

Bunwell Primary School Update – 25th April

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to the pupils, parents and staff of the school at the start of a very busy term. The pupils have all made a fantastic start back and it is a pleasure to be part of a school with such a vibrant atmosphere.

This term I will be sharing information via the school website to ensure regular communication with you and to answer any queries directly. We will also be 'tweeting' information regularly using the **@bunwell_primary** twitter account, so please follow us if you are able.

I have added some important information below including some from queries which we have received so far, but if you would like to know anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Mr Merrywest

Celebration Assemblies

The staff and pupils really enjoy celebrating their achievements with parents and carers and our aim is to continue this during the summer term. These assemblies however can be a little disruptive to both staff and pupils and we therefore plan to reduce them to once every half term.

These will be held on **Friday 26th May and Friday 14th July, both at 8:50 a.m.** Please note that as there are likely to be many achievements, these assemblies could last up to 30 minutes.

Morning Routines

Thank you for your support with our change in the morning routine, this has provided a valuable opportunity for all staff to meet together to discuss the school day and to share key information.

As a reminder of the routine, the playground will be open from 8:30 a.m. however it will not be supervised until **8:45 a.m.** and the school cannot take responsibility for young people until staff are on duty. We do not recommend that parents leave young people unsupervised, but if this is not possible, we ask that pupils follow the normal standards of expected school behaviour.

Communication with Staff

We always welcome communication with parents and it is an important part of school life to be able to discuss pupil progress and wellbeing with the Class Teacher.

It has however been brought to my attention that some parents are questioning staff on whole school matters that should be discussed through more formal channels and who also wish to have a longer conversation at a time when Class Teachers need to be with their pupils.

I would politely remind parents and carers that we request you to make an appointment to meet with me for whole school matters or the Class Teacher for individual pupil matters via the school office.

This enables us to provide all of the information you require and to give you our full attention. There is also a consultation afternoon and evening on 2nd May where I am available to answer any questions.

Accessing the school

We are also very proud to show parents and carers our school and we have an open morning planned for later this term. We do however need to make clear that the school is a professional working environment and we are required to establish a boundary in terms of the buildings for safeguarding purposes.

Could we please request that parents and carers do not enter the school buildings unless invited to do so at any time including before or after school. On wet mornings the cloakroom area in the middle of the school is available for young people to wait in the dry and we will make emergency arrangements in other cases. Adults should especially not enter classroom areas unaccompanied at any time and should instead make a suitable appointment via the school office.

SATS

This time of year can be dominated a little by the SATS for both Year 6 and Year 2 pupils. We would like to keep things to 'business as normal' where possible so as not to raise the anxiety level for the young people.

Mrs Brookes and Mrs Simon will be conducting specific sessions during the school day to make sure pupils can achieve their best. Parents and carers can support us with this by keeping a good balance and perspective of the importance of the tests and by supporting their child/ren with any extra work set.

SATS for Year 6 is week beginning 8th May and Year 2 the following week.

PTA

I would like to extend a special thanks to the PTA for the hard work and support they provide to the school including the cake raffle on a Friday morning and the Bingo night on May 12th. Thank you!

The PTA provides an important opportunity for parents and carers to support the school and I am sure they would welcome further volunteers.

Reports

Pupil Progress Reports will be sent home to you via pupils shortly and we will text you to let you know to expect them. There is an updated format for this term which includes a progress indicator in Reading, Writing and Maths and a comment from the class teacher. Further information will be included with the report.

Staff

I am delighted to announce that we have been able to make the temporary contract for Miss Johnson into a permanent arrangement. Miss Johnson has been an excellent teacher for the school this year and we are looking forward to continuing to work with her in the years to come.

Following discussions with governors, the Academy Trust and staff, the school will be advertising for a new Senior Leadership position at the school with effect from September 2017. I will provide more details regarding this post as soon as they are available.

Dates for the diary

2nd May – Parent Consultation 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. with Mr Merrywest

12th May – PTA Bingo Night 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

22nd May - School open morning. Please confirm your attendance through to school office before visiting.

23rd May - Class 3 Roman Trip to Norwich Castle