



Newsletter Number 04

Friday 25th September 2015
Headteacher: **GT Burgess MA**

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Dear Parents

Attendance and Attitude towards Learning for Last Week

Well done indeed to 6K for achieving 100% attendance last week, and, again, to the whole school for an amazing 97.4%.

| Last Week's ATL Winners | | Weekly Attendance | |
|-------------------------|----|-------------------|-------|
| FS | RM | 1D | 99.4% |
| KS1 | 2B | 3C+4C | 99.0% |
| LKS2 | 3D | 6K | 100% |
| UKS2 | 5B | Whole School | 97.4% |

ATL Points Cup Winners

Congratulations to Christie in 3C and Ethan in 5B for earning the most ATL points individually last week in their Key Stages.

Year 6 Information Evening

Many thanks indeed for attending this event earlier this week and to the Year 6 Team for their super efforts. We all hope that you left the meeting with more knowledge of what will be happening in Year 6 this year than you had on entry.

Headteacher's Annual Update to Parents

The same applies to this meeting. Changes to the way in which primary schools are assessing attainment and progress this year are not the same as they have been for the last 28 years! Schools across the country have been given the opportunity to create an assessment system that suits their needs in a climate of raised expectations within the curriculum. This means that assessments are likely to look different in each school. What will be consistent will be the statements in each subject area which are now deemed to be age related. These ARE's, Age Related Expectations, are more demanding than the 'average' levels attained by children under the old curriculum. Last year our teachers assessed using both the old and new curriculums to determine what the impact would be on the proportions of pupils in each year group that attain the

national averages. The outcome of this dual assessment is in the table below.

| | Reading | | Writing | | Maths | |
|---|---------|-----|---------|-----|-------|------|
| | Old | New | Old | New | Old | New |
| 1 | 95 | 67 | 91 | 69 | 96 | 44 |
| 2 | 89 | 55 | 76 | 33 | 88 | 56 |
| 3 | 85 | 80 | 76 | 75 | 80 | 90 |
| 4 | 84 | 81 | 88 | 62 | 70 | 73 |
| 5 | 88 | 81 | 64 | 75 | 80 | 69.5 |

As you can see, the proportions of pupils reaching the national averages under the old curriculum are higher in all but three areas than those reaching ARE under the new curriculum. This is because the expectation of what is regarded as 'average' for each year group has risen, since the curriculum is more demanding. However, high quality teaching is a distinctive feature of this school and, though it will be hard in all schools, there is no reason why we can't rise to the challenge and deliver against the new criteria. I will share the outcome of these efforts with you at the end of the year.

PTA - Second Hand Clothes

The PTA are collecting clothes that you no longer require regularly now and converting them to cash. The next collection will be each day between the 2nd and 6th of November. Please drop your old clothes at main reception, preferably in a black bag, at any time during this period. Many thanks indeed.

Scooters on the Playground

It's lovely to see so many younger children coming to school on their scooters, or their bikes. However, once they are on the playgrounds they **must** dismount. This is because there is an increased risk to others if, inadvertently, the riders crash into someone else; shins for adults perhaps?; faces for toddlers and school children maybe? We have had parents in reception first thing in the morning with crying children requiring first aid treatment for this very reason. Please, please get your children to hold the scooters and bikes still until you have left the playground.

Coats

When it poured down last Tuesday, there were a huge number of children without coats who got soaked. Could you please remind them again to bring their coats into school? Many thanks.

Medicine Permission Form

We are more than happy to support you and your son/daughter with medicines during the school day. However, we absolutely **will not** give any medication to the children without a consent form. You can find this on the school website by following these tabs: Parents, Parents' Links, Introduction and scrolling down the page. Or you can click on this link: <http://www.balsallcommonprimary.co.uk/Introduction2>. We have a supply of printed copies in the Studio with the 'Dragons' too.

Booking Swim Lessons

We have appointed an administrator to deal with all swim lesson bookings. For all bookings or enquiries now, please email Abby Mitchell on s2amitchell@balsall-common.solihull.sch.uk.

Lost Property

The new, improved (we hope) system is underway. All non-named lost property will now be in the wicker basket in main reception. It will only stay there for one week and will then be removed. All named lost property will be returned to its owner, so please name everything.

PTA Events

Valentine Ball, Saturday 6th February: SAVE THIS DATE! Three course meal; live band; dancing; Nailcote Hall; £40 pp. Black Tie. Tables of 10 for you to book! Watch this space!

Next Week

Slip into Slippers: Thursday. Children to bring their slippers and make a small donation, if they can, for Solihull Age UK.

Heroes: Friday. Dress as a Hero to celebrate **Heroes Writing Week**. No donation required.

So, sort out those old clothes and make way for the new, since there remain only **13 Shopping Saturdays until Christmas!**

Have a great weekend.

GT Burgess



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Robin's Stars of the Week

Mikey S, RW

Sienna E, RK

Freddie J, RC

Billy P, RM

Writers of the Week

Ellie H, RW
 Artie K, 1R
 Holly B, 2K

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 Luke W, 1H
 Alex T, 2B

Annabel H, RK
 Lilly K, 1D
 Joel P, 2M

Maths Wizards

Bailey P-R, 1D
 Joel B, 2K

Seth S, 1H
 Jessica L, 2K

Ruby W, 1R
 Nicholas E, 2M

Good Choice Stars of the Week

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Nathan W, 1H | Stanley D, 2B | George K, 3C | Maddy P, 4J | Amber C, 5B | Franco V, 6W |
| Freddie E, 1D | Johdh J, 2M | Louis J, 3P | Eleanor D-D, 4W | Joseph S, 5T | George G, 6B |
| Finlay J, 1D | Alex W, 2K | Lila B, 3D | Oliver W, 4C | Charlie M, 5P | Jack P, 6K |
| Chloe P, 1R | | | | | |

DIARY DATES

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| Wednesday 21 October | Year 6 Inspiration Day (dressing up)- Victorians |
| 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 |