



# NEWSLETTER

18th October 2019

Issue No. 2

## **Welcome Note**

It has been a busy few weeks, especially having Ofsted visiting us last week. Many thanks to everyone who replied to the online Parent View questionnaire and took the opportunity to speak to the Lead Inspector at the gate. The children were great and the staff and governors all worked incredibly hard. We are hoping the report will be published in a few weeks and will inform you once it is available.

School life continues to be as busy as ever; Year 5 recently competed in the first Bracknell Schools Triathlon Event, are training for the Cross Country and practising for the Y4 Football Tournament at Easthampstead Park Community School. Other children have been rehearsing both the Harvest Assembly and Shakespeare performance.

After a long association with the school, Annette Corbett, Year 4 TA is leaving at half term to take on a new role at another school. Today is also Karen Wood's last day as Crossing Patrol. We would like wish

## **Parents Evening**

Online bookings have now closed for Parents Evening. If you haven't already booked a slot, please call the office to arrange to see your child's class teacher after half term

## **Volunteers**

At the Meet the Teacher I shared a slip with requests for volunteers. Everyone is very welcome, from the odd hour listening to readers, or helping in the library, through to 'match funding' from a corporate company, to offering your skills if you have a trade. We are always looking for help and your support is really appreciated. We will follow up any offers after half term

## **Experiences**

At Meet the Teacher I also shared a slip about Experiences. We are trying to build a bank of experiences and enrichment activities you would like your child to have while at Birch Hill. Please return your ideas as this will help us when we review the school curriculum.

## **Meet the Teacher**

We will publish the Meet the Teacher information over the next week.

## **Harvest Assembly**

Our Harvest Assemblies were a huge success. The children worked hard to learn songs, poems and stories to perform for an enthusiastic audience of parents and families. Many thanks for the generous donations



## **Year 6 Shakespeare**

For Year 6 the last half term has been busy. It culminated, this week, in two incredible performances at South Hill Park. Despite nerves, year 6 put on a professional retelling of 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Twelfth Night' to rapturous applause. Everyone put a lot of effort into learning their stage directions, cues and lines and it was completely worthwhile. They have every right to be as proud of themselves as we are of them. We hope this will be an experience every one of them remembers and may inspire some to explore acting further. Well done Year 6!



## Edible Playground

We met with edible Playground a few weeks ago and they have drafted a planting programme. We hope that our first crop will be planted in early January.

## Bracknell Schools Mini Triathlon

Hugh congratulations to all of year 5 who competed in the first Bracknell Schools mini triathlon event at the leisure centre last month. The children had to swim, bike and run – everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



## Football

Birch Hill Badgers have been competing this term in the Bracknell Forest football cup. We have played very well and worked with great collaboration. The team have so far won two out of three games with two more left to play.

## Family Learning

Family learning sessions were held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October for Reception parents. The children made a magic box and the parents were able to find out more about Phonics.

Parents fed back that they:

- : Enjoyed spending time with their children in school.
- : Liked the games to encourage learning
- : It was great learning how to help my child and make it fun!



## School Photos

Please remember that we have school photos on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The photos will take place in the studio and sibling photos will start from **8.45am**. Several **Y5 & Y6** children are also invited to come in from **8.45**, as they have a rugby tournament to attend and need to leave school at 9:15.

## Healthy School Lunch

A reminder that we are healthy school, which means no chocolate in lunchboxes or for snack times, and only water please, no fruit squash. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Safeguarding

**School Gates**—We have recently reviewed our safeguarding procedures and access to the school grounds. After half term we will open the school gates at 8:30 in the morning and lock them at 3:30.

**Online Safety**—We have received a notification from the Local Authority Safeguarding Team—TVP locally have had three reports over the last 48 hours about snapchat issues. A snapchat account has been set up in the local area called duttygirlsberkshire sharing inappropriate photos.

## Friends

Following on from the Friends AGM interested parties have come forward to take on the formal roles of running the association. There will be a short meeting at 3.30pm in 2HW on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November to formally elect the new Friends committee. All welcome to attend.



### Children's Achievements

Well done to Emily Berrido and Olly Chalmers. Emily completed a 10k twilight walk for the brain tumour charity raising £500! We have included the link for the justgiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/EmilyBerrido>



Olly was lucky enough to be the mascot for the Bracknell Bees ice hockey team.

Also, look out for Ruby Huggins as she will be the mascot for Chelsea at the Chelsea v Crystal Palace football match on Saturday 9th November.

### Governor News

I have just returned from watching our brilliant Year 6 pupils perform at South Hill Park in the School Shakespeare Festival. Congratulations to all the staff and children who represented the school so well.

You will know that the school was recently inspected by OFSTED. Unfortunately, at the time of writing this, we do not have the official judgement but will obviously let you know as soon as possible. The Governors would like to thank all the staff and pupils who responded well at short notice to the inspection. Also thank you to those parents who were able to respond to the on line questionnaire and who met the Inspector in person,

As we told you last year, there continues to be a big strain on the budget. This is the same for most schools and although there is much in press about additional government money for schools, this has not translated into actual cash in the bank!

The Senior Leadership team and all the staff work hard to ensure that there is minimum impact on the pupils of the funding shortfall.

Some Governors will be in school next week at the two parents' evening and look forward to meeting some of you then.

Pauline Cole — Chair of Governors

### Secondary Applications

Please remember that Secondary School applications need to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October. All the information is available online, but do let us know if you need any support

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/starting-secondary-school/how-do-i-apply>

### Tours – Reception

We are also running tours for reception applications for September 2020. If you would like to arrange a tour please contact the office.

### Community News—a note from South Hill Park

Dear All. My name is Mark Hooper and I work for South Hill Park Arts Centre. I am currently responsible for conducting a research project the aim of which is to understand the reasons why people do and indeed do not engage with arts and culture in Bracknell.

I am conducting a survey to measure involvement and relevance of the current provision. I will then be making a funding application based on the results of the survey to develop a more inclusive, accessible and relevant arts agenda for the region.

You could win a £50 South Hill Park or Amazon shopping voucher by completing our survey.

Please rest assured, all information provided to us on this form is completely anonymous. We won't ask you to provide your name, contact details or full postal address.

The survey will take you approximately 8 minutes to complete. The form will close at the end of December 2019 and the winner will be announced no later than 1 February 2020.

To complete the survey, simply follow this link<<https://forms.gle/ndnZhDRpDunG8JQi9>>: <https://forms.gle/ndnZhDRpDunG8JQi9>

## Dates for the Term

Friends Quiz Night	Tonight
School Photographs	Tuesday 22nd October
Year 6 Tag Rugby	Tuesday 22nd October
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 22nd October - 3.45-7.05pm
Family Learning Workshop for Year 2	Wednesday 23rd October - 9.00am
Parents' Evening	Thursday 24th October - 3.45-7.05pm
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 21st—Friday 25th October after school and during Parents' Evening
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Monday 4th November</b>
Family Learning Workshop - 10S	Tuesday 5th November - 9.00am
Family Learning Workshop - 1M	Wednesday 6th November - 9.00am
Year 6 Height & Weight Check	Wednesday 6th November
Year 4 Viking Visit	Tuesday 12th November
Year 3 River & Rowing Museum Trip	Wednesday 13th November
Cross Country Festival	Friday 15th November
Family Learning Workshop - Year 3	Wednesday 27th November - 9.00am
Family Learning Workshop - Year 4	Thursday 28th November - 9.00am
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 18th December
End of Term	Thursday 19th December