



Bletchingley Village Primary School & Nursery

Newsletter: Friday 13 October 2023

Autumn 2023

As we come to the end of this half term, it is hard to understand where the time has gone. Apart from settling into new classes and timetables, children have enjoyed another full half term since the September start. Year 6 have visited the Houses of Parliament in London; Year 2 had a fire safety talk from the local fire brigade; we all attended a school Harvest celebration at the church, led by Father Paul; Nabhi Das, a Hindu teacher led a whole-school assembly explaining Diwali and why it is important to Hindu people; Year 6 all took part in Bikeability; the whole school began Black History month with weekly assemblies and continued their learning in class about influential black women. So, a busy yet productive time!

On a more sombre note, we also had a visit from the area traffic wardens following a series of complaints about inconsiderate, dangerous and illegal parking. The difference outside the school as a result of their visibility demonstrated to everyone just what the atmosphere should be for our children – calm, courteous and safe. The wardens will be returning on a regular basis due to their level of concern and fines will result where necessary. Please continue to be mindful of both safety and community when parking, and make use of St Catherine's Cross and the walk-through when it is busy.

Everyone has a lot to think about and do, but a little more thought and planning around parking will make a huge difference to everyone's lives, particularly our children's. Thank you for your cooperation and I hope you all enjoy the extended half term break.

With best wishes,
Debbie Gregori

The school day

In order to comply with statutory opening for primary schools, we have reviewed our current school day. We are keeping the staggered timings as this has cut down on congestion, particularly on the side path leading past Early Years. We are also keeping the one-way systems for the same reason. We have noticed a big difference for many children when they are able to have a calm start to the day.

An out-of-hours phone line provides advice to parents and carers who are struggling with behaviours or difficulties which could be related to neurodevelopmental need, such as autism or ADHD.

Our skilled and friendly advisers will talk carers and families through ways of calming down difficult situations and remind them of their coping strategies.

It runs from 5pm until 11pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Please call 0300 222 5755



The changes are:

Reception will start at 8.45 and finish at 3.15

KS1 (Years 1 and 2 will start at 8.50 and finish at 3.20)

Lower KS2 (Years 3 and 4) are unchanged

Upper KS2 (Years 5 and 6) are unchanged

These will be in place following the half term break (week commencing 30th October). We appreciate this may cause a problem for some, so please contact the office to agree temporary transition arrangements.

Registers close 10 minutes after arrival, after which children will be marked as late.

Arrival more than 30 minutes after that is recorded officially as an absence for that morning session.

External visits

All schools are subject to a range of monitoring: formally from Ofsted and Surrey, and more informally from external consultants and others within the Trust. I thought parents might like to know about these taking place and have some information about the result.

At the end of last year we welcomed a visit from Mr Ian McGraw, a safeguarding consultant, to carry out a safeguarding audit. He was impressed by the confidence, understanding and behaviour shown by the children, along with the provision and approach of the staff. He was happy to agree that all processes in place were effective.

This week we hosted a peer review of the school from the other Head teachers across the TLT MAT. Their key areas of focus were phonics, behaviour and the provision in place for SEND children. We were very happy with the feedback in all three areas, and with the suggestion that aspects of our provision be extended across the MAT primaries.

We have also had visits from Surrey SEND looking at our provision in Early Years, and how we support those with significant challenges across other areas of the school. Again, the feedback was very positive, praising both our approach and our provision.

Whilst positive feedback is reassuring, we are not complacent and continue to work hard to ensure our children have the very best provision we are able to put in place.

Key dates coming up

Week commencing 16 October 2023 – Half Term

Week commencing 23rd October 2023 – Half Term

7th November 2023 – Open morning prospective parents 10-11am

Term Dates

SCHOOL YEAR 23/24

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Wednesday 30 th August 2023	Inset Day
Thursday 31 st August 2023	Inset Day
Friday 1 st September 2023	Inset Day
Monday 4 th 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 4 th January 2024	Spring Term starts
12 th February 2024 - 16 th February 2024	HALF TERM
Thursday 28 th March	Spring Term Ends

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

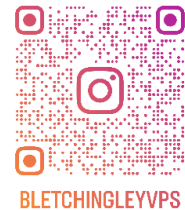
Don't forget to follow us on social media:



Bletchingley Village Primary School and
Nursery



@BletchingleyVPS



BLETCHINGLEYVPS

Messages from the school office

Office opening times:-

In person: 8.45am-4pm

Phone: 01883 743337

Email: info@bletchingleyvt.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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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