

# Bitterne Park Primary School

## June 2023 Newsletter



*Inspire, Thrive, Achieve*

Dear Parents

I hope everyone is having a good term so far. I cannot believe that we are almost through another school year! Let's hope that the sun maintains its appearance for the remainder of the academic year.

We are really busy making lots of arrangements for the end of term, including performances, celebration events and transition. This week, all of our children met their new teacher on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June and enjoyed the time spent in their new class.

### **'Great Gardening day'**

At Bitterne Park Primary, we are very lucky to have so much lovely outdoor space and a wonderful sensory garden. Lots of work has been undertaken to ensure our gardens are well maintained by staff members and the children to keep our school grounds looking beautiful.

During the 'Great Gardening Day', all the children partook in a variety of activities around our gardens, including planting, maintenance and watering. In a bid to welcome our families in to school more often, we opened our doors to everyone to share on the lovely outdoor work. It was so lovely to hear of parents enjoying our outdoor space for the 'Great Gardening Event 2023'. We had a wonderful time seeing so many of you looking around, enjoying our grounds and seeing all of the hard work our children have undertaken.



### **Year 1 and 2 phonics checks**

We are beyond proud of the Year 1 and Year 2 children who participated in their phonics checks this month; they handled it so well and read the words amazingly. Thank you to those who supported them at home with practising their phonics skills. Pip and Pap phonics has been extremely well received and the impact is astounding!

## **Book Fair**

This month, we held a Scholastic Book Fair in our hall from Tuesday 6th to Tuesday 13th June. The children had so much fun browsing and picking out books to take home with them. Thank you so much to so many of you for attending. We love to encourage children to read at home and the book fair is a perfect opportunity to stock up on books to read.

## **Hot weather**

As the weather continues to be hot, thank you for bringing your children in wearing suncream and with their sun hats.

As per our letter, suncream will also be kept in classrooms in case a child requires a 'top-up' throughout the day. Please do not send your child in with a bottle or tube of suncream as we have many allergies to manage and our suncream is school is hypoallergenic and fully recommended by dermatologists. We have been taking extra precautions to make sure the children are safe when outside: we have plenty of water on hand throughout the day and PE is planned with shade breaks and calm exercise. Additionally, lunch and play take place in the shade.

## **City Athletics 2023**

A beautiful sunny day at Southampton Sports Centre!

Huge congratulations goes to our dedicated and talented children who represented Bitterne Park Primary School at the 2023 Primary schools track and field championships.

There were lots of successes both individually and as a team throughout the day. They ran, jumped and threw against 17 other schools! Please see our website for photos and children's highlights.

## **Year R**

Ahoy me hearties!

We have loved getting our pirate hats on in Literacy, using 'pirate talk' as inspiration for some speech bubble writing. We looked at what speech bubbles mean and how they can make books more exciting and then we had a go at writing our own pirate-themed speech bubbles.

Land ahoy!

We continued our pirate theme in Geography, where we were exploring maps and creating our own treasure maps to help our friends find 'ye olde pirate booty'! We looked at the features of a map and how we can use symbols and keys to help others understand them more easily. We even had a go at using Google Maps to try and find our own houses. Some of us were very clever and could remember our full addresses!

We swapped our sea legs for our lab coats in Science this week, where we studied wax resist. Using our best investigative brains, we experimented with different materials to find out how what happens when we mix crayons and water. Some of us brought some artistic flair to our investigations and produced some wonderful results.

Finally in Maths, we recapped our learning on doubling numbers and the much-loved 'doubling machine' made another appearance! As we are all becoming amazing mathematicians, we practised using higher numbers to see what would happen and some of us were even able to write our results as number sentences. We are looking forward to testing our brains even more when we look at word problems!

## **Year 1**

We have had a sizzling hot term in Year 1 and with the temperature rising, the quality of work is continuing to rise as well. The children have been working hard in the beginning of their last term of the year and are looking to finish Year 1 with records highs.

English - Giraffe's 'usually' can't dance.

For our final writing topic, we have been looking at getting all our dance moves ready and dancing with the different animals of the savannah. Well, nearly all of them. Gerald the Giraffe is not feeling the music. To support this, we have been looking at the different ways that plants and other animals move with a focus on the 'ly' words (adverbs) to add more details to the movement that they are making. Now, the grass is waving slowly, the vines are hanging lazily and the birds are squawking loudly.

## **Year 2**

Wow! Year 2 are really starting to become experts on the Great Fire of London. This week they will be becoming news reporters to evaluate the factors that led to the fire! Year 2 were very lucky to have been visited by the fire safety crew to learn all about firefighters, how to stay safe during a fire and how to prevent one. They learnt a rhyme to help them remember about their learning, can your child still remember it?

After the excitement of Great Gardening Day, Year 2 are delving back into the world of plants and living things. They have been retrieving what all living things need to have to be a living thing, can they tell you what they are? (Hint: MRS GREN). The children have been making predictions about what they think could happen and even planning their very own experiment to answer their own scientific question!

