



28th June 2019

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Headteacher

This term for me, is always one of the best terms to work in education. It is full of lots of events for children, time when you get to really focus on ideas for next year and also the time when you can see all of the teacher's hard work pay off. There are residentials, sports days, forest schools, transition days, school reports, end of term plays, SATs results, nursery transition afternoons, governors meetings, school fetes on top of 24 children in a class, normal day-to-day life and trying to get things organised and set up for the next academic year. Often this time of year, teachers and headteachers are asked 'are you winding down for summer?' Which isn't the case, and I'm glad it is never the case!

There is so much to tell you this week, but I thought I would do it in form of a diary/journal. I know it is longer than usual, but please read on as it does contain lots of important information.

On Monday, the phonics pass mark was published- which means for our Year 1 and 2 children we can find out their phonic decoding ability. It was a really good day, and Mrs Brand and her phonics team (as predicted) absolutely smashed it! I cannot say official results, but I know we will be above national average in Year 1 and Year 2 resits by about 10% in both.

After school on Tuesday I had a really productive meeting with an Outdoor Education instructor about launching a Junior Duke of Edinburgh award for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. We had been working together since April, as I have been looking for ways to add more enrichment to the curriculum, create a more active physical approach, develop a sense of achievement and self-worth as well as give children opportunities beyond that expected from a 'normal' primary school. We will be the first school in Northamptonshire to be running the scheme, where children work on 4 areas to get the bronze, silver or gold award - these areas are around - getting active and staying active, developing and enhancing hobbies and personal interests, working to help the environment or community and an outdoor adventure strand. In the evening, the PTA met to discuss the fete. This year we have had to save over £10,000 - and needed to really cut back on maintenance, resources, photocopying etc. It is hard times in education and we have nothing left to trim. The PTA are so valuable in adding to the enrichment and inspiration that adds so much to children's education.

On Wednesday my morning was full of meetings. Firstly, it was about the hall - although it is an amazing facility which costs more than the school's annual income- there were a few areas which were not up to the initial design specifications. Over the summer holidays, they will be changing the roofing so that there is no longer the amazing echo (which will be great apart from our singing assemblies) as well as fitting a serving hatch from the kitchen as in the original design. That was followed by a conference call with the DfE about some of the details of the school and nursery joining together. In the afternoon, I am really pleased to say we interviewed candidates for the September maternity cover in reception and appointed a teacher called Mrs Awuye. She seemed to be a perfect fit for our school - she showed how she was all about inspiring children through a stimulating curriculum including forest schools, following children's interested to ensure every child is an active learner, caring and nurturing for every child to develop children's confidence and self-esteem as well as demonstrating she was very skilled in the classroom.

Yesterday, we had an 'annual inspection/visit' from Northamptonshire Local Authority by a lady called Mrs J Matthews, who works for Northamptonshire part time and is also a headteacher in a very similar sized school the other side of the county. Her letter to Northants and the school will say she believes Byfield is a good school. She was impressed by the consistently good teaching across the school,

levels of children's work, presentation on displays, data showing such great progress in every class and how the recent actions the school has put in place to improve can be seen in every classroom consistently. It is now 6 independent reports which all say the story. In the evening Governors went to a meeting in Southam, which was training for all Governors in the MAT on school finances.

Today we welcomed in Jane and Graham Smith from the Dominic Community Foundation. Children watched a video of their time in Uganda and learned more about their Environment and Culture. They especially enjoyed seeing on the video pictures of the children wearing the t-shirts they donated - it was a real joy to see the reactions of the children when they saw their old clothes. So many exclaiming 'that's my t-shirt!' showed it met our aim of teaching children about the impact they can make as individuals. Jane also spoke about how the baby and toddler clothes were given to a doctor's surgery in the poorest part of town and were so gratefully welcomed. Finally, they worked with Year 5 and 6 children and made friendship bracelets which are getting sent across. The donating an item of clothing was such a success that we are looking to repeat the idea with asking for items to be donated again (rather than money.) Student council are busy making posters for this - please keep a look out! This afternoon I am off to a conference in Northampton which is about the New Ofsted Framework which is being used to judge schools from September.



