



Thursday 23 May 2013

Headteacher: **GT Burgess MA**

Web Site: [www.balsallcommonprimary.co.uk](http://www.balsallcommonprimary.co.uk)

E-Mail: [office@balsall-common.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@balsall-common.solihull.sch.uk)



### Dear Parents

Quite unbelievably we find ourselves at the end of the penultimate half term of the year. Life just seems to pass in the blink of an eye. Indeed, we have an action packed last half term which, I am sure, will see the next 7 weeks fly by too. Read on to find out what we have been doing this week and what is to come after the break.

### Attendance and Attitude towards

#### Learning

#### Week ending 10 May

Head's Classes		Attendance	
FKS	RH	Top Class	4D 97.3%
KS1	2K	Week	96%
LKS2	4B		
UKS2	6B		

We have been really pleased with the pupils' determination to be in school and with the support that you have offered in ensuring that pupils are in school and on time. There are still one or two children arriving late and missing the start of their lessons. Please do the best you can to ensure that this does not happen any longer.

### Year 2 Walk to the Village and

#### Reception Visit to Ash End House Farm

As I am sure you are fully aware, the curriculum here at Balsall is exciting and vibrant and designed to be 'real' for the children. As a result, Inspiration Days, school trips and 'expert' visitors all contribute to learning in a real-life context. This week it was Year 2's turn to sample this vibrancy. As part of their geography work on our local area, Year 2 children have been for a walk around Balsall Common. They have scrutinised landmarks, buildings and aspects of the environment in order

to make links between attractive/ appealing and less attractive/appealing architecture. The next stage is to follow this up in the classroom through mapwork. Meanwhile, Reception children's learning was also brought to life this week with their visit to Ash End House Children's Farm. Pupils were able to see animals at first hand and relate this experience to their classroom learning...not to mention the staff on the trampoline! Many thanks to all the adult helpers who accompanied the children on these activities.

### String Explosion

The changes which we introduced to our music provision in September 2010 are really starting to impact now on pupils' musical achievements. Our Year 3 children, together with our older and more experienced string musicians, attended Warwick Arts Centre earlier this week to take part in the Solihull String Explosion. 400 children attended the event and performed in both the Big Orchestra and in smaller pieces. At the end, the children received a standing ovation from parents who were totally captivated by their performance. Many thanks to all the accompanying staff, who were with the children at the venue from 1.30pm until 8.30pm, and many thanks to Mrs Avis for her vision and her drive in lifting the standard of music in school.

### Year 5 and 6 Sports Day

Dodging showers has become the norm now for all of us during the *supposedly* summer months. Setting dates for sports days is a complete lottery. However, fortune smiled on Upper Key Stage 2 this week and the children managed to complete in their annual sports event. I do hope that those of you who were in attendance enjoyed this spectacle. Well done children and staff.

### Save the Leopards and BRAKE

Well done to Emily, Nicole, Olivia and Paris, all from 3A, who raised £90.84 last week for Save the Leopards, and to the Junior Road Safety Team of Zoe, Preea, Amiee, Megan and Jessica who raised £48 for victims of road accidents.

### Dogs Trust

The Dogs Trust sent Pathways letters of thanks and appreciation for their knitted blankets which are being used in the kennels to keep stray and unwanted dogs warm and cosy. Well done Pathways.

### Job Opportunity!

Our *Playworkers* are having a tremendous impact on lunchtime experiences for our children. They organise games and activities and play with the children. It is going so well that we would like to appoint more! If you are interested in joining a highly successful lunchtime team, then contact me at school for more information.

### Forthcoming Events

A very busy forthcoming half term!

#### Sports Days

Thur 6 June: 1.45pm, Years 3 and 4

Weds 12 June: 1.45pm, Years 1 and 2

Tues 18 June: 1.45pm, Nursery & Reception

#### Residentials

3-7 June: Year 6 to Swanage

11 - 14 June: Year 4 to Dunfield

2 - 5 July: Year 5 Music Dunfield

#### Curriculum Weeks

10 - 14 June, Art Week

17 - 21 June, Real Life Maths Week

#### New to the School Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 11 June 6.00pm, Next Year's Reception Parents

Tuesday 25 June 6.00pm, Next Year's Nursery Parents

#### Transition Parents' Evenings

Mon 8 July 5.30pm: Next Year's Year 1 Parents

Tues 9 July 5.30pm: Next Year's Year 3 Parents

#### Year 6 End of Year Production

Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 July, 6.00pm

#### Summer Gala

This event is rapidly approaching! Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June! Only **Four** weeks on Saturday!

### Have a great Bank Holiday!

GT Burgess Headteacher

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.

**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**

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

Morning - Megan C and Nancy

Afternoon - Sophie and Harris

#### Robin's Stars of the Week

Magnus W & Jack B, RM

Christie S, RH

Ellen C, RD

#### Maths Wizard

-

Alex R, 1M

-

#### Writers of the Week

Alexandra B, RD

-

Max M & Caitlin K, RH

-

Elianne O, 1M

-

#### Good Choice Stars of the Week

Rhys J, 3P

Molly W, 4B

Gagandeep S, 5B

Alex D, 6I

-

Caitlin B, 4F

-

Sean S, 6M

-

Ollie M, 4F

-

### Diary Dates 2012- 2013

Friday 24 May	<b>INSET</b>
27-31 May	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 3 June	School returns Year 6 to Swanage until Friday 7 June
Thursday 6 June	13:45 Yrs 3 & 4 Sports Afternoon
Tuesday 11 June	Year 4 to Dunfield House until Friday 18:00 Reception New Parents Evening
Wednesday 12 June	13:45 Yrs 1 & 2 Sports Afternoon
Friday 14 June	14:45 3C Class Assembly Scholastic Book Fair in Atrium after school.
Monday 17 June	Scholastic Book Fair in Atrium after school.
Tuesday 18 June	13:45 Nursery & Reception Sports Afternoon
Weds 19 & Thurs 20 June	Scholastic Book Fair in Atrium after school.
Saturday 22 June	13:30-16:30 GALA DAY
Tuesday 25 June	18:00 Nursery New Parents Evening
Mon 24 & Tues 25 June	Year 6 induction at H of E
Friday 28 June	14:45 3A Class Assembly
Tuesday 3 July	Year 5 (part) to Music Dunfield until Friday
Friday 5 July	14:45 3P Class Assembly 18:00-19:15 Yrs 1 & 2 Disco 19:30-21:00 Yrs 3 - 6 Disco
Monday 08 July	17:30 Information meeting for new Year 1 parents
Tuesday 09 July	17:30 Information meeting for new Year 3 parents in atrium
Wednesday 10 July	18:00 Year 6 Production
Thursday 11 July	18:00 Year 6 Production
Friday 12 July	INSET
Monday 15 July	Reports home to parents
Monday 15 July	Musical Concert
Wednesday 17 July	Year 6 Games and BBQ
Friday 19 July	09:10 Year 2 Final Assembly Break up for Summer Holiday - Please note that this is earlier than other Solihull Schools



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