

Balsall Common Primary School

Outstanding: OFSTED February 2014

Newsletter Number 32



Friday 20th May 2016

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Dear Parents and Children,

Attendance and ATLs for Last Week

Very well done indeed to the classes below for their attendance, especially three 100% classes last week!

Last Week's ATL Winners		Weekly Attendance	
FS	RW	6B	100%
KS1	1D	6K	100%
LKS2	4C	6W	100%
UKS2	6W	Whole School	96.0%

ATL Points Cup Winners

Well done to Dylan in 4J and Evelyn in 6W, for earning the most ATL Points in LKS2 and UKS2 respectively.

Additional Pupils in September

As a governing body we have wrestled and debated long and hard over the past few weeks to determine whether or not we were able to increase our intake in September to accommodate children who already have brothers and sisters in the school. Space has obviously been a factor in our discussions, particularly any impact on the quality of the curriculum and pupils' outcomes across the school. Finance has also been a consideration, since funding for pupils operates one year behind their entry to the school, so the school does not receive any funding for the Reception children's year until they reach Year 1. However, spaces this year for Reception pupils is at a premium across the Borough; admissions have reported that there are only **FOUR** spare spaces for Reception children in September 2016 across all Solihull schools. As a result, knowing that we have approximately half a class of children who would be separated from their siblings, and knowing that provision needs to be made for families who move into Solihull, admissions have offered to support the development of an additional class for September. In so doing, this frees up spaces in schools

locally that have offered places to our families within the Borough. This still leaves the question of space and possible impact on the curriculum. So, teachers and teaching assistants have, together, been considering ways in which procedures can be adapted to reduce or negate pressure on the school's accommodation and curriculum. Ideas include staggering morning break-times and dinner times, amongst many other ideas, to provide children with more free space. In addition, thought has been given to the organisation of the timetable to achieve a less congested and more beneficial experience for children and parents in Friday celebration assemblies. The finer details have yet to be determined and we will share these with you as soon as we have agreed them. In the meantime, as a Governing Body we have decided **NOT** to offer a full **30** spaces; instead, we will be admitting only **15** additional pupils, **11** of whom already have brothers and sisters in the school. This will mean that class sizes in that year will be smaller. If other families wish to join us in the future, they will have to go through an appeals process. I know that conversations amongst parents have included this topic recently; I have met with parents who have asked for further information and made clear that I would share information on a wider scale when we had something concrete to report. I would like to thank you all for your patience and for the confidence that you have placed in us to do the right thing. We believe that this way forward is a strong compromise which allows us not to let down our existing families whilst minimising the impact on our school space for our existing pupils. Many thanks again.

SATs and Assessments

News headlines have been heavily focused on the Year 6 SATs papers which were taken by Year 6 pupils last week. There is no doubt that expectations of pupils have risen tremendously, just as we informed you they would last year. These expectations are across all year groups in the school. The Year 2 Statutory Assessment Tests have also seen greater demands on pupils. I must congratulate our staff; they have coached and prepared the children particularly well. As a result, much of

the discomfort reported to have been experienced by pupils in many schools across the country have been avoided here. I must also congratulate the pupils; they have been focused and determined and have received high praise indeed from us. The main issue for all schools now is that no 'pass' mark has been reported. Since these tests are new, and based around a more demanding curriculum, the DfE is waiting until all scripts have been marked before deciding on the thresholds. Consequently, we cannot yet know how well our pupils have performed in relation to other pupils nationally. As soon as we do, we will share this information with you.

Army Benevolent Fund

On a charitable note, the ABF is a Soldiers' Charity. Its aim is to provide a lifetime of support to soldiers, and former soldiers, and their immediate families, from the British Army. The charity makes grants to individuals through their Regiments and Corps and supports a wide range of specialist charities that sustain the British Army 'family', both at home and around the world. The Cateran Yomp is an annual charity event that involves walking 54 miles through the Scottish Highlands in 24 hours. It is an arduous event for the soldiers taking part, but ultimately rewarding in respect of the funds raised. It will be taking place this year between 2nd and 3rd June 2016 and the charity would be delighted if you could contribute to this fund raising event. If this is something that you would like to do, then please visit: www.soldierscharity.org and search 'Cateran Yomp'.

INSET Day

Remember that the school is closed to pupils next Friday for staff training.

Have a great weekend
GT Burgess

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 Zig and Zog's Stars of the Week

Miss Sargent's class - Archie and Walter

Mrs Basener & Mrs Parkin's class - Blake and Alfie G

Robin's Stars of the Week

Sofia M, RM

Oliver M & Eva C, RK

Nelson-John S, RW

Charlotte H, RC

Writers of the Week

Oliver M & Archie B, RK

Jordan C & Zac A, RM

Emily B, RW

Lilian C & Jasmin S, 1D

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Matthew F, 1R

Harris M, Anais P & Johdh J, 2M

James W & Isobel C, 2K

Emily S & Rafael P, 2B

Maths Wizards

Freya W & Jensen W, 1D

Lara B, 1R

Bryn TS, 1H

Charlie M, 2B

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Alfie H, 2B

Good Choice Stars of the Week

Emily H, 1R

River B, 2K

Gabriella H, 3D

Scarlett A, 4C

Charlie D, 5P

Bethan W, 6B

Andrew B, 1H

Logan R, 2B

Jack B, 3P

Erin C, 4J

Keira P, 5T

Emily W, 6W

Ben B, 1D

Casey H, 2M

Zara D 3C

Jeevan S, 4W

Joseph W, 5B

Emily K, 6W

Henry J-B, 1D

Charlie S, 5B

Charlotte W, 6K

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 25 May	Years 5 & 6 Sports Day
Friday 27 May	INSET DAY
Monday 6 June	BACK TO SCHOOL
Tuesday 7 May	18:00 Phonics Evening for Nursery and Reception Parents
Monday 6 - Friday 10 June	Year 6 to Isle of Wight
Thursday 9 June	Years 1 & 2 Sports Day
Monday 13 June	17:00 New Nursery Parents Introductory Meeting 18:00 New Reception Parents Introductory Meeting
Tuesday 14 June	Years 3 & 4 Sports Day
Friday 17 June	Non-School Uniform Day for Gala - please donate chocolates & chemist stall items 9:05 Class Assembly RW 2:45 Class Assembly 5T
Tuesday 21 - Friday 24 June	Year 4 to Dunfield House
Thursday 23 June	Nursery & Reception Sports Day
Friday 24 June	Non-School Uniform Day for Gala - please donate bottles (full!) HSBC SchoolBank
Saturday 25 June	GALA DAY
Friday 1 July	2:45 Class Assembly 5P
Wednesday 6 July	18:00 - Summer Concert
Friday 8 July	HSBC SchoolBank Disco
Monday 11 July	16:30 Year 1 Information Evening 17:30 Year 3 Information Evening
Wednesday 13 & Thursday 14 July	18:00 - Year 6 Performance
Friday 15 July	INSET DAY
Monday 18 July	Reports Home
Wednesday 20 July	Year 6 Fun Day and BBQ PTA final meeting
Thursday 21 July	Final KS1 birthday assembly
Friday 22 July	9:05 Final Assembly Year 2 14:30 Final Assembly Year 6 END OF SCHOOL YEAR