

Bunwell Primary Newsletter – 12th May

Thank you to all of the parents /carers who took the time to attend the consultations evenings last week, it was very good to meet with you and to discuss some plans for the school over the next term and beyond.

During the meeting we discussed some of the school history including the centenary in 1979 and the significance of the logo of the girl on the two plaques in school. Later on in the week I discovered some of the historical documents of the school including the original Head Teachers log book from 1879, a photo from the turn of the 20th Century taken from the corner of the turnpike and the planning details for the 1979 centenary. I will be making some arrangements to share some of these with you towards the end of the term. This served as a timely reminder that these buildings have influenced the lives of many thousands of young people and will continue to do so for many years to come.

In the present day, the school have been focusing on SATs for this week and next and there may be a few minor changes and disruptions whilst we organise the best possible environment for our young people. Please do bear with us and thank you for your understanding.

Mr Merrywest

Class Organisation for 2017/18

We are looking forward to welcoming 17 new pupils to Reception class in September, the same number to those currently in Year 5 who will be focusing on SATS next year. Following a review with the staff and school governors it is clear that we need to re-organise our class structure slightly for the best effect. For next year therefore we plan to have the following classes (with the number of pupils in brackets)

- Reception and Year 1 (24)
- Year 2 and Year 3 (31)
- Year 4 and Year 5 (25)
- Year 6 (17)

Teaching and non-teaching staff for each class will be announced later in the term.

To accommodate this arrangement, we will also need to review the classrooms for each class to ensure they are fit for purpose. The present plan is to switch KS1 to the main school buildings and to move KS2 to re-furnished mobile classrooms. The main rationale behind this is that KS1 classes require an extra carpet and play area for pupils as well as the desks. The main school rooms are slightly larger and allow a little more flexibility. This aspect is in the final phases of discussion following a complicated puzzle of strategic and financial planning.

Whilst I fully understand that there will always be differences of opinion regarding changes such as these, please be assured that the plans have been fully discussed and reviewed to ensure they meet the long term needs of the school.

Morning Routines

The morning routines were discussed at the parents' consultation with many people being concerned about the playground before school. Some key points regarding this are:

- We do not recommend that parents leave young people unattended at any time. Arrangements are currently being made for a Before and After School Club linked to Carleton Rode and further details will be available shortly.
- School staff will be on the playground at 8:45 to organise the arrangements for lining up.
- The school is not responsible for the safety and welfare of young people before they have lined up with staff members at 8:50.
- We expect good behaviour on the playground **at all times**. If young people wish to run around in the morning, could we ask that they do so on the far side of the playground away from adults so as not to cause a hazard.
- Unfortunately, there can be no access to the school buildings unless supervised or in exceptional circumstances. This is a necessity for safeguarding purposes.
- On a wet morning, please ensure pupils are equipped appropriately with coats and umbrella etc. We will make the necessary arrangements on the day in the case of very wet mornings / thunder storms.

I have reviewed these arrangements with Head Teachers from other local schools, many of whom have had difficulties with Ofsted Inspectors and Safeguarding Officers for their morning routines. Unfortunately, some schools have had to take the step of not allowing parents on the playground at all and they follow a similar arrangement to our end of day routine. I do not feel that we need to make further changes at this time, however just to be aware that it could be a future possibility if we can not meet the necessary regulations.

School Office

We do welcome face to face contact, however the easiest way to contact the school office is via email. This means that we can take the time to review your question fully and can reply directly with anything you require.

The office email address is **office@bunwell.norfolk.sch.uk**

Should you wish to speak to someone, the School Office is open for parent enquiries from **8:30 - 8:40** but will then be closed for 5 minutes for a staff briefing. It is open again at **8:45** for information and enquiries. I would be very grateful if parents would be understanding of the need for Mrs Davis to join us in our morning meeting to allow her the time to communicate with all staff.

I have also been made aware that some parents are sharing concerns with Mrs Davis regarding school wide decisions. As previously indicated, the School is more than happy to listen to comments, suggestions and concerns, however we do ask that you book an appointment with **me** to discuss them fully. I am then able to provide the correct information and guidance and to address any issues in the appropriate way.

School Open Morning

We are looking forward to showing parents our School on Monday 22nd May. The day will have a slightly different format to usual and will not be a drop in arrangement.

- 9:00 – 9:10 Welcome in School Hall with Mr Merrywest
- 9:10 – 10:15 Parents visiting classrooms of their children
- 10:20 – 10:35 Parents are welcome to stay for a whole school assembly with Rev. Madinda

Due to the size of our classrooms and the potential number of parents, please could you indicate your attendance to us before the day.

PTA BINGO

Thanks to the PTA for organising the Bingo night, a fantastic time was had by all, despite the amateur Bingo Caller!

Reports and Parents Evening

Progress reports were sent home recently and many thanks to those of you who have given feedback. The letters have changed slightly to indicate a **prediction** as to whether your child will meet the National Standard for their age at the **end of the school year**. If you have any specific queries, please contact the relevant class teacher or myself.

We will be sending home one more set of reports towards the end of the year which will be linked to Parents Evening. Our aim this year is to meet with the parents of those children causing a concern or who have a particular issue. Further details will follow near to half term.

Sports Day

An important amendment for your diary. School sports day (and the reserve day) have been moved to the 13th July (and 20th July as a backup). This will also now incorporate a whole school picnic with parents /carers to give further opportunities for the wider school community to come together. The change of date will help to minimize disruption to other aspects of school life, will be the culmination of our new 'Teams' initiative and will also hopefully bring good weather!

Dates for the diary

22nd May - School open morning

23rd May - Class 3 Roman Trip to Norwich Castle

26th May – School closed for half term at 15:30