



Dear Parents,

WELCOME / WELCOME BACK!

It is lovely to see all the children back in school again and to get to know our new children. I hope you have all had a great holiday. We are ready for another brilliant term and I hope you are too!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our Breakfast and After School Clubs have begun! This is an exciting new venture for us and it is great that so many parents have already signed up. Our two club leaders, Abby Wadley and Hayley Scotter, have planned lots of fun activities for the children including cookery, games and crafts. The new shed looks fantastic: thank you, Abby. It is good that our club is part of the wider Vicky's After School Club network because it is guaranteed: if one of our staff is ill, they will make sure someone else can cover. If you would like to know more, or if you would like to sign up, please talk to Abby or Hayley, or email Vicky Hickman on vickyhickman1@gmail.com.

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

You are all members of the School Association! We are very lucky to have such an excellent committee who plan fun events for the children and school community and raise such valuable funds for the school (particularly important in these cash-strapped times). If you are able to help in any way, they would love to hear from you. Contact Lauren Jacobs through the school office or, if you can, come to the first meeting of the year, next Wednesday 12th September at 7.00pm in the staff room.

LUNCHBOOK

I am pleased that we will be offering the Lunchbook book club again, starting this term with a group of Year 6 children. This is a programme designed to encourage children to read for pleasure and we had really positive feedback last year. We have a new leader, Emma Forward, who met the children yesterday and will be leading the group on a Friday afternoon. I am hopeful that we can include Year 5 children after Christmas.

ROAD SIGNS

You may have noticed the new flashing light signs by the school. These have been acquired by the Parish Council connected with the Neighbourhood Plan project, which our children took part in last year. They are certainly very visible and will, I hope, have an impact on traffic speed. Thank you very much to the Neighbourhood Plan team.

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT

You should have received, or be receiving, a copy of our home-school agreement to sign. We ask all staff, parents and children to sign this every year to re-affirm that we are working together and that we all have an important role. We would be grateful if you would discuss its contents with your child and return the signed form to your child's teacher.



BURFORD EXAM RESULTS

Our partners at Burford School have just announced excellent GCSE and A-Level results, once again. At GCSE, 80% of students achieved five grades at Grade 4 or above (the old Grade C). Harry McInroy, a Brize Norton ex-student, was one of the six who achieved ten GCSEs at Grade 7 or above (the old Grade A): huge congratulations to Harry. These results put the school in the top 20% nationally for GCSE results. A-Level results were also excellent, with 72% Grade A – C and nearly half of students achieving Grade A in at least one subject. These results are testament to the quality of learning at Burford and also at the primary schools, including ours, which feed it.

ATTENDANCE

At the start of the new year, I would like to remind you of the importance of bringing your child to school on every possible day. Our school's target is 95% attendance (missing no more than half a day a fortnight on average), because children really do make better progress this way. There is no doubt that children whose attendance is 90% or below (missing the equivalent of a whole day a fortnight) suffer in their learning. Because of this, I write to parents whose children's attendance is causing concern half-termly. I have to let you know that, by law, I am not allowed to authorise holidays and that I have to refer anyone taking their child out for three days or more to the Local Authority, who do issue fines if there is more than one holiday in a year. Please do keep your holidays within school holiday time – your child will benefit.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

We take the children's safety very seriously at school. All doors and gates are securely locked while the children are on the premises, and this includes for Breakfast and After-School Club. All staff have had refresher training on safeguarding on our INSET days and we have reviewed our fire drill and lockdown procedures: these will be shared with the children before our first practices, and a governor will join us for the lockdown practice to ensure that it is as good as it can be. I also need to let you know that we have CCTV in the little room by the front door, because this is the only place where a single child is taught by an adult where they cannot be seen by others.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

As well as this weekly newsletter, do look regularly at our website, <http://www.brizeprimary.org>. This is where we post pictures and information about what we have been doing in school, as well as plenty of other information you might need. We also use our text messaging system, and we have a Facebook page which links to posts on the website. If you would like to contact us, your first port of call should be your child's teacher: if it is something quick, please talk to them at the beginning or end of the day, and if you want to talk for longer the teacher will be happy to make an appointment. If you would prefer to use email, please contact the school office on office.2250@brize-norton.oxon.sch.uk; Mrs Keeble and Mrs Poyser will pass your message on to the relevant member of staff.