## **Year 3**

Dragons are on the loose in Year 3 this term! Our narrative skills are being put to the test to describe where these dragons have come from and later we will be channelling our inner dragonology expert to create an encyclopedic entry for our dragons.

While examining our dragon's eyes, we will be considering how light is important in our lives in science, and brushing up on our Ancient Greek to consider whether this civilization is ancient and therefore should be forgotten!

In RE, we are considering how special books can be and we have been investigating the difference between an acute angle and perpendicular lines in maths, moving onto statistics and how to interpret bar graphs and tables.

Don't forget, Year 3 are still in competition to see which class can make the most in our Fiver Challenge - we are hoping you will still improve our possibility of winning by attending our stalls at the Summer Fete coming soon - that is if we haven't been devoured by fire-breathing ferocious dragons!

## Year 4

### Water, water, everywhere

Year 4 have been learning this year about how there can be more than a drop to drink. Rewinding back to Roman architecture and Victorian sewers has helped us to understand some famous architects who changed the history of water. Looking at the present day, we have compared water technology in MEDC (More Economically Developed Countries) and LEDC (Less Economically Developed Countries). This has helped us to consider how we can become architects of a better world!

### And they lived happily ever after...

...well, maybe not always, as year 4 have delved into the world of twisted fairy tales! Imagine a rude, arrogant Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood wandering into a haunted house or the wolf's innocent mistake when asking the Three Little Pigs for some sugar and this will give you a taste of the creativity shown in year 4 this half term. This has enabled our children to consolidate their descriptive techniques, whilst following an engaging story line. We cannot wait to show of our final pieces of writing.

## Year 5

### Writing:

In writing this half term, Year 5 have been putting their spy skills to the test in order to write an action spy narrative based on 'Alex Rider - Stormbreaker'. The children have used inspiration from video clips and extracts of Anthony Horowitz's novels whilst creating their final piece of writing for Year 5. In their stories, Alex Rider has been sent on a mysterious mission designed by the children. They are enjoying using a range of creative skills and sentence types to describe settings and develop action through characterisation. But shhhh, this is purely classified information! Alex is ready to defeat his enemies... but are you?

### Science:

Linked to their writing topic, Year 5 have been investigating and experimenting to help Alex on his missions. They have explored the solubility of a range of materials to discover which would be best for hiding a secret sleeping powder in order to disable their enemies. A second research question involved absorption - which materials are most / least efficient at absorbing destructive liquids which could cause Alex harm? So far this half term, Year 5 have enjoyed getting hands-on and practical when engaging in a range of scientific skills.

### Geography:

Maps. Maps. Maps! Would you be able to navigate successfully around Bitterne Park's playground using only clues and a local digimap? Well, the children in Year 5 are experts at this. They have also been exploring OS maps and identifying the meaning of different symbols. Finally, Year 5 have investigated contour lines and created their own 3D mountains to see how contours affect the steepness of the slope.

## Year 6

### History:

Year 6 launched themselves back in time to the Autumn term as they revised and expanded upon their knowledge of the Battle of Dunkirk. Acting as true historians, we reflected on the key events of this crucial battle and the impact they had on World War II's outcomes. We evaluated both the positive and negative repercussions of Dunkirk, which prepared our children to then draw a well informed, expertly conclusion as to whether they felt the Battle of Dunkirk was an overall failure or success.

### Writing:

As always, we have been working incredibly hard on some new and exciting writing topics since the beginning of this half term. A favourite so far has to be the action packed, thrilling unit of Adrenaline Towers. In this piece, children were able to explore their creative side as they took on the role of theme park creators. They were able to invent and design their own theme park, a riveting main attraction and other facilities and features of the park! Using high-level vocabulary and technical jargon, our children were able to engage and persuade their audience into visiting their amazing attraction.

### End of year play:

The wheels for our end of year production are truly in motion as Year 6 have begun the preparations for their leavers play - I'm an 11 Year Old, Get Me Out of Here! Our cast of actors, singers and stage crew are brimming with excitement to share this once in a lifetime show with family and friends later on this term!

## Sanctuary

Some of our Sanctuary Ambassadors had a fantastic day on Saturday, supporting Southampton's celebrations of Refugee Week. They completed some lovely willow artwork before taking part in a parade through the centre of Southampton, following a fantastic Samba Band. They were even joined by the Mayor of Southampton!

The organisers have praised our children for their conduct:

"I just wanted to write and say a big thank you to pupils, parents and staff who attended the event on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June at West Quay and at Palmerston Park.

I was fortunate enough to be volunteering at the parade decorating station in the morning. There were quite a few of your pupils who attended and demonstrated some brilliant designs on the withy structures.

I spoke to 2 of your Sanctuary Ambassadors who were very eloquent and knowledgeable and a real credit to your school.