PTA

The school fete will be on Saturday 20th July 12.00-4.00pm.

Lots going on:-

- School Hall – Grand Opening
- Dancing from all classes
- Space theme – 50th anniversary of first moon landing
- Stalls, cakes, BBQ and licenced bar
- Raffle (tickets to Marvel Universe Live at O2 plus tickets to local attractions)

Owl Class will be running a bookstall – if you have any good quality books (adult or child) please can you bring them to the office.

There will also be a stall for good condition toys/dvds/cds/teddies and unwanted gifts – if you have any items at home, please bring them to the office.

PTA continued ...

We are also collecting filled jam jars, which will be used in the tombola. Please could you fill an empty jam jar with small gifts – pens, hair bobbles, toys, sweet treats – anything you fancy! You can drop these off to the office. If you need some empty jam jars please ask at the office – we have plenty!

If you have any empty 2 litre plastic drink bottles (like coke or fanta), toilet rolls, kitchen rolls for use as a craft activity, please drop off to office.

We would love some cake or biscuit donations on the day to sell. We are running a Bake Off on the day of the fete. Children can bring along any space themed cakes or biscuits which will be judged and sold on the day. Please name/age all entries and bring in on the Friday or morning of the fete (judging around 12.30). Thanks.

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

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

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

Hotshots – Every Tuesday – 8am

Dance Club – Every Wednesday after school

Wednesday 3rd July – Friday 5th July – Owl Class Residential

Thursday 4th July – Kiwi Class swimming

Friday 5th July – Kiwi Class Guitar performance 9.15am

Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July – Walk To School Week – more details to follow

Monday 8th July – Robins Forest School in morning

Monday 8th July – Penguins Forest School in afternoon

Tuesday 9th July – Transition morning

Tuesday 9th July – DSLV transition day

Wednesday 10th July – Kiwis Forest School in afternoon

Thursday 11th July – swimming

Thursday 11th July – New Reception Parents meeting 5.30pm

Friday 12th July – Reports due to be issued

Monday 15th July – Sports Day first race 1.30pm (backup date if raining July 22nd)

Monday 15th July – Parents Evening drop-ins

Wednesday 17th July – Nursery children joining school for lunch

Wednesday 17th July – Owl Production to parents (afternoon and evening)

Wednesday 17th July – Parents Evening Drop-ins (if you wish to discuss Reports)

Thursday 18th July – swimming

Friday 19th July – Yr 6 trip to Boost Trampoline Park

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

Wednesday 24th July – Leavers Assembly 1.30pm

Wednesday 24th July – school closes for summer break **End of term picnic**



“Wanted – Byfield resident who’s also a nursery / primary school parent for consultation on new Byfield Good Neighbour Scheme.

Byfield Good Neighbour Scheme is launching in October, and we need some help getting ready!

The Scheme will safely match local volunteers with time or skills with a neighbour who use a little help now and then – it might be changing a lightbulb, or taking your bins out when its icy, for example.

We’d like to get the whole village involved and would love to canvass your opinion, especially if you are a dad of primary age (or younger) children.

- Would suit someone who would like to get involved more in the community, but may not have a huge amount of time available. A meeting every few weeks between now and October, initially, where you read the documents provided and give your views on how to make them better.

You will not be roped in to lots of time-consuming tasks, we promise!

Email : ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

If you don’t fit the demographic above, we still value your input. We are on a village-wide society consultation exercise currently, and any and all comments are welcome on the above email address, or why not come along to see us at the **School Fete** (July 20th) or **Drop In Information Evening** on 6th September in the new School Hall 7-9pm.

Byfield School
Byfield Nursery
Places available now

Open Morning
9th July 9:30-11:30.
Please come along to a free stay and play session.

★ **Open to all children who will be 2 or above from September.**

We are delighted to offer both 15 and 30 hours provision for nursery aged pupils, with spaces still available for September 2019.

Byfield Nursery
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For information please email us at info@byfieldnursery.org.uk, or call us on 01327 264 230.

