

Bunwell Primary Newsletter – 5th July

During this last week I have had a couple of reminders as to why we are here and that the passage of time is inevitable. I was privileged to be a last minute addition to the trip to the Norwich Puppet Theatre with Class 2 and it was wonderful to see the whole group engaged and interested in their learning. I know that this experience will continue in the classroom over the coming weeks and it was a good opportunity to see just how wonderful the pupils of Bunwell Primary are.

Many of you may have noticed Miss Husbands in school on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week and hopefully some of you have had the opportunity to say hello. Miss Husbands will start as Head of School in September and will take charge of the day to day running of the school and Teaching and Learning matters.

I realise that in my short time in charge at the school there have been a fair few changes to various aspects, some of which were planned and some that we have been forced to introduce for safety reasons. Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, is quoted as saying “change is the only constant in life,” but that does not make it easy for many people and we are very conscious of this aspect every time something new is introduced. Please be assured that the entire staff team and I constantly strive to do our best and to make the best decisions for the benefit of our young people.

Puppet Theatre Trip

Last week I had a wonderful opportunity to spend a day with the brilliant young people of Class 2 as they visited the Norwich Puppet Theatre. They took part in a workshop session to build their own puppets before making up a short sketch and performing to the others in the group. Their attitude and behaviour was exemplary throughout and I am sure that everyone had a great time. My thanks to Mrs Brookes, but also to the two parents who gave up their day to come and help and support. The puppets are now being used to create some fantastic creative writing in class and it was an extremely engaging and enjoyable activity.

Multi-skills Event

Despite the many hurdles in getting this off the ground, the whole of Early Years and KS1 travelled to Old Buckenham High School to take part in a Multi-Skills sports event, competing alongside other schools in our ‘cluster’ group. The pupils were very identifiable in their blue t-shirts and were great ambassadors for the school. Thanks to all of the staff involved in making this a memorable activity which will hopefully be repeated next year.

Morning Routines

Following feedback from some parents and in particular complaints being made regarding the behaviour of small groups of young people, we are unfortunately having to make a further change to

our morning arrangements. This has been discussed widely with both staff and governors in an attempt to solve the issues raised and I have previously indicated that changes may be required in my Newsletter of 9th May.

The problem is one of safeguarding our young people and in order for us to operate a secure supervised time on the playground in the morning it will be necessary for us to control the entry/exit point. This will mean that the playground will no longer be an 'open' playground to all.

Therefore from Monday 10th July the follow changes will apply to the morning routine. This is intended to be a trial period for two weeks which will be reviewed for September:

- The school playground gate will be locked until 08:40. There will be no access to the playground until this time.
- The school office will remain open from 08:30 – 08:40 and 08:45 – 09:00, but pupils are not able to wait in the Reception area.
- A member of teaching staff will man the gate opposite the school entrance (by Reception) from 08:40 and second member of staff will also be available.
- Pupils **only** are allowed on the playground and will be supervised by members of school staff.
- To aid our ability to ensure the safety of our young people and for ease of access, we would also ask that parents do not wait either inside the school area or outside of the fence.

I realise that this change will not necessarily be welcome by all, however this has only occurred after widespread discussion and thought with a number of different parties and is a necessary step. Many thanks for your understanding with this.

Parent Code of Conduct

We are very fortunate to have, on the whole, a supportive and friendly parent body. We believe that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community and as a co-operative school we take this very seriously. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we fully welcome and encourage parents / carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

It has however been brought to my attention that unfortunately a small group of parents and carers occasionally act inappropriately both in school and outside and are not setting the example that we expect for our young people. I realise that many of you will be surprised and disappointed that I have had to include this item in our newsletter, however this has now reached a point where we need to address the issue.

To help to outline our expectations for parents, I have added a parent code of conduct policy to the school website. This forms part of the home / school agreement that the school already has in place, but outlines some of the issues which the School has been experiencing.

