



Newsletter: Friday 2nd February 2024

Spring 2024

For those that don't like a long read... Here's a brief summary:

- A new Headteacher has been appointed, more details to follow
- New communications system after the half term:
 - Studybugs will **only** be used for reporting absence
 - Arbor will be used for whole-school communications
- WhatsApp 'leads' to receive school communications and share within class groups
- Parent Consultations w/b 26th February
- World Book Day – Thursday 7th March
- Mufti Day – Friday 23rd Feb (please bring chocolate or sweets)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels as if there is a lot going on at the moment, so I thought a short update would be useful.

Interviews for the new Headteacher took place yesterday, resulting in an appointment. We are not able to give any further information at the moment, but will give further news as we are able.

After half term, we will be **no longer using Marvellous Me or Studybugs for communications from the school**. All communications will be via Arbor, so please do make sure you have signed up and downloaded the app. As we have not been able to establish absence reporting via Arbor, we will continue to use Studybugs for this alone until further notice.

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

Having spoken to the governors about WhatsApp communications, several parent governors have stepped forward to be the key 'lead' regarding sharing information from the school. They will be:

Reception: Anna Miller

Year 1: Gillian McPartlin

Year 2:

Year 3: Anna Miller

Year 4: Nicola Goldie

Year 5:

Year 6: Nicola Goldie

If anyone would be willing to do this for Year 2 and Year 5, please let the office know. There is no particular expectation connected with this role, other than to receive information from the school and then share it in the class group. This will be the same information that is sent out from the office. Hopefully this will ensure consistency and clarity of the message. Once we have these key people in place, please could we ask that other parents do not share Arbor messages with other year groups, as this has caused significant confusion in the past.

We will trial this new system across next half term and then I will send out another parent survey to collect feedback.

Parent Consultations have been moved to take place in the second week back after half term, w/b 26th February, after our first main assessments which are happening next week. Hopefully this will be the last time we use the current booking system via the office, as we are hoping to move this over to Arbor also. Teachers will send out the dates for their classes on Monday.

Lastly, and most importantly, I have to return to the issue of driving and parking around the school at drop-off and pick-up. There is limited space around the school, as is the case with most schools, so drivers must appreciate that when planning journeys. The vast majority of our parents act responsibly and recently things have been better, but we remain in close contact with the local authority and have requested regular visits from the traffic officers. Keeping our children safe is the most important thing we do.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend,

With warmest wishes,

Debbie Gregori

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Mindworks
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Key dates coming up

Arbor communications only after half term (Study Bugs for absence)

W/b 26th February - Parent Consultations

05.02.24 – Birch class educational visit to the synagogue

23.02.24 – Mufti day – please bring a donation of chocolate or sweets

28.02.24 – Reception class educational visit to Hever Castle

05.03.24 – SEND coffee morning in the hall at 9am – sign up here: <https://forms.gle/iQpDW9RShH7UJbRM8>

07.03.24 – World Book Day

08.03.24 – Women in School 1:30pm

Events at the Trust

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

Values Assembly

Continue to focus on Healthy Body and Healthy Mind for a Happy Life. Looked again at the food pyramid, different food groups and why they are important. The message was very clearly that all types of food can be part of a healthy diet, but some should be eaten less frequently than others.

Governor Corner – by Gillian McPartlin

We’ve had a number of external visitors in school this month, who’ve had the opportunity to walk around the school, and spend some time with our children. As governors we would like to share that everyone was very positive about the children’s behaviour and their interest and attention in the lessons they were in. This is something in the school and as parents we should be very proud of.

As mentioned above we have listened to your feedback and we are really keen to improve our communications and ensure that you are aware of everything happening in school in a timely manner.

Please can we ask that you check you have access to the Arbor system and the messages section. If you have any issues logging in or accessing any of your children’s profiles please email the office with the details so this can be investigated further by Friday 9th February. There is also a help section on the app with further information.

[Parent Portal and App - Getting started and logging in – Arbor Help Centre \(arbor-education.com\)](https://www.arbor-education.com)

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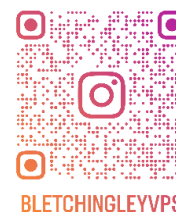
Don't forget to follow us on social media:



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@bletchingleyvt.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.

Amplify presents...
Young People, Big Voices
Surrey Wellbeing Festival

Have your voice heard!

Join us for...

- Treasure Hunt
- Focus Groups
- Arts and Crafts
- Stalls run by Mindworks wellbeing services
- Giveaways
- 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

#amplify@surrey @amplify@surrey @mindworks@surrey

Term Dates

School year 2023 - 2024

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
Friday 26 th July	Summer Term ends

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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.

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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