



Bletchingley Village Primary School & Nursery

Newsletter: Friday 15th September 2023

Welcome back!

I hope everyone was able to find at least some sun and time to relax.

It has been a wonderful return to the new school year with the gorgeous weather and plenty of opportunity for everyone to use the outdoor areas before winter sets in. Classes have settled quickly into their new routines, happy to be back with friends and eager to get going with the challenges of a new curriculum. The first school visit to Parliament by Year 6 has already taken place. Not only did everyone have a great experience, but also the feedback from governors and parents who supported them was that they were exemplary role models in representing our school. A fabulous start!

It is also a wonderful relief to welcome back Mrs Whittick from maternity leave to take back the SENDCO reins; she has been much missed. All SEND questions and support will now be through her rather than me.

The big issue, as has been widely reported for us all for some time now, is with finance and the increasing challenges of keeping life running in the way we have been used to. This year we find ourselves with a particularly difficult year as we carry a significant deficit before the year has even begun. Bletchingley staff are committed to giving our children the very best provision possible, but there will be an inevitable impact in some areas.

We realise times are difficult for many of our families and will continue to offer as much support as is possible, including, for the time being, milk and fruit for all children. Trips were fully reviewed last year to make sure costs were as low as possible – we are very lucky to already have the investment of the two minibuses which really helped with this. This year we will continue to monitor the costs closely; we appreciate the effort everyone makes with contributions to the costs of these essential experiences. We will be sending out a list of all visits and visitors with estimated costs, which may help with financial planning across the year.

Issues with our grounds maintenance contract last year have left the fields, paths and gardens in need of some 'tender loving care'. In order to save money we will not be starting a new contract for this maintenance until the spring, so we will be organising community events to

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help restore the lovely environment we have been used to. Any help, in whatever capacity, will be gratefully received.

I wish everyone a restful weekend

Debbie Gregori

Staff News

We are pleased to welcome: Miss Perrin, who has joined our office team; Miss Frith, as a Nursery Nurse in Badger Class and Mrs Clack as a TA in Otter Class.

Key dates coming up

Parent Consultations 10th and 12th October 2023
Bikeability Oak Class – week commencing 2/10/23
Open morning prospective new parents 3rd October 2023 10-11am
Mufti Day bags of sweets please 6th October 2023
Open Morning prospective new parents 10th October 10-11am
Week commencing 16 October 2023 – Half Term
Week commencing 23rd October 2023 – Half Term
Halloween Disco – 31st October 2023 (more information to follow)
Open morning prospective parents 7th November 2023 10-11am
Squirrel class to Chertsey Toy Museum 13th November (info to follow)
Fox class to British Wildlife Centre 16th November (info to follow)
Birch class to Butser Ancient Farm 23rd November (info to follow)

Term Dates

SCHOOL YEAR 23/24

Autumn Term 2023

Wednesday 30 th August 2023	Inset Day
Thursday 31 st August 2023	Inset Day
Friday 1st September 2023	Inset Day
Monday 4th September 2023	Autumn Term starts
14 th October 2023 - 27 th October 2023	HALF TERM
Friday 15 th December	Autumn Term Ends

Spring Term 2024

Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	Inset Day
Wednesday 3 rd January 2024	Inset Day
Thursday 4th January 2024	Spring Term starts
12th February 2024 - 16th February 2024	HALF TERM
Thursday 28th March	Spring Term Ends

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Summer Term 2024	
Monday 15 th April	Inset Day
Tuesday 16 th April	Summer Term starts
27 th May 2024 - 31 st May 2024	HALF TERM
Friday 28 th June 2024	Inset Day
Tuesday 23 rd July	Summer Term ends

Mindworks Surrey

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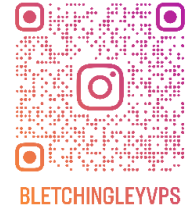
Don't forget to follow us on social media:



Bletchingley Village Primary School and Nursery



@BletchingleyVPS



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Messages from the school office

Office opening times:-

In person: 8.45am-4pm

Phone: 01883 743337

Email: info@bletchingleytl.co.uk

Please could we remind everyone that school dinners need to be paid for in advance. We still have a few accounts that are outstanding and we would be most grateful if you could check your child's dinner accounts.

We will be moving over to a new communication and payment system later in the year. More information to follow.

Pantomime. If you haven't paid for your place please could you do so no later than 13th October 2023.

We have had reports that parking outside of school and in the nearby roads has become a problem. Please could we ask that you take consideration of the children and other road users when parking. Thankyou.

There is no parking in the car park for parents after 8.00am unless you are disabled. This is for Health & Safety reasons. We will be monitoring this in the next couple of weeks as the number of parents using the car park has recently increased. Thank you for your cooperation.

Just a reminder we have a clothes bank in the school grounds. The PTA raise funds from having this onsite. If you have anything you would like to recycle please put it in the recycling pod in the car park.

Regarding Penalty Notices

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Head teacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Head teacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that each parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice.

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If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

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