



Friday 6th January 2017

Welcome back!

We hope that everyone had a fantastic Christmas break and has come back feeling refreshed and ready for another exciting term.

Many of you will already be aware that our lovely school cook, Mrs Riddle sadly passed away shortly before Christmas. Mrs Riddle made a huge impact here at school, going out of her way to make sure that menus catered for the tastes of our children, special dietary requirements were taken into account and 'fussy eaters' were looked after! She knew the name of every one of our children and whether they liked gravy on their roast or butter on their sandwiches. She organised fun themed menus, great competitions and even baked us cakes on special occasions. She will be missed by every single person here at Berkeley Primary School. The children have been given the opportunity to write a little something or draw a picture that represents their memories of Mrs Riddle. These notes, along with those from the staff will go towards creating a Memory Box that we can pass to her family. We know that many of you had contact with Mrs Riddle and if you would like to contribute, please drop your written memories into the office. Our thoughts are with Mrs Riddle's family for the loss of a lovely lady, taken far too soon.



Next Monday, 9th January at 2pm, PCSO Mike Trebble will be coming into school to talk to our Year 4 & 5 children about e-safety. This year we would like to invite the parents of the classes involved to attend with their children. This is always a very informative session where children and staff alike learn many new facts about the internet and social media. We hope that you are able to join us.



If you are having a new year clear-out, we are desperately in need of spare PE Kit. Whilst all kit would be greatly appreciated, we are really need trainers, football boots and shin pads. If you are able to help, please drop off at the school office. Thank you.



Once again we find ourselves with a mass of lost property accumulated over the last term. We will hold onto it until 20th January at which point it will be taken to the clothing bank. If you are missing any items of clothing, please pop in. May we also ask that you put your child's name in all items of uniform, PE kits, coats etc. Mrs Fryer does a fantastic job of ensuring that all named items make their way back to the rightful owner, but there is little we can do if it has no name!



Next week we will be sending home Club Choices. Many of the clubs have limited spaces and as always, we will allocate places on a first come first served basis. If your child is not allocated a place in a chosen club, we will inform you via text message. If you do not receive a text, your child has been allocated a place. Clubs will run from 16th January to 31st March.



We have had some very mild weather over the last couple of months, but it would now appear that the colder weather is here. Please ensure that children have suitable coats, hats and gloves with them in school for morning break and lunchtimes.



We are pleased to announce that Mrs Turner has taken on the role of Pastoral Care & Family Support. She will be attending meetings with families and outside agencies to ensure the best support is available where necessary. Each Thursday, Mrs Turner will be holding drop-in sessions between 2.45 and 3.30pm, so if you have any concerns or anything you wish to discuss, please come along and say hello.



Thank you to all those who have completed their Explorers booking forms. If you have not yet completed yours, please do so ASAP as we need the forms to complete our registers and work out staffing levels. **Our Holiday Club will be open during the February half term, subject to numbers.** If you would like to book any sessions, please complete a booking form and return to the office ASAP. Thank you.



Once again this year, we will be holding separate KS2 Parents' evenings for Literacy and Maths on 2nd and 9th March respectively. KS1 & Reception Parents' Evening will be on 15th March and Little Jesters on 13th March. The appointment times will be for **5 minutes**. We will be sending home booking forms shortly and appointments will be booked on a first come first served basis.



May we remind you that if you would like your child to have school dinner, your account **must** be in credit. We do not operate a 'buy now, pay later' scheme and we will phone you to ask you to provide a packed lunch for your child if the account has insufficient funds. Thank you to all those of you who keep their accounts in credit. It is very much appreciated.



The new topics are all kicking off this term, with the children eager to find out more. Reception are exploring 'A Land of Make Believe', KS1 are racing 'Around the World in 54 Days!', Y3 & Y4 are wondering 'Where their Wellies Will Take Them' and Y5 & Y6 should be set for anything after their topic 'Survival in the Extremes'.



For more information, please check your child's class page on the website. Keep an eye out for home learning activities too please.

Thank you for your continued support in extending your children's interest in their topics at home.



Finally, thank you from the staff and myself for all the good wishes, gifts and acts of kindness in the lead up to Christmas. Recognition of the hard work and dedication of all the staff is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Debbie Marklove and staff

Diary Dates

- January 9th – E-Safety for Year 5 & 6 2.00pm – Parents welcome
- January 16th – Clubs start
- January 24th – Year 5 & 6 trip to Bristol Mosque & Hindu Temple
- February 1st – Girls Football at Rednock – KS2
- February 10th – Finish for Half Term
- February 20th – Return to school
- February 21st – Dance Festival Cheltenham – Year 5
- March 2nd – KS2 Literacy Parents Evening – 1.30 – 7.00pm
- March 9th – KS2 – Maths Parents Evening – 1.30 - 7.00pm
- March 10th – Mock Magistrates Trials – Year 5 & 6
- March 10th – Reception WOW Event 2.00pm
- March 13th – Little Jesters Parents Evening – 3.30-6.30pm
- March 15th – Year 3 & 4 Rugby at Dursley Primary
- March 15th – Reception & KS1 Parents Evening 1.30 – 7.00pm
- March 17th – Science Day – Whole School
- March 22nd – Class 1 WOW Assembly – 9.15am
- March 31st – Clubs finish
- April 5th – Hockey @ Rednock – KS2
- April 7th – Finish for Easter