

Tuesday 13th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of the term approaches, we thought we would share the events calendar with you again to remind you of events taking place in school for the rest of term 2 and from January onward.

Reading and phonics parent information sessions

You will see that we have held a range of parent information sessions over the course of the term and thank you to those who have attended. For those who were unable to make them, we have attached powerpoint slides that were used at the events for your information. We are currently looking for dates in term 3 to run our reading and phonics parent information meetings again so that more parents have the opportunity to attend if they would like to.

Trim trail (KS1 grass area)

You may have noticed that we have had to cordon off the trim trail in the KS1 grass area. The grass area underneath the trim trail has unfortunately worn away and as part of the maintenance of the equipment, we have had to lay new grass seed and we are unable to use the trim trail while the seed takes hold, and the grass grows. We are hopeful that the trail will be in use again at some point during term 3.

Term 2 reports to parents

These will be emailed out to parents on 14th December.

Scarlet Fever and Strep A cases

We will be keeping parents up to date with the number of cases (and which classes) we have at the school for the rest of this term. We will inform you once a day via email of any new cases that occur. The cases we will inform you about will be cases where a doctor has confirmed that Strep A or Scarlet Fever is definitely what the child has based on appropriate testing by the GP or other medical professionals.

Absence telephone calls

As you may be aware, we are currently experiencing a large amount of sickness absence for pupils at Begbrook. Please can we ask all families to contact us before school starts to let us know if your child will not be in school. The school has a legal responsibility to make sure that we know that children who are not in school are safe. A phone call from parents and carers means that we know the child is safe. If we haven't heard from families by 9.00am to say why their child is not in school, we would usually ring the first contact on our records. If we are unable to get through to that person, we will go through to the second and third contacts. If we are unable to get through to them, we then have to do a home visit. With up to 70 children being absent from school each day at the moment, it can be very challenging if we have to go through this process for more than a handful of pupils. Please make sure you call us before 9.00am if your child will not be attending school. We really appreciate your support with this.

Begbrook Christmas Tree

We'd like to say a big THANK YOU to the PTFA for organising for linking up with Frenchay Christmas Tree Farm and decorating our fantastic Christmas tree which is in the main hall. We also thank the farm for kindly donating the tree to the school. The children are really enjoying having it in the hall when they are eating and having assemblies. It really feels festive!

Staffing updates

4KW

Mr Willcox will be leaving Begbrook at the end of this term. Mr Shone will be the teacher for 4KW from January until the end of this academic year. We would like to thank Mr Willcox for all his hard work and dedication whilst working at Begbrook and wish him good luck on his next adventure.

6PW

As Miss Fidler (6AF) is now back at work, from 4th January, Mrs Preen will teach on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mr Walsh will teach on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Lockdown practice

A lockdown drill is something that all schools do two or three times a year. It is a practice for locking the school down should an intruder or incident happen in the school in which we need to keep

everyone in classes and safe while an incident is being dealt with. The children are told a child friendly version of why we need to practice lockdowns and are given warning that it will be taking place during the week. They are asked to stay in their classes and keep quiet during the alarm sounding. The school carried out lockdown practices last year as well and all classes took part. It only lasts for a couple of minutes and children respond very positively and sensibly.

Safe parking at Begbrook

Please can we ask all families to park as safely as possible at drop off and pick up times. Please remember that the Begbrook Social Club has given us permission to use their car park so please do feel free to use that space if you cannot see any places to park legally when you arrive at school.

Children in Need fundraising

Thank you so much to our children and families for contributing to our donation pot on Children in Need day. We raised an amazing £415.82. We know that this is a such a great cause and we know the money will be appreciated by many organisations and families that will benefit from your generosity.

Upcoming Events (rest of Term 2)

14/12/22 Pre-school Christmas Sing-along (14:30 – 15:00)

14/12/22 Christmas Lunch for Reception, Y1 and Y6

15/12/22 Winterfest (15.30 – 17:30)

16/12/22 Last day of Term 2

Term 3 key dates

03/01/23 INSET (NO school for children)

04/01/23 Start of Term 3 (FIRST day of school for children)

09/01/23 KS2 Assessment Information meeting (09:00 & 18:00)

16/01/23 Parent Forum 3 (09:00 & 18:00)

24/01/23 Y2 Assessment information meeting (09:00 & 18:00)

31/01/23 Bedtime Stories (17:00-18:00)

08/02/23 Parents Evenings (15:40 – 18:30)

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10/02/23 Last day of Term 3

We look forward to seeing you at any of the events that you can make – it's going to be a lovely end of term!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Counsell

Principal