



Bressingham Primary Newsletter

18th
September
2017

Dates for this term

These dates may be subject to changes and for some events letters will be sent out from class nearer the event.

4th October Harvest Assembly in school hall

9th October Liz Mellen (visiting artist/teacher) in Barn Owls

THURSDAY 19th October school closes for half-term

Monday 30th October school opens

31st October EYFS open morning

Y5/6 visit to Duxford Imperial War Museum

7th November Parents' Evening

9th November Parents' evening

10th November (Friday)

Remembrance Day ceremony at war memorial.

17th November FABs Autumn Fayre

1st December Rabbits and Hedgehogs Panto Trip

FABs disco

4th December Christmas decoration afternoon

6th December Barn Owls trip to Gressenhall.

12th and 13th December 2pm Nativity (EYFS and KS1)

Forest Schools

Last week, in response to our parent consultation, we started a forest school on the school site run by Angela Lamb, who runs the forest school in Quakers' Wood, Roydon.

We have started with 10 children of all ages. These children will attend for half a term and in the second half of the autumn term there will be an opportunity for a few more.

The children had lots of fun and learned a great deal, pond dipping, building dens, erecting a hammock and finding wildlife.

Daily Mile

Many of you will have heard of the national initiative, 'the daily

mile'.

<http://thedailymile.co.uk/>

We are always keen to find ways to improve fitness and to make the day more engaging for the children. For these reasons, we have started this programme with Years 5 and 6 and hope to extend it further in the future.

Healthy Eating

Our school council elections have taken place and our first meeting started with a discussion about healthy snacks. The school council are debating, with their classes, what can be done to ensure that children learn healthy eating habits without leaving them hungry.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Barn Owls will be organising a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on Friday 29th September from 2.45pm. Please put the date in your diary. This is always a lovely opportunity to socialize and raise money for a very good cause.

Harvest Assembly

This term Bressingham church is closed while the roof is refurbished. We will therefore be having our usual church events (Harvest and Christmas Carols) in the school. Our harvest celebration will be on Wednesday 4th October at gam in the school hall. Unfortunately, space will be limited, but we

hope as many of you as possible will attend.

Buddies at Playtime

Our buddies in Years 5 and 6 have been fantastic this school year and have been so kind in looking after the new children in Bumblebees. They have also helped by leading a new 'family tables' arrangement at lunchtime whereby the youngest children sit with their buddies, who help them and talk to them whilst eating.

Attendance

At this time of year we have to send out a statutory letter to parents regarding attendance. It is a strongly worded letter and the action described is only taken in a very small

minority of cases. Attendance here last year was almost 97%! Pupils with 10% or more absence will be classed as 'persistently absent'. The letter is on our website and is attached below. A copy of our policy is also on our website.

Open Morning

On the 31st October from 9.15am, we will be holding an open morning for parents with children due to start school in September 2018. Our invitation will appear soon on the front page of our website. Please do let people know who might be interested.

Stars of the Week

The following children have been awarded stars of the week for outstanding work in class:

Bumblebees All of the class for settling in so well.

Rabbits Lily Cluness

Hedgehogs Ethan Baker

Barn Owls Cameron Gillick

Kestrels / Tawny

Owls All of the class for their superb work as buddies



In the playground after school

When the children leave at 3.20 to go home we have a member of staff on the gate to ensure children are collected safely. We don't however supervise the playground as those children not waiting by the gate with the teacher have been collected by parents and are under their care.

Please encourage your children to wait with you and please discourage them from taking out play equipment or climbing on the play equipment.

Attendance at school and legal intervention

[Research](#) commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. At Bressingham Primary School our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential.

This letter is to remind to all parents/carers regarding the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government remains very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must to continue take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment.

The Local Authority operates a system where any pupil will meet the criteria for legal intervention where they have:

1. 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence where some or all of the absence may be attributed to an unauthorised holiday in term-time (for absences from 1 September 2017); or
2. 15% unauthorised absence over a period of 6 school weeks for

reasons other than unauthorised term time holiday.

The intervention could be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice. Any pupil at Bressingham Primary School who meets either of the criteria, will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered.

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent per child which must be paid in one payment in 21 days. If unpaid, a further invoice for £60 per parent per child is issued; both individual invoices would then have to be paid making a total payment of £120 in 28 days. You should be aware that failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

I hope we can count on your support in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Gavin King
Headteacher