

Bunwell Primary Newsletter – 3rd May

After a week of settling back in to the new term, the governors, staff and I have turned our focus as to how we can continue to develop the school and move things forward. We are going to introduce a few initiatives this term to try to provide the young people with more opportunities to earn rewards and to work with pupils from across the whole age range of the school. I have outlined some of these changes below and in the coming weeks, parents and carers will have an opportunity to get involved as well.

A quick reminder that we will be tweeting information regularly from the **@bunwell_primary** twitter account and it will ultimately be one of the main ways of sending you information quickly. Please follow us if you are able, or just ask if you need any help to sign up.

Mr Merrywest

New Senior Leader for the School

The School Governors and Academy Trustees have now placed an advertisement, available on the school website, for a new Senior Leader of the school as **either** a Head of School **or** Head Teacher. The difference between the two roles mainly relates to the amount of time spent on the operations and strategic side of running a school. A Head of School would focus more on the Teaching and Learning aspects of the job and would work with other senior colleagues in the Trust for the rest of the requirements. A Head Teacher would be responsible for all aspects and would therefore have a far smaller teaching commitment. The advert requests applications from people who wish to do either role as it is important to find the right person for the school and the Academy Trust will support with any 'gaps'. The closing date for application is **May 16th**.

New Website

We have a new website which will continue to be updated and developed in the coming months. We hope you find the information accessible, however if there is anything you require which is not available on the website, please contact the School Office. The updated curriculum plans for each section can also now be found under the **class details** section.

Teams

You may be aware that the pupils are part of a school team which is used to earn rewards for good work and behaviour as well as adding an element of competition for Sports Day. This term we are extending this in to the everyday life of the school, creating more opportunities to build rewards and encouraging pupils to challenge themselves in various aspects. Each team has been assigned two adults who will champion the team during a new weekly assembly, bringing young people from across the school together in a smaller group.

ClassDojo

Last week, we introduced pupils to a new online called ClassDojo <https://www.classdojo.com/en-gb/> which is going to be used to track our Team Points and provides a way of adding rewards (and sanctions) in various categories. In a few weeks time we will be adding some of the parent / carer functionality so that you are able to track these points from home and encourage the young people to earn more. The system also has some features which will allow us to show you examples of work and we hopefully be trying this out in the second half term.

Attendance

You may have been aware of a court case over Easter regarding term time holidays and the Government's expectations for school attendance. The ruling means that 100% attendance is required and the school is not able to authorise any family holidays or time away. Please could I ask that you send a note to school after any absence for illness and that any medical appointments are supported by a hospital or GP letter. The School's attendance policy is available on the website for any further information.

To encourage pupils to attend school, we have added a weekly 100% attendance aspect to ClassDojo and Team Points. For every week a young person fully attends school, they will receive 3 team points as well as an entry in to a prize draw at the end of term. The aim is to encourage everyone to attend, but not to penalise anyone unduly for illness.

Please note: The usual rules still apply regarding pupils remaining away from school to prevent spreading infection. This is particularly the case with diarrhoea and vomiting, where we ask that pupils do not come to school until 48 hours after the last episode. Further guidance can be found on the NHS Choices website.

School Transport

We have had several complaints regarding parents and carers parking on the yellow zigzag lines outside the front of the school. These lines have been placed for safety reasons and we request that you do not park or stop on these lines for any reason. I am investigating whether we are able to provide another space for staff cars which may alleviate some congestion.

SATS

Another reminder that SATS are on the horizon, but the learning aspects are complete and a calm and rational approach is what is required at this stage. Please make me or the relevant class teacher aware of any problems or concerns.

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

PTA

A further reminder about the PTA Bingo Night on Friday 12th in the School Hall at 6pm. It is a family event and everyone is welcome.

School Open Morning

There is a school open morning on Monday 22nd May where parents / carers are invited in to see the school 'in action'. It is a slightly different format this year which is as follows:

- 9 am-9.10 am welcome by Mark Merrywest
- 9.10 am -10.15 am visits to your child/ren's class/es,
- 10.20 am you are welcome to join us in assembly with Rev Madinda.
- Open morning finishes after assembly at 10.35 am

Please could you notify the School Office of your intention to attend to help with the necessary arrangements.

Dates for the diary

12th May – PTA Bingo Night

22nd May - School open morning

23rd May - Class 3 Roman Trip to Norwich Castle

26th May – School closes at 15:15 for Half term