



South Benfleet Primary School

Summer Term Newsletter 3



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

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July 2015

Can I first of all thank all of our parents and carers for their support over the last school year. This support is crucial in order to enable the children to do as well as they have and to keep our school community a safe, happy and successful place.

Results

We've had another great year academically with more very positive and above national average results across the school.

Early Years- Percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development (GLD) by the end of the year-75% (National Average 2014 60%)

Phonics tests Year 1 - 90% of our children achieved the expected level compared to last year's national average of 74%. Well done to the Year 1 team for their hard work and dedication in making this happen.

Year 2 SATs (Standard Attainment Tests) Results 2015

Reading – 91% achieved Level 2B and above (2014 NA 78%) and 37% achieved Level 3 (2014 NA 29%)

Writing - 82% achieved Level 2B and above (2014 NA 67%) and 32% achieved Level 3 (2014 NA 15%)

Maths – 86% achieved Level 2B and above (2014 NA 78%) and 28% achieved Level 3 (2014 NA 23%)

Year 6 SATs (Standard Attainment Tests)

Reading – 100% achieved Level 4 and above (2014 NA 91%) and 59% achieved Level 5 (2014 NA 50%)

Writing - 95% achieved Level 4 and above (2014 NA 83%) and 36% achieved Level 5 (2014 NA 33%)

Maths – 96% achieved Level 4 and above (2014 NA 87%), 53% achieved Level 5+ (2014 NA 42%) and 10% achieved Level 6 (2013 NA 9%)

Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling – 97% achieved Level 4 and above (2014 NA 77%), 81% achieved Level 5 (2014 NA 53%).

* NA = National Average for 2014- the latest available comparison data

Well done to all the children who have done extremely well. We are very proud of their achievements. I would like to thank all of the staff for their continued high levels of dedication and commitment, both to teaching and learning but also to the school as a community.

I would also like to emphasise that the school is about more than academic progress and results, crucial as they are. As a school we are strongly aware of a bigger picture and a need for the children to develop a whole host of skills and attitudes to prepare them for further study, employment and life in our ever changing world. This is why we encourage educational visits both local and further afield, a range of educational visitors and we take part in a variety of sporting and arts events and festivals. Whilst we know we may not please everyone all the time e.g. with the timing of events and whom we are able to include, we take the view that over their time at the school (which for most is seven years) there will be a wide range of opportunities and experiences for them to take part in. Unfortunately, we can't enter every event or festival as there just wouldn't be the time, money or staffing available to ensure we could provide the best possible experience. We also have to consider the potential impact of lost learning time.

PTA (Parent and 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 include three discos, three fetes, competitions and running refreshment stalls etc. These events have the dual role of providing fun, social activities for the children and to raise additional money for the school. It is worth remembering that these events are totally reliant on the good will of the volunteers who run them. Comments are occasionally received about timing of events, please remember that many staff and parents would love to **attend** an event at a weekend but who then would run the event? I know that the majority of our parents recognise that all school staff are incredibly supportive of the school and give their time in many ways beyond their teaching commitment to support music, drama, sport and social events. We have to find a balance between supporting

these additional activities against a teacher's core job – planning, marking and assessing, finding and making resources, putting up displays, attending meetings and continuous professional training. The above results show the impact of their hard work, professionalism and dedication to achieving the best for your children.

Staffing

Best wishes for the future to Mr Boulden who started his career here three years ago. He has decided it is time to leave us in order to meet new challenges and to be a PE coordinator. I would like to thank him for his work here, especially with the sports teams and events, particularly football.

Best wishes and good luck to Mrs Ellis (EYFS Aqua) who will soon be temporarily leaving us to have a baby in the autumn.

Best wishes and thanks to Miss Temblett our Year 5 LSA who will be taking up a teaching post in a school near Brentwood in the autumn.

Best wishes and congratulations also to Miss Tyler (Year 4 Orange Class) who is getting married this summer and will return as Mrs Board.

We welcome Miss Brown to the team – she will be taking Aqua class in Year 5. We will also be welcoming two new support staff, Miss Hewer and Miss Carter to the learning support team.

May I also extend a delayed welcome to Mr Parker, our new site manager and thank Mr West for his years of service to the school. I'm sure you will agree that the school site is looking better than ever thanks to his hard work. We wish him well in his retirement

Holidays and Attendance

You will already be aware that attendance in school is crucial, as time lost from school cannot be replaced.

Holidays cannot be authorised during term time. Leave of absence may only be requested for *truly exceptional* circumstances.

New legislation comes into force this autumn regarding attendance. Currently, children with more than 15 % absence are considered to be persistent absentees. This number will now reduce to 10 % - around 19 days absence. In short a 10% absence rate could quickly lead to a fixed penalty fine starting at £60 per parent, per child and/or a supervision order.

Recently, fines for non-attendance have topped £3000, not the £100 level once quoted!

We are strongly asking all parents to value what too many parts of the world are desperate for and deprived of – Education free at the point of use. Please ensure that your child is in school unless they are really too ill to be here or there are truly exceptional circumstances.