May I particularly highlight at this point the fact that the School is a corporate body and a workplace and as such, all of our staff and volunteers are entitled to work in a safe environment without the fear

of disruptive behaviour from any stakeholder. This includes rude or abusive comments both in school and online, including email and closed 'groups' on Facebook, Messenger or other social media. Our staff work extremely hard to provide the best education for our young people and our work is often not helped by rumours and gossip being falsely circulated in this manner.

Any problems, queries or concerns which you have regarding the school should be addressed in the appropriate manner and through the appropriate channels. The policy also outlines the options available to the school should this behaviour persist. However, I trust that this will not be necessary.

Uniform

Full details of the uniform are available on the school website. I am aware that many parents and carers are trying very hard to match the uniform requirements and my sincere thanks to them for doing so. It is important that this hard work is recognised in September by the school enforcing the uniform expectations that have been clearly laid out. The school is able to request that pupils return home to correct uniform as an authorised absence and, whilst we understand that they will be a few anomalies for the first few days, we trust that this step will not be necessary.

The key point to highlight is that **only** the M&S jumper is acceptable in September and that pupils are wearing the correct 'shade of grey' for trousers and skirts.

The elements of the uniform containing the school logo will be available to order from Birds of Dereham shortly.

The staff has also asked that I highlight the importance of **PE Kit**, both in terms of its contents and its presence in school. We do require a full PE Kit as specified including sports trainers and not fashion shoes. PE Kit should be brought in to school at the start of the week and remain in school until the end of the week on Friday.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the new school uniform, please email me directly.

Logo and Class names

The new school logo has now been chosen and we will be using a combination of colours and styles in various contexts in the new school year. Full details, including feedback on the consultation can be found on the website.

This week the pupils will be voting for a 'theme' for their new class names chosen from trees, woodland mammals, woodland birds or woodland flora and fauna. I will let you know of the outcome when available.

Reports and Parents Evening

School Reports will be available to you this week and will also indicate whether the Class Teacher considers a formal Academic Parents Evening appointment would add extra value. In most cases the

detail on the report should be sufficient and you should also feel free to raise any concerns with the Class Teacher at any point.

On Thursday July 13th we will be holding an open classroom event between 15:00 and 15:30, immediately after pupils have completed sports day and are suitably dressed. This will enable pupils to show parents their work and achievements in school and parents to have an informal chat with the Class Teacher.

Formal one to one consultations regarding academic progress will take place on a prior appointment only basis from 15:45 until 18:30 for Classes 1, 2 and 3. Pupils are welcome to attend with parents at their appointment. Appointments for Class 4 with Mrs Simon will take place on Monday July 17th

Class Photos

Class photos will be taken on Monday 17th July, but will be made available for purchase in September. Parents of Year 6 pupils will be notified of separate arrangements for their photos.

Sports Day Arrangements

We are very much looking forward to parents joining us for Sports day this year on Thursday 13th July. The arrangements will include a whole school picnic on the school site at 12:00 and parents are very welcome to join us, please bring a picnic with you.

After allowing a little time for lunch to settle pupils will change in the school and we will all proceed together to the Village Hall playing fields where events will start shortly after 13:00. We aim to finish at approximately 14:45 to return to school in time for the open afternoon.

We are aware that some Year 6 pupils will be attending both days of the Old Buckenham High School transition days. We are organising for our Year 6 events to commence at 14:00 and are hopeful that our young people will be able to return to school to take part.

End of Year Celebration Assemblies

This year we will be incorporating the summer concert as part of our final Celebration Assembly of the year on Friday 21st July 9:00 – 9:45. This will hopefully take place near the stage area on the school field (weather permitting) and all parents and carers are welcome. **Just to note that leavers from years other than Year 6 will be recognised at this assembly.**

Mrs Simon will be arranging a **Year 6 only leaver's assembly** on Friday 21st July at **2.30 pm** for the pupils and parent / carers of Year 6 who will be joining their chosen high schools in September.

We would be grateful if you could notify us of your attendance at either assembly so that we can make the necessary arrangements.