It was also impressive to see the pupils dressed in orange (t-shirt or hat) along with their parents who made the same effort. Also fantastic that a couple of your teachers were in attendance.

So lovely to talk to each of them and very heartening to see the younger generation being aware of real issues. All the adults present were impressed with the children's involvement and behaviour."

## ECO update

With the hot weather, it has been hugely important to be watering much of the gardening done on Great Gardening Day. We have been overwhelmed by the children's effort and commitment to this. The raised beds at the moment look magnificent. We are extremely grateful for Haskins' donation to help facilitate this. Our mini wildflower meadow, which is the bank near the reading area on the field, is looking beautiful and welcoming many pollinating insects. If you haven't had a chance to see it, it is well worth a view.

## Farewell

We will be saying farewell from Bitterne Park Primary to Mrs Vaughan at the end of this academic year. Mrs Vaughan has been part of our school office team for an astounding 36 years and we wish her well as she takes on semi-retirement. As well as caring for her parents, Mrs Vaughan will also be supporting the newest member of our Federation, Hardmoor Early Years Centre. She will be truly missed at Bitterne Park but we wish her all the best in her new adventures.

## A big thank you to our PTFA

I'd like to extend a big thank you to the PTFA for buying the Year 6 leavers' gifts.

We look forward to starting up our usual PTFA events such as Cake Sales and Film Clubs once again in the next academic year.

## Food allergies

As an annual treat, I love to share an ice lolly with the children! These are 100% fruit-flavoured but if your child has any allergies please let their class teacher know. *It's one of my favourite things in the year!*

## Nut allergies

We have a number of children with severe nut allergies. With this in mind, I ask that families do not have any snacks and ensure that all packed lunches are 'nut free'. This includes peanut butter or Nutella which can be a major cause of anaphylactic shock in some children. Your care and support in this is greatly appreciated.



## Summer Activities 2023

Superstar Sports will once again be holding their holiday activity club during the summer holidays. These will be on:

24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July

31<sup>st</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August

7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August

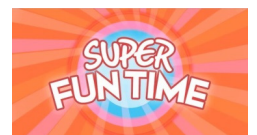
14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> August

21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August

Fliers have already been sent home outlining all the exciting activities they will be running during these weeks.

## Year 6 Celebration

Year 6 will be taking part in a variety of fun activities on the field on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July. Please make sure that your child has a named PE kit, sunhat & suncream with them.



A picnic lunch, juice, water and treats will be provided throughout the day. If your child uses an inhaler, please make sure it's in school so they can bring it with them. All children will be registered and dismissed from class as normal.

## REMINDERS from the office

### Coming into school

Pupil's should not enter the main reception in the mornings unless they are late arriving for school. If this is before 8.30am, you will be redirected to your child's class entrance by a member of the office team. This is a very busy period of the day and your co-operation and patience are greatly appreciated.

### School meals

If your child is going to arrive late to school and they wish to have a cooked meal at lunchtime, we would be grateful if you could let the office know in advance by telephone. Unfortunately, if your child arrives after 9.30am, and we have not been notified, your child will receive a "spare".

Please note once your child is in Year 3, they will no longer receive Universal Free School Meals. If you wish your child to continue to partake of a cooked meal at lunchtime, the cost is £2.90 per day.

### Medicines

If your child has any medication on the school site, such as an inhaler, antihistamine, epipen etc. please collect it on the last day of term, **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, by the end of the day** as we will need to dispose of medication left in school.



When we return to school in September, if your child needs any medicine during the school day which has been prescribed by their doctor, please hand it in at the school office and complete a new Administration of Medicine form for 2023-24.

During the year, please remember to collect any medicine that your child no longer needs and ensure that medicine kept on site is in date and in good supply. Thank you

### Dates for your Diary

- Coffee Morning – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July
- Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Residential to Skern Lodge
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Fiver Challenge Summer Fete (50p entry donation)
- Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July – 5pm – Year 6 Leavers' Performance
- Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July – 2pm – Year 6 Leavers' Performance
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July – break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September – Pupils return to school



You will note that some of our INSET Days are disaggregated. This is when I choose to spread an INSET day over a different time and then school closes on the noted date. I spread these across several terms in the form of 2 hr twilights 4pm – 6pm. This training is very useful as it spreads learning and research tasks across the

year and impacts upon learning outcomes well. So, please do not be surprised if you see a member of staff out and about... they are not skipping school – they have already worked extra twilight hours.

## SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24

### *2023-24 term dates*

<b>Term</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Half term</b>	<b>Close</b>
Autumn 2023	4 September (Inset Day)	23 October - 27 October	15 December
Spring 2024	2 January	12 February - 16 February	28 March
Summer 2024	15 April	27 - 31 May	24 July

### STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Disaggregated

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June - Disaggregated

Have a wonderful last few weeks of the Summer Term



Gerida Montague

**Executive Headteacher**