

# Bitterne Park Primary School

## September 2022 Newsletter



*Inspire, Thrive, Achieve*

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first Newsletter of this academic year and a warm welcome to all of our new families who are joining us and all who are already part of our BPPS family. We are looking forward to continuing to build strong relationships that focus on making the very best provision for the children within our care.

We try to send out a regular newsletter keeping you informed of events and news. Please do make sure you read it and keep it somewhere safe as it gives advance warning of school events, closures and term dates.

We usually try to send letters out on Thursdays via Parentmail and all correspondence can be viewed on our school website. This year we have 99% of parents signed up for Parentmail. Please do make sure if your details change that you amend your account accordingly.

### **THE PASSING OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

The children in our school have been writing letters to His Majesty King Charles III to share with him our sympathy and condolences on the passing of his mother, wishing him well for his reign as our country's new monarch, and outlining their hopes for the future as they grow up in the new Carolean era.

We also reminded the children of the book and mug they received to mark the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee earlier this year and amongst other commemorations we watched the Paddington Bear 'Marmalade Sandwich' video, to show the Queen's remarkable sense of humour and fun.

### **Art Skills Week**

The children at Bitterne Park Primary School are very excited about their upcoming Art Skills week. Towards the end of this half term, each year group will be exploring and developing essential art and DT skills that will support them with their learning throughout the year. This is a brilliant opportunity for children to be creative and demonstrate any skills that they have already learned and are going to be able to apply across a variety of different outcomes. The skills they will be enhancing will support future units from designing photo-frames to moulding clay, this week is sure to be one the children will enjoy and remember throughout their primary school experience.

### **Curriculum and Enrichment**

#### **House Competitions**

##### **Knowledge**

Times Tables – This half terms competition is focusing on our times table knowledge. We are very impressed with how excited the children are for this, and their super times table knowledge.

## Charity

### Shoe Box Appeal



We are once again supporting The Rotary Club Shoebox Scheme for the children of Eastern Europe. If you would like to support this please send into school a shoebox filled with such items as: toys, clothing, games, books, pens, pencils etc... they need not be new as long as they are in good condition. Due to the increased difficulty in sourcing empty shoe boxes, the Rotary Club will be providing standard sized boxes which will be available from the school office for a voluntary donation of £2. Before filling your shoebox please cover the box and lid separately with festive paper and secure with a single elastic band. Please return boxes to school by Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> October.

## Sport

Cross Country – the sports competition this half term will be cross country, which the children will complete in the PE lessons.

## After School Clubs

It has been fantastic to welcome back our afterschool clubs. Clubs will be running throughout the academic year on a termly basis. We have allocated every child a space within one or more of their chosen clubs following submission of the form in either term 1 or term 2.

We have tried to provide an opportunity for all children to take part in a club, with a minimum of one child's choice in order to be fair. We have organised a waiting list for oversubscribed clubs.

Please can I remind **all parents** that after school clubs finish at **4:30pm promptly**. Thank you.

## Allergies

We have a number of children and staff with severe nut allergies. With this in mind, we do not have any nuts or nut products at snack time or in packed lunches. These include peanut butter, Nutella or Pesto (which contains Pine nuts). These can be a major cause of anaphylactic shock in some adults and children. Your care and support in this is greatly appreciated.



## Uniform

A big thank you to all parents who have sent their children in the correct uniform. Our children are looking very smart. Uniform is an important part of our culture and our children certainly look very proud to be part of the BPP family.

We politely ask parents **not** to send their children to school wearing unsuitable shoes, eg trainers or boots – warm/welly boots can be worn at playtimes but sensible shoes inside please. School is very well heated, making boot wearing indoors, all day inappropriate. We also please ask that the children bring in their bookbags each day and not backpacks as the corridors become congested when they end up on the floor. Please also ensure the current PE kit is available - clothes/sportswear with slogans, popstars or football club logos are not for school. Thank you.

## Start and end of the day

At the start of the day children can enter the building from 8.20am for an 8.30am start to our day.

In order to ensure the safe handover of children at the end of the day, please put in writing any alternative adult you give permission to, to collect your child/children and give to the school office. Teachers will be teaching and may not remember slips of paper and new instructions.

## School meals

We encourage all of our children to have a hot school dinner, whether they are infants or juniors.

We have worked very closely with the school council, children and our caterers to ensure that the food offered is home cooked and delicious. We regularly chop meals off the menu and add new tastier options. All of our teachers eat a school dinner. We have a third 'Jacket potato with filling' option for those who do not like our meat or vegetarian option. I can assure you that our cooks are wonderful and I look forward to a school dinner every day! Please do consider this as a filling option to support your child's learning in the afternoon. The menu is available on our website at [www.bppsive.net](http://www.bppsive.net).

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" meal. Always best to be on time, or phone ahead. Thank you.

## Safety Reminder!

A gentle reminder, please can you ensure your child/ren **do not play** on the play equipment (play trails/trail area) before or after school. They are not suitable for use without school supervision. We also ask that children or adults do not ride bikes and scooters on the school playgrounds.

We again politely remind you that dogs are not permitted on the school site – this includes being held in arms. Thank you.

## Parking

We are sadly still getting reports from local residents of inconsiderate parking or dangerous driving at school drop off and pick up times on Manor Farm Road and River View Road. In particular people are still using the Care Home on River View Road to park or turn. Please be mindful if you need to use your car for the school run. Local residents are advised to contact the Civil Enforcement Officers or the police if they have concerns.

## School Messages

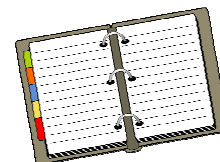
As ours is a large and busy school, please note that the office cannot guarantee that messages received after 3.00pm will be delivered in time for the end of the school day. Please plan as far in advance as you can, as we want to keep our children safe and last minute messages can be lost in the melee of the end of day.

## Day Closures 22-23

Our teachers and support staff have disaggregated training and therefore school will be closed on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October this term. In the summer term it will be - Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May.

## Dates for your Diary

- Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 swimming for 3 weeks
- Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October – Staff Inset Day– Disaggregated
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October – Staff Inset Day– Disaggregated
- 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term
- Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November - School Photographer
- Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December – Year R and Year 6 Height and Weight Checks
- w/c 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 Bikeability
- w/c 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 swimming for 3 weeks
- w/c 10<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Residential to Skern Lodge



Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerida Montague". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerida Montague

**Executive Headteacher**