Unfortunately, we have an increase in unauthorised absences as a result of parents taking holidays in term time. Sadly, we are also seeing children return to school with an obvious suntan and presents for their friends whilst the school has been told that they've been unwell e.g. with chicken pox! This puts children in the very difficult position of having to lie to their teacher when one of our Golden Rules states, 'We are honest and take responsibility for our actions'.

Here is our school attendance for 2014/15

	Class & Year Group	Attendance
1st	Y4 Orange	97.3%
2nd	Y1 Lime	97.2%
3rd	Y3 Yellow	96.9%
4th	Y2 Green	96.7%
5th	Y1 Blue Y2 Red Y3 Bronze Y4 Purple	96.1%
9th	Y5 Amber Y6 Gold	95.9%
11th	EY Jade	95.7%
12th	Y5 Silver	95.6%
13th	Y6 White	95.3%
14th	EY Aqua	94.5%
	This year's school average	96.1%

We must say a big 'well done' to 38 children across the school who had 100% attendance this year. They will be receiving a certificate and a special badge that they can wear on their uniform throughout next year. A further 52 children had 99% attendance. They will also be receiving a certificate and badge to wear throughout next year to celebrate this excellent achievement.



Classes for September 2015

Below is a list of classes for September 2015. Children have had the opportunity to meet their new teacher this afternoon and parents will be invited to 'Meet the Teacher' on Thursday 24th September in our usual informal open evening.

Current Class colour 2014-15	Year Group September 2015	New class teacher and new class colour 2015 - 16
New pupils 2015	EYFS	Miss Rowan (Jade)
New pupils 2015	EYFS	Miss Rivers (Yellow)
Jade	Year 1	Mrs Johnson (Blue)
Aqua	Year 1	Mrs Woollard (Lime)
Blue	Year 2	Mrs Hayes (Red)
Lime	Year 2	Miss Farrell (Green)
Red & Green	Year 3 New Class 1 See separate letter and list	Mr Offredi (Bronze)
Red & Green	Year 3 New Class 2 See separate letter and list	Mrs Tanner / Mrs Walford (Silver)
Bronze	Year 4	Mr Berry (Purple)
Yellow	Year 4	Mrs Board (Orange)
Purple	Year 5	Mrs Hall (Amber)
Orange	Year 5	Miss Brown (Aqua)
Amber	Year 6	Miss Lee (Gold)
Silver	Year 6	Miss Shirley (White)

Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat July 2015

I would like to thank all the Key Stage 2 children, particularly Year 6, who put on a fantastic production last week. The acting, singing and enthusiasm from everybody was impressive. Thank you also to all staff for their hard work in pulling it together but particularly to Miss Lee and Miss Shirley supported by Mrs Toomer for producing the show.



District Sports

A big well done to our talented athletics team who came second overall in the District Sports this Tuesday at the Deanes School. The team, led by Miss Tyler showed great determination and team spirit throughout the event.

We won the field events competition and came third in the track competition. These great achievements would not have happened without the dedication of the children who attended training after school and at lunchtimes. Thank you to the team of staff who gave up their time to train the team: Mr Boulden, Miss Rivers, Mr Offredi, Miss Shirley, Mr Berry and Mrs Thompson (parent volunteer).



Swimming Gala

We achieved further sporting success on Thursday when we came overall 1st in our local swimming gala held at Runnymede Pool. The squad were amazing and won most of the gold medals on offer! Every child came home with at least one medal and all swam with confidence and determination. As always, the sporting attitude was excellent and they encouraged and acknowledged the achievements of other schools. We were very proud of them. A big thank you to Mrs Ellis our Swimming Instructor for her dedication to swimming and for leading our school team. We believe that having our own pool which allows every year group to swim every year raises the profile and importance of swimming as well as helping to create confident swimmers.



Sports day

Thank you for all the many positive comments we've received about this year's sports days, particularly the Junior event. There was a great competitive attitude between the houses and all children participated continuously throughout. In the words of one junior child, 'by the end I was exhausted'! Well done to the winning teams: Drake in the Juniors and Red in the Infants. Thank you to all staff for making the events run so smoothly and to Miss Tyler for organising the day.

A Sporting Thank You and Goodbye

After approximately 15 years training and running our school football team Mr Bob Bellenie has decided that it is time to hang up his South Benfleet football shirt and move on to other things. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication and hard work leading to many successes and wish him well.

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.*

Parent Survey

Thank you to all parents who recently completed our parent survey which was available at our celebration open evening on 2nd July and also in the school office for 2 weeks following this date. Responses were overwhelmingly positive. Please see separate sheet for full results.

Return to school

All children (except new Early Years children who have different arrangements) return to school at 8.45am on Thursday September 3rd 2015.

Future Known dates

September	3 rd	Return to school
	24 th	Meet the teacher open evening 5-7pm
	25 th	School Closed for Staff Training Day
October	23 rd	School Closed (Friday)
	26 th – 30 th	Half term

I would like to end by wishing our Year 6 children good luck as they leave us for secondary school. Please keep in touch and tell us about your continued successes. Thank you for all your hard work and for being positive role models for the school. Keep making us all feel proud.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer and see you in September.

DJ Carver