

Overview of the year

At this time of year it is always a good opportunity to reflect on the past year. Talking to children this week there have been lots of highlights including; raising £20k for the new climbing frame and the mayor coming to open it for us, 'Take One Picture' Art Week and Exhibition, various schools plays including the KS1 Nativity and Harvest Assemblies, Year 6 Shakespeare performances at South Hill Park, Year 3/4 Treasure Island Play, and the Year 6 production of Paws & Claws. In addition, we raised £2077.60 for the charity 'James and the Giant Journey' and entered various sporting events including the football league, Cross Country, Tag Rugby and Athletics festivals and getting into the Berkshire finals for the Girls' Kwik Cricket.



PTA & Summer Fete

Many thanks to everyone in the PTA this year for all their hard work and support throughout the year, in particular for organising and fund raising for the climbing frame and another successful Summer Fete. We made an amazing £4,269 in profit.

Y6 Summer Production

Congratulations to all the Year 6 children who performed so well in their performance of Paws & Claws. The children were absolutely brilliant – confident, great voices and big smiles! As always, huge thanks to all the staff who helped make it such a success.

Annual Reports

Annual reports were sent out last week. Please remember to send in your reply slips. We take all of your comments and suggestions on board.

Lexicon Opening – 5 Golden Tickets

Lots of local primary schools have been invited to attend the official opening of the Lexicon on Thursday 7th September. Children from Reception to Year 6 have been given a 'scratch card' to open, across the school there are '5 Golden Tickets'. Winners will be invited to attend the opening ceremony and also receive a Cineworld treat bag and a gift from The Entertainer toy shop.

PTA update - Community Dig Badgers Retreat

A parent has offered the loan of digging equipment and is providing gravel to help re-landscape this area in order to make better use of it. This will be done at a weekend in September with the assistance of the Community Payback team. We are asking for parent volunteers with carpentry skills to help construct path borders and raised beds. A skip and weed proof membrane is also needed. Please contact the school office / Mr Dillon if you are able to help. Provisional date for work 24/25th Sep-

Provisional SATs Results

On Monday we shared the provisional school results with the governors. I am pleased to say that we have done really well this year across the whole school – particularly in light of the more challenging curriculum and national benchmark.

KS2	School - %				National - %			
	EXS	GD	100+	Average Scale Score	EXS	GD (2016)	100+	Average Scale Score
Reading	68	27			71	19		
Maths	78	10			75	17		
SPaG	75	27			77	22		
Writing (TA)	78	19			76	15		
Combined Read/Wrt/Maths	61	9			61	5		

KS1	School - %		National - %	
	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS
Reading	74	19	76	25
Maths	72	15	75	21
SPaG				
Writing	69	6	68	16
Combined Read/Wrt/ Maths	61	4	64	11

Phonics	2017		2016	
	School	National	School	National
Y1 Phonics	83		81	

EYFS	2017		2016	
	School	Nat	School	Nat
Good Level of Development (GLD)	75		75	69

Governor Update

Thank you for attending the Parent Meeting with the Governors on Monday 10th July. We will give you an update in the new term.

Information about Secondary transfer

Please remember if your child is going into Year 6 in September you will need to make your application to secondary school by 31st October 2016. Please click on the link below for further information on the Bracknell Forest Admission website for further information.

Applications open

12 September 2017

Applications close

31 October 2017

Offers sent

1 March 2018

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions>

Summer Reading Challenge

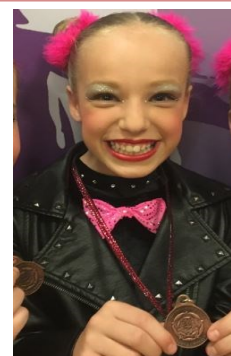
Bracknell Forest Library Service contacted up recently to inform us about the Summer Reading Challenge – Animal Agents. Children were given flyers last week. Please find details below.

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge>

<http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Childrens' Successes

Big congratulations to Karley Russell who has national dance finals on 28th July. After competing at various local dance festivals within the Berkshire/Surrey area since the beginning of this year, Karley qualified in all of her dances to compete at Regional Finals. Over a period of three weeks, Karley competed at the All England Regional Finals held in Fareham. After some tough competition and specialist dance schools, she has managed to qualify 6 of her dances through to the AED National Finals to be held at the Hackney Empire from 28th July-6th August. She has qualified dances in Ballet/Tap/Modern/Song and Dance. She will be competing against other schools throughout the rest of the UK & represents the very best of dancers from the Southern Region.



Reminders for September

School Uniform

Please can you ensure your child wears the correct uniform to school in September. This is blue sweatshirt or cardigan, grey trousers, skirt or shorts and a blue gingham dress for girls in the summer term. Black shoes (no trainers). Alice bands need to be small and plain.

I would like to remind parents of what school considers as acceptable hairstyles. Please ensure haircuts are a reasonable length and the latest 'step' fashion for boys, braided hair decorated with beads, 'train tracks' and extreme hairstyles of any kind are not acceptable in school. Only natural hair colours are permitted. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you are in any doubt as to what constitutes as acceptable hairstyles.

Mr Wagstaff will be at school selling school uniform on 6th September from 8.30am.

Healthy Lunchboxes

We are a Healthy School and encourage the children to think about being both physically and emotionally healthy. We talk to children about healthy diets and doing enough exercise, on this basis, we ask you to ensure children pack lunch boxes include healthy options, only chocolate based biscuits and water. Also, please remember, we are a nut-free school.

Holiday Club – KOOSAKids

Just a quick reminder that KOOSA Kids will be running their holiday club throughout the Summer Holidays. Please see the flyer that was emailed to parents a few weeks ago or you can call KOOSA on **0845 094 2322/01276 21884** or visit <http://www.koosakids.co.uk/holidayclubs.aspx>

Meet the Teacher

Please see 'Dates for the Term' for the dates for these.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and school governors I wish all the Year 6 children good luck for the future. I am sure they will continue to build on all they have achieved at Birch Hill and achieve the success they are so capable of. I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and see you all on Wednesday 6th September.

Dates for the Term	
INSET DAY	Monday 4 th & Tuesday 5 th September
Start of Term	Wednesday 6th September
Meet the Teacher – Year 6	Thursday 21 st September – 6.30pm
Meet the Teacher – Year 1 & 2	Wednesday 20th September—6.30pm
Meet the Teacher – Year 3 & 4	Tuesday 12 th September – 6.30pm
Meet the Teacher – Year 5 & Reception	Thursday 14 th September – 6.30pm
Community Dig – Badgers Retreat – 1	16 & 17 th September
Community Dig – Badgers Retreat – 2 – Open to all	23 rd & 24 th September
PTA AGM Meeting	Wednesday 13 th September
PTA Film Afternoon	Friday 6 th October
Family Learning Workshop for RA	Tuesday 10 th October - 9-10.30am
Family Learning Workshop for KR	Wednesday 11 th October - 9-10.30am
PTA Quiz Night	Friday 13 th October
PTA Fireworks Night	Monday 6 th November
Magic Pebbles Workshop for KR	Tuesday 14 th November - 9-10.30am
Magic Pebbles Workshop for RA	Wednesday 15 th November – 9.10.30am
End of Half Term	Monday 23th October to Friday 27th October
INSET DAY	Monday 30 th October