

Bisley Blue Coat C of E Primary School

Newsletter

September 2017

The start of a new school year is always so exciting after the long summer break. This year four pupils have joined in Reception and two new pupils have started in Class 2. We extend a big warm welcome to Miss Edwards who has joined us as teacher in Class 3 for this year.

We start this year with a number of new and exciting initiatives for all classes. Our first Race For Life takes place this Friday and we look forward to seeing pupils and adults taking part in this family fundraising event. Included in this newsletter is some more information about the Daily 10 which we have started and our trial period of the "shoeless classroom".

As planned work took place in the school grounds over the holidays and is now almost complete. It is the most amazing resource for our pupils and increases the space to learn and play. All of this work would not have happened without the vision, dedication and organisation of Ms Lane to whom we are extremely grateful. Well done and thank you Ms Lane you are a Bisley Blue Coat star!

This newsletter contains a list of some important known dates for Terms 1 and 2. As usual we will inform you of any further planned events in future correspondence.

With all best regards

Lisa Austin
Executive Headteacher.

Our Christian value for this term is **THANKFULNESS**

The Daily 10

In addition to their usual PE lessons, all the children have started to improve their fitness levels through our exciting new initiative which we are calling 'The Daily 10'. The idea is based on 'The Daily Mile', a scheme that gets children walking, jogging or running together at school every day. You can find out more about it by looking at the following link <http://thedailymile.co.uk/>. The evidence has shown that children taking part in it improve their health, fitness and concentration, which in turn helps their learning and achievement in class.

We have used the idea of The Daily Mile to create The Daily 10, which we feel will work best for our pupils in our school environment. Every day you will see each class taking a break from the lessons, putting on their trainers and having a run outside for 10 minutes before returning refreshed to their classrooms to continue their learning. However, The Daily 10 will not always be a run as we want to add some variety and also keep the 10 minutes of exercise going on those days when the Bisley weather is not so kind to us. We are hoping that The Daily 10 will make a big difference to the health and fitness of all our pupils – and our classroom staff too!

The Shoeless Classroom

This term we are going to take part in a piece of action research. The research is designed to assess the impact of shoeless learning spaces in schools and in particular, to see if it improves learning, behaviour and results in the schools. There have been a number of primary and secondary schools nationally and internationally that have introduced the idea after research found the relaxed approach to footwear in the classroom improved academic results.

A decade-long study, by researchers at Bournemouth University, found that allowing pupils to remove their shoes, as is custom in Scandinavia, helped them to engage better in class. Making the classroom more comfortable and inviting, with clean carpets and no dirty footwear, could encourage reading and also improve attitudes to learning.

Children in all classes will be free to wear socks or slippers in their class for the duration of their indoor learning. Children in Class 1 will have access to shoes and wellies for outdoor learning as normal.

It is hoped that we would see cleaner floors and less furniture therefore creating more space for collaboration, presentation, role play and more - all of which are well documented as being effective learning strategies. Also circulation noise is reduced substantially and behaviour is reported to be calmer, gentler and more reflective! Mr Wright will be coordinating the research and there will be further details to come with a date for the start of the research to follow soon.

We do hope you will support the initiative as it is a low impact study, but one which may provide a better learning environment for all children in our schools.

If you would like to find out more, you can access the research findings here <http://rubble.heppell.net/places/shoeless/>

Working in partnership.

This year we plan to continue working in partnership with other schools in the locality. As you are aware Mrs Mitchell is currently working on a secondment as Acting Headteacher at Miserden School. Building upon the successes of working closely with Oakridge we have planned opportunities for the staff from the three schools to work together sharing good practice, resources and expertise. Starting this term we are also opening up our after school club provision to Miserden pupils.

Attendance.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school we need to know. **We request that the school office is informed by 9.30am on the first day of absence.** Any un-notified absence of pupils will be followed up with a call home to ensure the child is safe. Attendance and reasons are recorded onto a secure computerised system (SIMS).

If your child arrives at school late after 8.55am or attends a medical appointment please sign in at the office so the register can be amended.

Dates for your diary

Please note that all dates including sports information can be found on the school website.

Thursday 14th September – Meet the Teacher (Class 3) at 3:30pm

Friday 15th September – Race for Life at 2pm

Friday 22nd September – Achievement Worship in the Church at 2:45pm

Friday 6th October – Harvest Service in Church at 2:45pm

Sunday 8th October – Bisley Harvest 5k and 10k

Monday 9th October – I-sing pop starts

Tuesday 10th October – Cheltenham Literature Festival

Tuesday 17th October – I Sing pop performances 2pm and 6pm

Friday 20th October – Achievement Worship in the Church at 2:45pm

Saturday 4th November – PTA Bonfire Night

Friday 10th November – Achievement Worship in the Church at 2:45pm

Friday 1st December – Achievement Worship in the Church at 2:45pm

Tuesday 5th December – Class 2 performances at 9:15am and 6pm

Wednesday 6th December – Class 1 performances 9:15am and 2pm

Thursday 7th December – Whole school to watch performances

Friday 8th December – Panto at Tewkesbury

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Lunch

Friday 15th December – Christingle service in Church at 1:30pm

Thursday 10th May – Ascension Day

Week of 14-18 May – KS2 SATS

Wednesday 11th July – C3 Performance at the Cotswold Playhouse (2pm and 6pm)