



Byfield School
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Headteacher

Next week is SATs week for our year 6s. A week, which is designed to measure progress the children have made at the school and is then used to rank schools in league tables. They will be sitting an hour-long reading test, about 1 hour of spelling, punctuation and grammar tests and just over 2 hours of maths tests. We wish them the very best of luck. The past few weeks they have shown a great attitude, they have worked with determination to ensure they are fully prepared and have a desire to do their very best - having this mind-set towards tests, or any other challenge, is something which will carry them forward in their future lives. However I would like to put this poem on our newsletter - which if you have a child taking a test at the moment I hope they hear and understand:

SATs don't measure sports,
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music,
or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons,
You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic,
how you make others smile,
SATs could never appreciate
Your own individual style

SATs don't hear your laughter,
or see you've come this far,
SATs can't see even a tiny glimpse,
of who you really are.

So sitting at your table,
with a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
remember you're the best!

We try to do everything possible in school to make these tests as stress-free as possible - preparation, calling them 'quiz books', discussing strategies to remain calm, and putting the tests in perspective. If your children are showing anxiety towards the tests the following website has some great advice on how you could help: <https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/tips-reduce-test-anxiety-children>

Remember – Year 6s are invited to come along to a SATs Breakfast from 8.30am, Monday to Thursday. This is to help children be settled and also have small snack of toast, fruit and a drink if they would like.

Further to our message in the newsletter a few weeks ago, I am pleased to announce our reception teacher for half-term until the end of the year will be a teacher called Miss Penney. She has been in reception classes the past few years, and is coming to the end of another reception maternity cover so was unable to start until after half term. I look forward to the children meeting her in a couple of weeks. For the next two weeks, reception class will not be having forest school sessions and will be having PE sessions on Fridays. After half term, we are looking at ways of having a few one-off forest school sessions.

If you have a child in reception or penguin class and would like to hand out birthday invitations and are unable to get the invites out other than sending them in with your child, please can you hand them to the adult on the door as they come into the class. Having spoken with a few parents, we have set up a system where school prefects will put the invitations in book bags over lunchtime so that lesson time isn't taken up. Older children will still be expected to hand out their invitations to their friends during break times.

PTA

The PTA are pleased to announce the school fete will be on Saturday 20th July 12.00-4.00pm.

We will be having the school hall grand opening and of course dancing from all classes in the school.

The fete will have a space theme to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. There will be lots of space activities and games for the children and a wide range of stalls including cakes, BBQ and a licenced bar. There will be a great raffle including a top prize of a family ticket to see Marvel Universe Live at the O2 Arena on 28th September.

Parent Pay

You will all have received a second activation letter now for Parentpay. From 1st April, any charges for clubs, music lessons or trips will be payable through this system. School Meals will also be joining this so in future orders and payments for meals will be placed through this system too. If you have any problems logging on or using the account please speak to Miss Rawden in the office.

After School Clubs

Monday night Construction Club from 3.15-4.30pm – cost £2

Tuesday night – Art and Crafts (KS1 focus) – cost £2

Wednesday night – Computer Club from 3.15-4.30pm – cost £2 (Making Music)

Thursday night – Art and Crafts (KS2) – cost £2 (self portraits/portraits)

Friday Night – Film Night – 3.15-5.30 pm - cost £3

Children are welcome to stay at After School Club until 5.30pm. Charge for this is £3.80.

Please contact the office if you would like more information or to book.

Breakfast Club – every day from 8am – cost is £3 per session

Dates for the Diary

String music lessons – every Wednesday, Guitar music lessons – every Tuesday, Keyboard/flute lessons – every Thursday

PE – Please bring PE kit in to school every day, PE lessons will be weather dependent.

Celebration Assemblies - Friday for Penguins, Kiwi and Owl Class. Robins in class – day/time to be arranged

Hotshots – Every Tuesday – 8am

Dance Club – Every Wednesday after school

Kiwi Class – First Access Guitars – every Wednesday

Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May – KS2 SATs

Thursday 16th May – swimming Years 3,4,5 and 6

Tuesday 21st May – Billy Bob Buttons – author visit

Thursday 23rd May – Class/group photos

Thursday 23rd May – swimming Years 3,4,5 and 6

Thursday 23rd May – PTA Meeting 8pm Cross Tree Pub

Friday 24th May – African Drumming Workshops – whole school

Friday 24th May – school closes 3.15pm for half term (Film Night on as usual up to 5.30pm)

Monday 3rd June – school opens 8.45am (8.00am for Breakfast Club)

Wednesday 12th June – Penguin Class and Kiwi Class trip to Warwick Castle

Saturday 20th July – school fete 12-4PM **SAVE THE DATE!!!**