

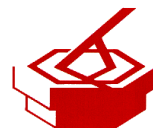


Friday 19 July 2013

Headteacher: **GT Burgess MA**

Web Site: www.balsallcommonprimary.co.uk

E-Mail: office@balsall-common.solihull.sch.uk



Dear Parents

Attendance and Attitude towards Learning over the Year

Head's Classes		Attendance	
FKS	RH	Last Year	95.4%
KS1	1B and 2K	This Year	95.9%
LKS2	3P		
UKS2	6I		

The table above to the left celebrates the classes that have won the Attitude Towards Learning Weekly Certificate the greatest number of times over the course of this term. Very well done indeed to all of these classes!

Attendance and Holidays During School Time

The attendance figure for the whole year represents a significant improvement and is a real achievement for everyone, including parents. Promoting high attendance and regular punctuality will continue next year. I am extremely pleased and would very much like to return an attendance figure of over 96% next year, which will definitely require your support. I am sure you will have read in the press that from September I will no longer be able to authorise holidays during term time, other than in exceptional circumstances. Clearly, this will lift attendance figures because you will need to take your holidays when the school is closed to pupils. However, it will definitely be more restrictive. So, I am interested in your views regarding a possible change to the Term Dates for 2014-2015 which might be beneficial to us all, that being to reduce the Easter holiday by one week and add that week to either the May or

the October half term when the weather is good and the flights/accommodation cheaper. Please have a think about it over the summer holidays. On our return I will send out a consultation paper to yourselves, governors and staff in order to gauge views. In the meantime, please ensure that you book your future holidays during school holidays only.

Fundraising

Sophie, Lara, Carys, Cerys, Farrah and Kiera raised a total of £62.70 for their chosen charity last week. Well done girls.

This week sisters Shannon and Shelby have been collecting to have their hair cut for the **Little Princess Trust** to provide wigs for children losing their hair as a result of cancer treatment. Thank you everyone for supporting them and well done girls. There is a Charity event, **tomorrow, at the Tipperary Inn, Balsall Common**, to raise funds for this charity. The event includes an opportunity to pitch your tent, live bands and a hog roast. To find out more ring 07443 939808.

Year 6 Production



This was absolutely amazing! The script allowed the children to take a more equal acting role within it this year...no small feat when dealing with 70 pupils!.....And, the title 'The Next Big Step' was extremely pertinent to the children's next stage in their education!.....And, as teachers, we could all recognise ourselves within the script. Very well done indeed children and staff! What a great performance to finish the year on!

Evening of Music

Mrs Aviss' Evening of Music this Monday was sensational! We had over 60 of our musicians singing, playing violins, cellos, the piano, the guitar, the double bass, clarinets, saxophones



and trumpets. The increasing proficiency of the musicians was evidenced through greater consistency within the notes and the rhythm of the tunes and the children's growing confidence with their instrument. In addition, our school Orchestra made their debut at this event and this brought tears to Mrs Aviss' eyes - it has taken us 18 months to move from the idea to the reality! Thank you parents for all of your support by encouraging your children to practise at home and to continue with their lessons. We are already working now on plans to develop the orchestra further!

Cricket



Our Year 5's attended the **Berkswell Cricket Festival** last week and came away the winners. Well done year 5. Meanwhile, the Year 4 area finalists went to Edgbaston Cricket Ground for friendlies against the other area winners. This was a superb day, with glorious sunshine, and was very much enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Year 6 Test Scores

Standards in school have improved

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.

consistently since 2009 with less children achieving below the national average and a significant proportion exceeding the national average at the higher levels, especially in maths. This year's Year 6 result is replicated across the vast majority of our other year groups. For example, attainment is high in comparison with the national averages, whilst progress from starting points is often exceptional. The data tables to your right demonstrate this. In the **Attainment** table, the figures in brackets are the national averages. The other figures are our Year 6 results. The Progress table looks at the proportions of pupils making more than expected progress from their starting points. The data in yellow is the national average (please see website Newsletter for colour version). As you can see, the proportions of pupils exceeding the national averages in the majority of year groups is extremely high. I will be explaining standards in school in more depth at the Head's Annual Parental Update on Tuesday 17th September at 6.00pm. This meeting will allow you to make more sense of the progress and attainment that your children should be making, including when they reach secondary school. Please come along if you can.

Close

And so, another year comes to a close. How quickly does life move on? Thank you all very much for your continued support and all the very best to staff who are moving on. I look forward to welcoming existing and new parents, pupils and staff to the school in September. Until that time, here's wishing you all the very best, and safest, holiday.

GTBurgess



Year 6 Results and Whole School Progress

Attainment		Progress				
	2013	Yr Group	Combined English	Reading	Writing	Maths
English - Reading		National Averages	26	34	28	28
Level 3	10 (14)	1	39	29	49	16
Level 4+	89 (86)	2	55	69	41	62
Level 5	46 (56)	3	55.5	74	37	47
Level 6	1 (0)	4	54	88	20	54
English - Writing		5	30	51	9	44
Level 3	18 (19)	6	47.5	51	44	79
Level 4+	80 (81)					
Level 5	33 (28)					
Level 6	3 (1)					
Maths						
Level 3	6 (16)					
Level 4+	93 (84)					
Level 5	54 (39)					
Level 6	21 (3)					

Diary Dates 2013- 2014

Monday 2 September	INSET
TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER	CHILDREN BACK IN SCHOOL
Friday 6 September	9:05am KS1 Assembly; 2.45pm LS2 Assembly
Tuesday 17 September	Head's Update
Thursday 19 September	Centenary Celebrations Open Day
Wednesday 25 September	PTA AGM
28 October- 1 November	Half Term
Friday 20 December	End of Autumn Term



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