



Summer Term Newsletter



Website: <http://www.southbenfleet.essex.sch.uk>

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July 2016

I would like to start by thanking all parents, carers and staff for their support throughout the school year. It is always much appreciated and very important in order to help ensure that the school and children can be the best that they can be- **Thank you.**

Staffing

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to a few staff from our team. Miss Rivers is leaving to take up a post closer to home, Mrs Hawkins, who has been taking Year 5 and 6 French for a number of years will be retiring. Mrs Church who has most recently been providing class cover and mentor support has decided to set up her own business. Mrs Ellis who has been on maternity leave will not be returning to her EYFS class in September. I would like to thank all these staff for their hard work and contributions to the school over a number of years and wish them all the very best for the future.

All the very best wishes to Miss Lee and Miss Shirley who are both getting married (separately) during the summer holidays. Miss Lee will return as Mrs Watson and Miss Shirley will return as Mrs Johns.

I would also like to welcome three new staff to the team. Miss Dane will be joining us a teacher in Year 1- Yellow Class, Mr Moyses in Year 2 - Ruby Class and Mr West in Year 5 - Silver Class.

Results

The last year has again been very positive academically with above national average results. I would therefore like to thank the children and staff for their continued hard work. Please remember that the Key Stage 1 and 2 results this year reflect the new national curriculum and the new national assessments. This means it is not possible to directly compare results with previous years. Please see the report wrap around for further details.

Early Years: 78% are considered to have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD)

Phonics screening tests Year 1 – once again 90% of our children achieved the expected level compared to last year's national average of 77%.

Year 2: End of Key Stage 1 SATs (Standard Attainment Tests)

Reading : 87% of children were working at or above the National Standard
Writing : 78 % of children were working at or above the National Standard
Maths : 82% of children were working at or above the National Standard

Year 6 End of Key Stage 2 SATs (Standard Attainment Tests)

Reading: 70% of children were working at or above the National Standard
Writing: 85% of children were working at or above the National Standard
Maths: 83% of children were working at or above the National Standard
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling: 87% of children were working at or above the National Standard

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

At this end of the year I would also like to extend my thanks to the volunteers of the PTA who give so generously of their time to organise, set up and run events throughout the year. Events this year have included the Christmas Bazaar, three discos, a competition or two & the running of refreshment stalls. These events have the dual role of providing fun activities for the children and to raise money. Look out for the circus in early September! Well done to Max Lawrence for winning the Golden Draw!!

Circus on the School field

After April's postponement due to poor weather, the circus has been rebooked for Thursday 8th September. The Field opens at 4.30 where there will be a BBQ and refreshments and ice creams will be on sale. The show starts at 6.00. Tickets are available from the school office at a cost of £7 each or 4 for £25.

Holidays and Attendance

There has been much ongoing discussion in the media about term time school holidays. I would like to reiterate that the overall position hasn't changed. We cannot authorise term time holidays. We believe that children need to be in school for the maximum amount of time in order for them to develop as capable learners and to develop communication and friendship skills and become the best they can be. Childhood illness and unforeseen events already have an impact on attendance and learning, potentially adding holidays to this will have an adverse impact on learning. Missed time from school is impossible to replace!



I would like to congratulate all those children who have achieved either good or very good attendance. Up to our final assembly 45 children have achieved the 100% attendance award and 57 children have achieved the good attendance badge for 99% attendance. **Well done.**



Swimming Gala 13th July 2016

We achieved further sporting success last week when we came overall 1st in our local swimming gala held at Runnymede Pool. The squad swam very confidently and many children won individual medals. Once again, we were proud to hear that as well as showing sporting talent in the pool the children had good sporting attitudes and were very encouraging of each other and other schools. Thank you Mrs Ellis for training the squad.



Parent Pay

In response to and in line with our ever changing world - think online banking, eBay, Amazon etc. we are moving towards becoming a cashless school from the start of next term. This is to help parents manage payments electronically and over time reduce our admin time and costs. From September we **will no longer accept direct cash payments for dinner money, trips and clubs**. For the present we will still accept cash and cheques for uniform sales and charity collections. We will be sending out, this week, full instructions on how to register and use our online payment system provider **Parent Pay**. It is **important** that you follow the instructions and register for an account over the summer. Once you have an account it will also be possible to make indirect cash payments via the PayPoint system. This is a network of shops that accept cash payments to your parent pay account. There are several PayPoints close to the school including the local neighbouring newsagents. If you have any questions, it is important that you contact us and/or come to one of the support sessions. We will be providing support and help during the first week of term so that parents can, if needed, come into school and be helped with their registration / account setup. We have arranged for staff to be available in school with laptops to help set up accounts on Tuesday 6th September between 9.00 and 10.00 and on Wednesday 7th between 2.30 and 3.00. Please come to the office at these times if you would like help. Although Key stage 1 parents do not pay for school meals we are asking all parents to activate their accounts so that they are ready to use for school purchases, e.g. trips.

School Uniform

As your attention turns to the summer holidays and in time to buying new uniform please can I ask you to keep working with us so the children stay looking smart and are safe and ready to learn.

You can do this by:-

- ✓ Keeping to our uniform guidelines- see our prospectus please- also on the website
- ✓ Continuing to provide black shoes, not trainers for daily use
- ✓ Not allowing extreme hair styles, accessories or excessive 'hair gel sculptures', spikes, colourings, shaved patterns, highlights etc. (Please let them be children!)
- ✓ Not allowing fake transfers / tattoos / make-up including nail varnish in school.
- ✓ Making sure the correct PE kit is in school at all times (plimsolls/trainers, black shorts and white t- shirt)
- ✓ Please also remember for safety's sake if possible no jewellery. The only permissible items are a watch and small stud earrings.

At secondary school there are very strict uniform expectations and children are sent home for failure to adhere to these. *Please help your children to get into good habits now by following our uniform expectations correctly.*

I would like to finish by wishing our current Year 6 all the very best for the future and to thank them for their hard work and their significant contribution to school life.

Have a safe and happy summer. We look forward to seeing everyone again on the 5th September

DJ Carver