



### Dear Parents

Many thanks to you all for a terrific re-start to the school year. The children have returned to school looking incredibly smart and their attitude towards learning is fantastic. I'm afraid the pictures on this week are not as exciting as usual, but they are relevant because they capture some of the work that took place at the school during the summer holidays. Please read on to find out more.

### Holiday Work to School Facilities

We have had a particularly busy summer break and spent thousands of pounds improving the school's facilities. Some of this work has only been possible as a result of grants that we have accessed as a result of our Academy status, funding which is not available otherwise. For example, we have totally re-fitted the flat roofed area of the school, including replacing all skylights, at a cost of some £114,000 (all grant money). This work is guaranteed for 20 years! We have then started to repair ceilings where years of leaking skylights have discoloured paintwork. The replacement of the skylights has also significantly increased light in rooms which were darker, thus improving teaching conditions. In addition, we have replaced doors in the hall and corridors (£15,000); upgraded the extraction fan in the kitchen to meet regulations (another £15,000); replaced all classroom sinks and cupboards and staff toilets (£3,000); upgraded the penultimate children's toilet block in Year 6 (£30,000). We can apply for a further grant in November in order to

address KS1 playground drainage, the windows and doors in classrooms, again on the KS1 playground, a full electrical re-wire and a replacement boiler system. As you can see, we are being proactive in attracting funding and working hard to lift the quality of the environment and facilities of our school whilst, at the same time, ensuring that our key priority, that of focusing on the quality of teaching and learning in the school, allows all children to reach their fullest potential. Please join me at my **Annual Head's Parental Update** next Tuesday for a detailed look at the impact of change on standards.

**McMillan Coffee Morning, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 9.00-11.00am**

You are all invited to attend this annual fund raising coffee morning. As usual, tea, coffee and cakes will be available alongside Christmas cards and wrapping paper, birthday cards and a wide selection of interesting gifts. Come along and chat over drinks and snacks, start your Christmas shopping early and raise money for a really worthwhile charity!

### Using ParentPay to Generate Funds for the School

Many small businesses look for opportunities to advertise through our school. In the past, we have placed photocopies of flyers into children's book bags.....never to be seen from one year to the next.....and made a small charge to the business. However, a more effective way is to email out these flyers by using our ParentPay system. The children's book bags are not congested and you actually get to read them, **or simply delete them with a single click if they do not interest you.** I do hope that you find some of the material of interest and, if you don't, that the single click required to delete the message makes up for the fact

that the small charge to the business goes towards improvements which ultimately benefit the children. However, there are also a number of other materials which we send out for free because that benefits the children in different ways.

### OFSTED Inspection and Parent View

We are due an inspection now at any time. It could be next week, it could be January, but it is highly likely that it will be sometime soon. As soon as we are notified, I will let you know immediately. The inspecting team will gather evidence about the school prior to arrival. This takes the form of the previous report and the data on pupil attainment and progress gathered by the government. The team also looks at Parent View. This is a questionnaire completed on line by parents about the school. Normally, Parent View is not populated prior to inspection and then there is a mad dash to fill it in when the team arrives. In anticipation of an imminent inspection, could you perhaps populate it now? It will only take a few minutes of your time. To access it, visit [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) and click on the link in the top right hand corner. Enter the school's postcode and then complete the questionnaire. Many thanks in anticipation.

### Next Week's Centenary Celebrations

We are all looking forward to a busy week celebrating 100 years since Balsall Common Primary came into being. We have an Open Day on Thursday, followed by an evening for former pupils and staff. And then....on Saturday....we have the Centenary Ball. In total, 275 tickets for the event have been sold! See you there!

**In the meantime, have a great weekend!**  
GT Burgess

**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 Bear stayed in the Nursery last weekend and played with the toys.

**Robin's Stars of the Week**

Logan R, RM

**Maths Wizard**

Lucas H, 1P  
Alfie J, 2D

-  
Daniel W, 2K

Alfie N, 1M  
Thomas O'R, 2A

**Writers of the Week**

Inderjit C, 1P  
Marcus B, 2D

-  
Grace W, 2K

Clarissa Y, 1S  
Shelby B, 2A

**Good Choice Stars of the Week**

Isabella W, 1S	Lucas Wh, 2K	Sarah M, 3D	Lara P, 4D	Keria B, 5B	Matthew J, 6W
Laura B, 1P	Summer P, 2D	Esme C, 3C	Liberty F, 4B	Alexander W, 5M	Emily L, 6H
Ruby P-G, 1M	Alfie K, 2A	-	-	Joshua B, 5P	Lyndsey N, 6M

**AUTUMN TERM 2013**

Tuesday 17 September	09:00	Children's Centre Coffee Morning in Atrium
	18:00	Head's Parental Update
Thursday 19 September	School Open Day to celebrate 100 years	
	18:30	Centenary Social
Saturday 21 September	Centenary Ball	
Monday 23 September	Yr 5	Kenilworth Town - Geography Visit
Wednesday 25 September	18:00	Reception Curriculum Evening in hall
	19:30	PTA AGM
Thursday 26 September	Year 1	Coventry Transport Museum
Friday 27 September	09:00	Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning in Atrium
	14:45	5P Class Assembly
Tuesday 1 October	Year 5	Egyptian Day
	18:00	Year 6 Information Evening for Parents
Friday 4 October	Harvest Assemblies to be led by Andrew Charlesworth	
	19:30	Scalextric Evening for Men
Tuesday 8 October	18:00	Year 2 Information Evening for Parents
Friday 11 October	14:45	5B Class Assembly
Monday 14 October	Year 5	Kenilworth Castle
Tuesday 15 October	Individual School Photos	
Thursday 17 October	Year 5	Medieval Day
Friday 18 October	14:45	5M Class Assembly
Mon 21 - Fri 25 October	BOOK WEEK	
Mon 21 & Tues 22 October	Parental Consultations	
Wednesday 23 October	Author Julia Jarman visiting children. Bookshop in Atrium	
Friday 25 October	14:45	3C Class Assembly
	School finishes for Half Term	



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TheGivingMachine it will generate a donation.

