingley village to Grange meadow for the opening of the village fair.

To get in touch email us at [BletchingleyMayQueen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:BletchingleyMayQueen@hotmail.co.uk). You can also find us on the Village website (under Local Information) or 'Like' our Facebook page for updates <https://www.facebook.com/BletchingleyMayQueen>



## Naming of clothes

To help everyone and ensure that clothing can easily be returned to the correct child, we will in future write children's names on garments that they need to take on and off during the school day e.g. coats, jumpers, skirts/trousers and PE kit if this has not already been done.



## Sainsbury's Active Kids

The new Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers are now available. Please can we ask that you collect them for us? Box available in the front office reception.



## Term Dates and Holidays 2016 -2017 and 2017 - 2018

All term and holiday dates for this year and next year are available on the website. Please ask at the office if you cannot access them.

**Please note:** At this point we can confirm that **Monday September 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 will be an Inset day.** We expect the autumn term to begin for children on Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>. However, all other holiday/Inset dates may be subject to minor changes – we will confirm the final dates as soon as we possibly can.

## Inset Days 2016/2017

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 (giving families a long weekend, with Bank Holiday Monday)

Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

## Coming Up...

### February

10<sup>th</sup> School finishes for half term

20<sup>th</sup> First day back of new half term



**HAVE A VERY HAPPY HALF TERM!**