



# Bletchingley Village Primary School & Nursery

Newsletter: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Spring 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for the very positive feedback following the publication of our new curriculum documents. Those for the second half of the spring term will be sent out in a couple of weeks and all documents will be available on the website.

I am continuing to work with parent governors and staff to ensure the most effective use of Arbor communications. This has the potential to include sending out reports which will automatically be saved to the child's dashboard, clubs as well as the payment system and attendance, all in one place.

Unfortunately there is currently no ability to report attendance through Arbor, something we have relayed back to them in the hope they will be able to create this for us. Until we have agreed and shared a new system for reporting absence, this will remain as it is – either via Studybugs, telephone call or email. We are aiming for all school communications for years 1 – 6 to be through Arbor by half term, so please look out for reminders if you haven't already signed up and contact the office if there is an issue with being able to do this.

Due to the roll out of Arbor parent communications, I am going to delay sending out the second communication-specific survey until next half term to see how the new system impacts everyone. Hopefully this, together with a reviewed internal system will have solved some of the issues that were causing frustration.

I have an update on staffing in light of Mrs Fletcher's planned maternity leave which will start w/b March 11th . We have been mindful of the potential disturbance filling such a key role could be and so have worked hard to ensure this is kept to a minimum. To that end, we have decided to appoint her temporary replacement from within the current staff. I am delighted that this role will be shared by Mrs Whittick and Mrs Barlow.

The consequent replacement staffing has been complicated, but is now almost all secured. In April, Mrs Barlow's class role will be filled on Monday and Tuesday by a new Reception

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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**



appointment, Mrs Natalie Ross, an outstanding and experienced Early Years teacher. Until then, from March 11<sup>th</sup>, Mrs Bertorelli will work an additional day to release Mrs Barlow and Mrs Barlow will remain in class for Mondays. This will mean the Reception children will have just one change of staffing, in April, for the remainder of the year.

More good news is that we have finally been able to appoint a teacher for Year 5. Mrs Sangeetha Rammohan is an outstanding and very experienced teacher across KS2 who will start work after half term. She met some of the children today and will hopefully be able to return nearer the time to meet everyone else before actually starting. Until then, Mrs Fletcher will continue to do a fabulous job of wearing two hats – class teacher and Deputy Head!

Although I am not in a position to confirm arrangements for next year, I would like to reiterate how pleased we all are to have made these appointments. Both teachers come highly recommended and I feel very lucky to have found them at what is traditionally such a challenging time of the academic year for recruitment.

We are currently in talks regarding an additional SENDCO to replace some of Mrs Whittick's time.

Finally, a brief update on the appointment of a new Head: shortlisting has taken place and interviews will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup>. No doubt the children will report back to you, as the four candidates will be spending a morning in school as part of the interview process.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend,

With warmest wishes,

Debbie Gregori

## Key dates coming up

### Events at the Trust

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 5pm – 6pm Managing anxiety

Tbc Coffee morning 'What can I do to support my own mental health and that of other adults in my family?'

## Don't forget to follow us on social media:

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Mindworks Surrey

Amplify presents...

# Young People, Big Voices

Have your voice heard!

## Surrey Wellbeing Festival

Join us for...

Treasure Hunt
Stalls run by Mindworks wellbeing services
Giveaways

Focus Groups
Arts and Crafts
Performances

...And so much more!

**Thursday 15th February 2024**  
**10am – 4pm**

(10am–11am quiet hour for those with sensory sensitivities)

**Rosebery School, Epsom, KT18 7NQ**  
**A FREE family friendly event!**

Tell us what you'd like to see by filling in our survey.  
Just scan our QR code:



For more info: please email [amplify.mindworks@sabp.nhs.uk](mailto:amplify.mindworks@sabp.nhs.uk)

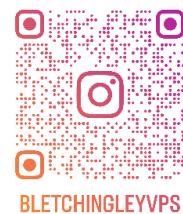
Find us on social media: @amplifysurrey @mindworksurrey




Bletchingley Village Primary School and Nursery



@BletchingleyVPS



### Messages from the school office

**Office opening times:-**

**In person:** 8.45am-4pm

**Phone:** 01883 743337

**Email:** [info@bletchingleytl.co.uk](mailto:info@bletchingleytl.co.uk)

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.

#### MUFTI DAYS

There will be two mufti Days 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March. We would like sweets from KS2 and chocolate from KS1 please.

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## Term Dates

### School year 2023 - 2034

Spring Term 2024	
12th February 2024 - 16th February 2024	HALF TERM
Thursday 28th March	Spring Term Ends

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

### 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.*

*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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