



# Bitterne Park Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Gerida Montague



23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Dear Families

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your feedback on the parental questionnaires. We aim to do this termly so that we can gather thoughts in a range of ways and consider as many viewpoints as possible. I am hoping that this opportunity to reflect on our provision will enable us to refine and reflect and ultimately make our schools an even better place for our children to learn, grow and thrive.

It was wonderful to see that over 90% agreed, or strongly agreed that their child was happy at our school and that 90% would recommend us. That is heartening for teachers, leaders and support staff. I am keen to 'sweep' out the final vestiges of COVID and open our doors further to offer more opportunities for you to see what we do in school. This letter is to share some changes and let you know what we have planned so far.

**Newsletter Refined** - Some parents have let us know that they found it hard to access information about what their children are learning. We had developed a monthly section on curriculum to update this regularly, but the concern seemed to be about what the children were learning next. In order to help address this, we have continued with the monthly curriculum update for each year group, but will now be adding in a link that will take parents to the curriculum overview. This is where our *learning ladders* are and these form the learning journey for each area of the curriculum. We hope this helps everyone see what their child is learning over the next time slot for all areas of the curriculum.

**Coffee, Tea and Biscuits Morning Drop-in** – These will take place on the first Thursday of every month at drop off (8.30am) and all families are welcome. The first one is on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February and will be held in the KS2 hall. We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat with a member of the senior team. We do have an open-door policy, but hope that this regular slot will enable more of our families to come in and share any positive or development item that you may have... or just pop in to say hello!

**Reports and parent target setting update** – The main report for the year will be going to parents in March and this will detail progress in all areas and there will be an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher, look at books and discuss progress against those targets that were set and shared in Autumn Term. The summer report is a short format to close the year with another opportunity to meet look at books and discuss progress.

**Open Class** – This will be termly, next date is 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2:45pm and an opportunity for your child to show their wonderful work and talk through their classroom and learning.

**£5 Challenge and Fete** – The children will be raising money for charity in each year group through the £5 challenge. They will work together to devise a way that they can 'grow' their £5 investment over the course of the year. There will be a summer fete on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July - organised by Year 6. All year groups will run a stall and this will be their final chance to build up their challenge money. A prize, as well as house points will be awarded to the highest and most inventive fundraising class.

**Workshops** – Mental Health Support in Schools (MHST) Workshops for parents and children are scheduled, as are Pip and Pap phonics workshops, Multiplication Test Check workshops and Year 6 SATs workshops continue this year.



**Volunteers** – We recently sent out a letter about beginning to welcome parents back into school to help with reading, the library, gardening and other elements of school support. We are very excited about the opportunity to work alongside families and have set up safeguarding and training workshops ahead of this. We hope to get this up and running for April. An up-to-date DBS is an essential for anyone who comes into contact with our children, whether they are an assembly visitor, parent volunteer or trip supporter. Please do look out for the letter and form in your email, or contact the office directly if this has not landed in your inbox.

**Sports Day and Family Picnic** – This is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023, weather permitting, with a reserve date on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023. We hope it will give an opportunity for all of our families to enjoy a morning of fun and then to stay a while and picnic together.

**Summer Exhibition** – We are aiming to open school to all of our families and share our wonderful work from the year. This is an idea we have been hoping to execute for some while and your feedback will be vital in its development please. Each year group will have a gallery space in the hall and families will be invited to ‘tour’ the space and see their children’s exhibits and work with an opportunity to talk it through with their teachers and children guides. We are hoping that a broad range of curriculum examples will be on show and that you will be able to share the exciting platform of your child’s work as we close off the year. The dates are:

Year R - Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 onwards  
Year 1 - Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 onwards  
Year 2 - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 onwards  
Year 3 - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 onwards  
Year 4 - Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 onwards  
Year 5 - Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 onwards  
Year 6 - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 onwards

**Great Gardening Day** – As you may be aware, we have been working on the evolution of our school grounds and are developing our gardening curriculum. This has been woven throughout our National Curriculum daily work. We would love all of our families to come into school and have a day sprucing and clipping, digging and composting with their children. This will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June. We will all eat outside on The Great Gardening Day.

I do apologise for the lengthy mail, but I wanted to capture a flavour of the events we are hoping to have over the rest of the academic year. Your feedback and comments are very welcome throughout. We are looking forwards to building a great partnership so that we can provide an exceptional experience for all of the children within our care.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Montague  
Executive Headteacher