



Friday 14 September 2012

Headteacher: GT Burgess MA

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house, attended by committee members and/or those who simply wish to support. Planned events are then supported by those available at that time, whether they have been present at the meetings or not. Membership of the PTA is not exclusive, nor is it a clique. There is a friendly and purposeful atmosphere and meetings have been run to a tight timescale. **Your help is valued and needed.** Please join us after the Head's meeting to vote in next year's committee members and to find out more.

Toilet Refurbishment

Hopefully the picture above will give you some idea of the progress being made in the Foundation and KS1 toilet blocks. Estimated completed time is the next two-three weeks.

Maths Conference Next Friday and School Dinners

Due to an organisational difficulty, this conference is being postponed until a later date. This will mean that hot school dinners will be served as normal a week today and that there will be the usual KS1 and KS2 am and pm celebration assemblies.

Attendance

We look forward to sharing with you children's successes regarding attendance at school shortly. In the meantime, we have received a letter from the Director of SMBC Children's Services regarding children taking holidays during term time. Here is an extract from this letter.

'.....it is with this in mind that I write to you about family holidays in term time. These are difficult times for everyone and many people will be suffering financially, but I must remind parents and carers that the government guidance on holidays in term time is that they should be granted only in exceptional circumstances. A ten day holiday in term time will reduce a pupil's attendance by at least 5%, which will affect both their attainment and school routine, and on behalf of the Local Authority I will therefore fully support Headteachers who refuse to authorise absences in these circumstances.' Clearly we are seeking to raise our attendance this year and, therefore, avoiding taking holidays during term time will benefit the children. Please, therefore, book time away during the school holidays only. Many thanks for your support.

School Meal Payments

The electronic payment service for school meals is fully functioning, as is the payment for PTA, School Trips, Swimming lessons **AND** the Dads' Scalextric Night, on the Parentpay web site. Tracking non-payment of school meals is now extremely simple and it is clear that there are a number of people who have still to pay for meals taken by pupils last year. Mrs Davies will be contacting parents whose payment is overdue and also, reluctantly, to advise that, where large monies are involved, children will have to bring a packed lunch until the outstanding figure is cleared.

New Roles at the School.....JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

We would like to appoint 4 new Lunchtime Playworkers and a Senior Playworker. This is paid at a higher rate than the existing Midday role since it involves planning, organising and supervising play opportunities for the children. To give you an idea of the value of the role, 10 hours a week for a Playworker gives a gross income of £3603 and for the Senior Playworker £4103. This is not bad at all for 2 hours of work per day! We will consider full-time applications for all 5 days, or applications for a single/combination of other days. To take a look at the Job Description and Person Specification, click on the 'Our School' tab on the school website or click on this link <http://www.balsallcommonprimary.co.uk/vacancies>. (You will also find an Application Form there.) The Person Specification is quite detailed, but we are as interested in the potential that a person might display, and a willingness to learn, as we are in previous experience. Take a look and contact me directly for an informal look around the school/conversation. Applications are requested to be in by 12 noon Monday 1 October. I look forward to speaking with you.

Have a great weekend every one.
GT Burgess

Dear Parents,

Our first full week back has been superb! Pupil attitudes appear, at this point in time, to be sharper than ever, and their uniform precise....including the Windsor Knot (ask your KS2 children)!

We have two events next week which we would like a return slip for, these being:

- The **Head's Parental Update**, this coming Tuesday, 18 Sept, 6.00-7.00pm, in the main hall;
- The **Maths Curriculum Meeting** this coming Thursday, 20 Sept, 5.30-6.30pm, again in the hall.

Please complete and return the slip in order for us to ensure there are sufficient chairs.

In my Head's Update I will be aiming to review the impact that our initiatives have had on standards of attainment and achievement. This should be an interesting and informative hour!

The Maths Curriculum Meeting will aim to share with parents how maths is now taught in school and how children can best be helped at home. I think this will be one of the most valuable sessions attended this year!

I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to make one or both of these evenings.

PTA AGM

Tuesday 18 September, 7:00pm

This meeting will follow on from the Head's Update, so please stay to be part of it if you can. The PTA generates a huge amount of additional revenue each year, and values and needs as much parental support as possible. Over the course of any one year there has been a meeting once per half term, alternating between the school and the local public

A-Plan, Independent Insurance Consultants

A-Plan will make a contribution to the PTA for every policy taken out. Ring James Shaw on 0121-742-7961 to see if A-Plan has anything which matches your requirements

Balsall Common Primary School Sponsors

Atkinson Stilgoe, Village Estate Agents, is once more sponsoring our school generously over the next 4 year period. Please ring Anita McKeogh on 01676 535234 to see current listings of homes for sale.

Nursery - Ted & Toby Bear's Star of the Week Awards

Ted & Toby awards will be back next week!

Robin's Stars of the Week

Max M, RH

Georgia K, RM

Lucie, RD

Maths Wizard

Zack W, 1S

Eddie T, 2M

Writers of the Week

-
Elizabeth M, 1M

Ruby P-G, RM

-
Molly W, 1S

-
Maeve D, 2M

Good Choice Stars of the Week

Scarlett M, 1M	Baley W, 2M	Jack P 3C	Sophie W, 4D	Megan D, 5K	Becky B, 6B
Reuben S, 1M	-	Callum G, 3P	Harry H, 4F	Hollie A, 5K	William W, 6I
Alfie J, 1B	-	Emily W, 3A	Rhania D, 4B	Louis G, 5B	Tia F, 6M
Chloe O, 1S				-	

Diary Dates 2012- 2013

AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday 18 September	18:00	Head's Parental Update
	19:15	PTA AGM
Thursday 20 September	Year 6 open evening at Heart of England	
Friday 21 September	15:20	PTA Uniform Sale in Atrium
Tuesday 25 September	18:00	Reception Curriculum Evening
Wednesday 26 September	Year 1 to Transport Museum	
Friday 28 September	09:00	World's Biggest Coffee Morning in Atrium
		Targets home to parents
Mon & Tues 1 & 2 October	Year 3	Creaturama Visit
Tuesday 2 October	17:30	Year 2 Information Meeting for parents
Friday 5 October	19:00	Dads' Scalextric Night
Tuesday 9 October	11:00	Burial of time capsule at Harpers Field Care Home
	19:30	PTA meeting
Friday 12 October	09:10	2K Class Assembly
	14:45	5K Class Assembly
Wednesday 17 October	Year 5 to Kenilworth Castle	
Friday 19 October	09:10	2M Class Assembly
	14:45	5B Class Assembly



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