



NEWSLETTER

10th January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and welcome you all back to the new term. We would like to extend a special welcome to all those families joining us for the first time this term and hope that the children and their parents soon feel very much part of our school community.

Phase 2 of our Building Development into a Primary School

As we mentioned in our newsletter at the end of last term, Phase 2 of our development into a primary school finally appears to be moving forward. This involves the construction of a new building to house the areas of the school which are currently in the old Margaret Beaufort building. Once these areas have relocated into the new building, the demolition of the old Margaret Beaufort building will take place. Phase 2 was part of the agreement when we first relocated to this site and the movement on this follows many months of lobbying and hard work from staff and governors together with help from our local elected representatives and Alistair Burt, our former MP.

As a result of this, a consultation has now opened by Bedford Borough Council which we would urge as many people as possible to complete and support our development, as it requires significant funding from the Borough. Do click on the link below for more information and to register your views. The consultation closes on January 17th so there is only another week to register your views.

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/consultations/capital-schemes-consultation/>

If you click on the purple box which says 'Complete an online form' it takes you to Wixams consultation and the second consultation is Riseley School. Thank you for your support.

Collective Worship and our New Value 'Courage'

Our theme for PSHE for the first half of this term throughout the school is Dreams and Goals. This is reinforced through our Collective Worship from the Christian perspective in which we shall be emphasising making choices and the consequences of them, setting targets and personal goals.

This week we moved onto a 'new' value. We are now focusing on looking at '**Courage**'. We will be looking at how courage means facing your fears, it doesn't mean never being afraid. Courage involves accepting how you feel and not giving up. It takes courage to stand up for what is right. It takes courage to overcome difficulties. As usual we thank you for your support at home to reinforce the values we use.

Staffing News

We are currently advertising for a replacement midday supervisor to work from 12.00 to 1.00pm for three days a week, ideally Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday. As a midday supervisor you would be trained in behaviour management and playwork. The start date would be as soon as possible after the interview, at the end of January or beginning of February. This will be on a fixed term contract until the end of the summer term 2020. The successful candidate would require a satisfactory DBS. For further details please contact the school on 01234 708218 or call in at the school office. Further information and an application form can be found on our website. The closing date is Thursday 23rd January.

Dates for Spring Term 2020

January

Monday 6th School reopens **New Value - Courage**
Friday 24th Celebration Assembly

February

Monday 3rd 6.00pm Governors meeting
Friday 7th Celebration Assembly.
Friday 14th **Close for half term**
Monday 24th School reopens **New Value – Forgiveness**

March

Monday 9 th	pm Year 3 out Lincroft Multi-Sports Festival
Friday 13 th	Celebration Assembly
Monday 16 th	6.00pm Governors meeting
Tuesday 17 th	Year 4 Orchestra Unwrapped pm
Monday 23 rd	Reception Class Vision Screening
Tuesday 24 th	Parents Evening 3.30 to 6pm
Thursday 26 th	Parents Evening 3.30 to 7pm
Friday 27 th	Celebration Assembly
Monday 30 th	1.45pm Easter Service at All Saints' Church
Tuesday 31 st	1.45pm Easter Tea and Cakes

April

Wednesday 1st -3 rd	Year 4 Residential to Kingswood
Friday 3 rd	Close for Easter
Tuesday April 21st	Reopen to children.

Admission to Reception September 2020

A reminder that the last day for applications is 15th January. If your child is currently in our Wren cohort you must apply online for a school place before this deadline.

Pizza Feast Day

On Thursday 16th January the kitchen will be off menu, serving margarita or meat feast pizza, wedges and veg, followed by a chocolate brownie.

Attendance

We note with some concern that our overall attendance for the Autumn term is substantially down on the previous year. (96.9% compared to 97.5% this time last year.)

We are aware that on the run up to Christmas there was a lot of sickness, (bugs, coughs, colds etc), throughout school and this can create an unavoidable dip in attendance. However, we also had a number of families taking unauthorised holidays adjoined to the Christmas break.

We must remind parents that children's attendance has a direct impact on their attainment throughout their school years. Lessons missed through absence will not be revisited.

Bedford Borough Education Welfare Service continues to monitor pupils' school attendance and works closely with schools, parents, pupils and other agencies to offer support in their efforts to improve attendance and drive up standards.

As part of our involvement in this process, we regularly monitor individual pupil attendance. If a child has an attendance rate below 92% they will be monitored closely by ourselves and the Education Welfare Officer. Penalty notices **will** be issued to parents whose children have persistent absences and who have not co-operated with the Education Welfare Service to improve. Absences include unauthorised holidays during term time, lateness after close of register as well as sickness.

A reminder:

- Your child should come to school every day. If your child **has** to miss school you must inform school by 9.00am on the first day of absence and each day after that.
- Your child should arrive at school on time every day. Morning registration is at 8.55am.
- Doctor/dentist appointments should be made outside school hours wherever possible.
- Holidays in term time will not be authorised except in very exceptional circumstances.

A note regarding sickness:

At school we may on occasion call you to collect a 'poorly' child. We may not always judge this correctly....If your child is bouncing round on their return home we would welcome their return to school for the afternoon. Equally, if you call in regarding your child's absence in the morning and they make a miraculous recovery, **do** bring them in!

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please let us know as regular communication between school and parents is essential so that any problems can be quickly identified.

ABC and ADAM (All Dads and Me Saturday Breakfast Club)

ABC (adults, babies and children) meets again on January 15th from 9am in the church room at All Saints. Free coffee and bacon sandwiches, good company, Bible stories and activities for babies and young children.

ADAM (All Dads and Me) meets once a month for Dads (inc Grandads) and their children at the church from 9am to 10.30am. The club is for pre-school up to and including Year 6 children. Lots of fun is had by all including play, crafts, story time for the children and the ever popular bacon rolls and fresh coffee/tea for Dads! The next meeting will be on Saturday 18th January followed by 22nd February, 21st March and 18th April. We look forward to seeing you!