WORKING TOGETHER

One of the joys of our school is what we can do when we work together – our brilliant children, our talented and hard-working staff, our dedicated and ever supportive governors and School Association; and of course you, the parents, without whom nothing would be possible.

All Brize children agree to our School Promise. This includes:

- We care about and respect each other
- We show good manners and politeness
- We are sensible and calm
- We are kind and help each other

We, the staff, also work to this promise when interacting with you as parents and with each other.

We ask that you join us and the children by making this promise – that you are respectful, polite, calm and kind, in the playground, on the phone and by email.

I know many of you work in the caring professions or other customer-facing roles, like us. You know, like us, that harsh or hastily chosen words can wound, ruin your day or more, and make it hard to do your job.

We, the staff, want the best for your children, just as you do. Everything we do is to that end. We are human and we do make mistakes, and we hold our hands up when that happens. But when we – staff, children, parents – all work together, we all go home happy, and the results are so much better.

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Next week, the Year 5 and 6 children are starting rehearsals for their performance of *The Tempest*, which they will be performing in the New Theatre, Oxford, in November. This is an extremely exciting opportunity, and tickets will be on sale from the start of next week: I will write to Y5/6 parents separately about how to book. Our Foundation children will be staying for lunch for the first time on Monday, and it will be lovely for older siblings to be able to play with them at lunch time. Forest School also starts next Tuesday, with the first group being the Hurricanes (Y1/2): please make sure your children have their wellies and full waterproofs in school. Cycling proficiency begins on Thursday, and on Friday we have an exciting visit from Robert Courts MP, who will talk to the children about how our laws are made. Thank you to Debs Shipway for organising this for us. Quite a busy week for our first full one!

Best wishes

Anna Fairhurst



Dates for the Autumn Term

Mon 10 Sept – Foundation children in until 1.00 this week

Wed 12 Sept 7pm – School Association Meeting

Thurs 13 Sept – cycling proficiency

Fri 14 Sept – visit from Robert Courts MP

Thurs 20 Sept – pm cycling proficiency

Thurs 27 Sept – pm cycling proficiency; 6.00 Y6 parent meeting re SATS; 7.30 full governors

Fri 28 Sept – 9.00 Foundation parent meeting re phonics

Mon 1 Oct – Y5/6 to Shakespeare cast workshop all am, New Theatre Oxford; pm cycling proficiency

Thurs 4 Oct – pm cycling proficiency

Fri 5 Oct – 2.00 Harvest Festival in church

Mon 8 Oct – pm cycling proficiency test

Tues 9 Oct – long parents' evening inc SEN reviews

Wed 10 Oct – open West Oxon U9 mixed football, pm

Thurs 11 Oct – short parents' evening inc SEN reviews (3.30 – 5.30)

Fri 12 Oct – possible School Association adult disco, Elderbank Hall, evening

Mon 15 Oct – assessment week begins; all KS2 to Tower of London trip

Wed 17 Oct – am SEND reviews with SENCO

Fri 19 Oct – 2.30 parent celebration assembly

w/b 22 Oct – half term

Mon 29 Oct – am Y1 dance festival

Wed 31 Oct – pm Burford Y5/6 mixed hockey

Thurs 1 Nov – 6.00 Halloween disco

Fri 2 Nov – Y5/6 sharing assembly

Mon 5 Nov – 6.00 parent meeting re Y1/2 assessments

Thurs 8 Nov – 9.00 FS parent meeting: Reading

Fri 9 Nov – 10.15 – 11.15 Remembrance

Thurs 15 Nov – pm Y5/6 New Theatre Shakespeare day (1.30 – evening)

Fri 16 Nov – Shakespeare participants may arrive at break time; 9.00 Hurricanes sharing assembly; pm Cokethorpe cross country

Fri 23 Nov – Y3/4 sharing assembly

Thurs 29 Nov – full governors

Fri 30 Nov – Buccaneers sharing assembly

Wed 5 Dec – Y5/6 mixed football

Thurs 6 Dec – Cokethorpe Y4/5 girls hockey Christmas festival

Tues 11 Dec – am Y4 Dance festival

Thurs 13 Dec – whole-school pantomime trip (Aladdin at Chipping Norton Theatre)

Fri 14 Dec – parent celebration assembly

Mon 17 Dec – afternoon and evening KS1 production

Tues 18 Dec – afternoon and evening KS2 production

Wed 19 Dec – evening KS2 production

Thurs 20 Dec – Christmas dinner

Fri 21 Dec – 10.00 carol service; term ends 1.15