



Byfield School
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Headteacher: Mr David Hibbert

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I hope everyone had a very good summer holiday - I have to say when I have been walking around the school this week the children have told me all about the fantastic times they have had and are all saying how much they are looking forward to this new school year.

I would like to welcome our new children in Reception. Just like the teachers, some were a little nervous about the first day, most were more excited to start, but all of them have had an amazing start to the term. It has been especially pleasing to see how well the new comers have bonded with each other and with other children during playtimes - they already part of the Byfield Family.

Our first day was labelled a 'children's learning day,' Like Teacher Training Days are designed to get teachers ready for the new term, and ensure we have the best possible, most motivated and inspired teachers, the Learners Training Day was designed to get learners ready for the new term, and ensure we have the best possible, most motivated and inspired learners. During the assembly at the end of the day, listening to the children talking about what how they had learnt about their new topics, completed teamwork challenges and had shown their creative flair through some artistic challenges showed me that the whole school is ready to push forward into a new term.

We have an exciting few events coming up in the near future, which I would like to inform you about, and will give more details further into the term - I know many children will be very excited. Firstly, we will be taking part in the Young Voices singing scheme - where children will have the chance to perform at a large stadium. Also, to carry on from the work we do in Forest Schools further down the school (which will be starting again very soon,) we will be launching a Junior Duke of Edinburgh Scheme on Monday 23rd of September for Key Stage 2 Children. In addition, there will be some new after school clubs, which we hope children will be enthusiastic about.

Please see, at the top of the newsletter the logo which was chosen in the vote by parents and children. We will be updating the website, paper publications and letter heads over the next few weeks, but not changing the logo on the school uniform until after Christmas. We are keen for it to be a gradual transition, so as not to add any unnecessary uniform costs.

The other huge news, over the summer holidays, was the Department of Education approved our request to extend the age range of the school to start from 2. It is now (hopefully) a very quick and smooth legal process to finally join the school and nursery together. We have begun September with staff from both Nursery and School working together, in the mind-set we are one!

Finally, two requests / nags, neither of which are new and won't come to a surprise to many! Reading wise, please can you use this next week, to get into a routine of reading with your children. Schools no longer have the money, or the staff to ensure every child reads to an adult every day - we are aiming for 2 times a week for infants. With 80 children, if we wanted every child to read for just 5 minutes a day to an adult it would mean one member of staff being employed full time - and even then they wouldn't be able to hear everyone! That simply is not possible or affordable; however we know how essential it is that

children read daily. Please write down in your child's reading records every time your child reads, so we can reward the children who read 5 times a week with a sticker, and a bigger prize when they have 10 stickers! All evidence shows children who read daily are much more likely to be better at English, Maths, have better emotional health and much better concentration.

My other request is around healthy eating. We know sugar does effect young children's ability to sit still and concentrate. If you are providing your child with a snack for break time, please make sure it is healthy - chocolate, crisps and sweets are tasty and children love them - but don't provide the lasting energy to get through the morning. (Year Reception, 1 and 2 are offered a portion of fruit every day at break. Children under 5 years old are offered milk, if your child is over 5 you can purchase milk through our Cool Milk Scheme, please ask for details if you are interested). Chocolate, crisps and sweets are not banned from lunchboxes, but please make sure if your child does have them, they are only a moderate amount as part of a balanced diet. For drinks - our rule is water only in the classroom - any juice coming in will only be for lunchtimes (both for reasons of health and keeping non-sticky carpets!). If your child does not like water, suggestions from Mrs Williams - our healthy eating guru, is to put some citrus fruit or berries in to give it a small amount of flavour.

School Meals

Please remember to order meals by midnight on Tuesdays for the following week. If anyone would like to order meals for next week please let the office know.

There is a special meal day next Friday, 13th September. It is Roald Dahl day with a special menu:-
Froboscottle popping drink (The BFG) – Mr Twits wormy spaghetti served with snozzcumpers followed by Bruce Bogtrotters cake (chocolate cake) from Matilda.

We're looking forward to seeing parents and families at the Byfield Good Neighbours Scheme Information Evening – Friday 6th September 7-9pm, Byfield School Hall. Drop in for 10 minutes to find out more about the scheme which will help neighbours in a variety of ways. For more info: ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

Dates for the Diary

String music lessons – every Wednesday, Guitar music lessons – every Tuesday, Keyboard/flute lessons – every Thursday - music lessons commence w/c 9th September.

PE – Please bring PE kit in to school every day.

PE Days are:- Penguins – Tuesday Owls and Kiwi - Monday

Celebration Assemblies - Friday

Friday 6th September – Good Neighbours Scheme meeting in school hall (drop in 7-9pm)

Tuesday 10th September – Individual photos school and nursery plus family groups (8.30am)

Friday 13th September – Hotshot Taster Sessions in school (Hotshots to start 24th September)

Tuesday 17th September – School and Nursery Open Day

Friday 25th October – break up for Half Term 3.15pm

Monday 4th November – school open 8.45am