



Newsletter Number 01

Friday 4th September 2015

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Dear Parents

Welcome to the Academic Year 2015-2016! I do hope that you have all had a decent break, whatever the destination or duration of that break has been. We have been busy in school over the holidays moving classrooms around, carrying out changes to the accommodation and building a new outdoor area for the additional Reception Class. Classrooms are looking fantastic; displays are pristine; children's names are on books and everyone is ready to go.

We are all looking forward to another year where we do the best we can to educate and inspire in a supportive and fun environment.

There are a small number of changes that we are introducing and these are outlined below.

Welcome back!

Changes

Swimming: We are increasing the amount of time that the children will be spending in the water in order to deliver a higher quality swim coaching session. Lessons will be an hour long, including changing, and children will swim in blocks of three weeks. Details of when swimming will be for your son/daughter will come to you from their class teacher. We are trialling this for the first term and may make some adjustments as we go. This change will also impact positively on French, ICT and Games, which will also now benefit from an hour long session.

ATL Points: Last year we awarded a cup weekly to KS2 children for the highest number of ATL Points gained by a single person each week and I took them bowling at the end of the academic year as a further reward. Our driver is to ensure that continual high quality behaviour and attitude is rewarded, not missed! This year,

even though the cups will remain the same, we are changing the criteria by which the children are chosen for the end of year reward. This year two children from each class, with the greatest number of ATL Points collected over the whole year, will receive the reward.

Attendance and Punctuality

We will be continuing to monitor attendance and punctuality and celebrate this in the newsletter and in assemblies. Last term we gave out a staggering 211 badges for 100% attendance and would like to increase that number with **YOUR** help. Please do the best you can to ensure that the children are in school and on time.

Nursery Graduation Last Year



This is the first published picture of the Nursery Graduation. It was an emotional event for the parents, though the children were far more interested in their Mortar Boards and song words! Many thanks to the Nursery Team for a providing such an excellent start to the children's schooling!

All the Best to Our Leavers

Our old Year 6 children will be starting their new school imminently...we wish them well and can't wait to see them in their new school uniforms. Likewise, we are also thinking of the staff that left us last year: Mrs Jones and Mrs Law in their retirement; Mrs Hardwick in semi-retirement; Mrs Blanchflower and Mr White in their new roles and new schools.

Peanuts

No peanuts, or foods with peanut content,

are allowed in school. We have a number of children who have severe allergies and use Epipens; contact with as much as peanut oil on a table surface could be fatal! Please be vigilant and check the ingredients' lists of food before you send it in to school.

Welcome to Reception Parents

All of our new Reception pupils have been into the school already. They look fantastic in their school uniforms and we very much enjoyed welcoming you in to school for a pastry and a cuppa.

Dragons - BCPS Before and After School and Holiday Club

Many thanks indeed to the new team running the Dragons. I have had very positive feedback from pupils about their experience over the summer. Teething issues are being addressed and we are up and running now for the new school year. To book places contact Lea Barton on s2lbarton@balsall-common.solihull.sch.uk.

Open for Business in the Holiday

I would like to thank the ladies in the school office for being at work during the penultimate week of the school holiday. This was new and has been warmly received by many of you. Thank you for sharing your positive comments with me.

Meeting Dates

Please join us if you can for the first **PTA meeting** of the new school year in the school hall on **Monday 14th September at 7.00pm**.

In addition, I do hope that you can join me for my Head's Annual Update to Parents on Tuesday 22nd September at 6.00pm. The main item agenda will be the new assessment system.

Diary Dates for Year

Please retain attached Diary Dates for the academic year, and watch out for any updates in the newsletter as the year progresses!

Once more, welcome to the new school year and.....

Have a great weekend.

GT Burgess

DIARY DATES 2015-2016

Autumn Term

Monday 7 September	School begins for Nursery children
Monday 14 September	PTA AGM
Tuesday 15 September	18.00 EYFS Information/Curriculum Evening
Monday 21 September	18.00 Year 6 Information Evening
Tuesday 22 September	18.00 Head's Update
Wednesday 23 September	Year 5 to Kenilworth Castle
Friday 25 September	Macmillan Coffee Morning 2:45 Class Assembly 3C
Friday 2 October	2:45 Class Assembly 3P
Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 October	Year 3 Dinosaur Man Visit
Wednesday 7 October	No Pens Day Wednesday PTA Meeting
Thursday 8 October	18.00 - KS2 Poetry Recital
Monday 12 October	School Nurse drop-in for parents 17.30 Year 2 Information Evening
Wednesday 14 October	Travelling Book Fair in school (Until Monday 19 October)
Friday 16 October	2:45 Class Assembly 3D Year 6 Warwick University Science Day
Monday 19 & Tuesday 20 October	Parents' Evenings
Friday 23 October	INSET DAY AND BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
Monday 2 November	BACK TO SCHOOL
Friday 6 November	2:45 Class Assembly 6B PTA Chair's Quiz Night
Tuesday 10 November	Year 3 to Tesco (one class)
Friday 13 November	2:45 Class Assembly 6K Children in Need Day
Tuesday 17 November	Year 3 to Tesco (one class)
Wednesday 18 November	Year 5 to the National Space Centre
Friday 20 November	2:45 Class Assembly 6W
Tuesday 24 November	Year 3 to Tesco (one class)
Saturday 28 November	Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 2 December	10.00am and 2.00pm Nursery Nativity
Friday 4 December	Disco
Monday 7 December	2.00pm Reception Nativity
Tuesday 8 December	2.00pm Year 1 Nativity
Wednesday 9 December	Nursery and Reception to Warwick Arts Centre - The Gruffalo's Child 2.00pm Year 2 Nativity 6.00pm Year 1 Nativity
Thursday 10 December	6.00pm Year 2 Nativity
Friday 11 December	2.00pm Reception Nativity
Monday 14 December	Years 3 & 4 Carol Concerts
Tuesday 15 December	Whole School Christmas Dinner Years 5 & 6 Carol Concerts
Wednesday 16 December	Years 1 - 6 to Leamington Spa Centre Pantomime - Jack & the Beanstalk Christmas Party Day for Nursery and Reception
Friday 18 December	TERM ENDS