

# BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



*If children are happy, they will achieve!*

## Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Final school reports have been sent out, and I have been overwhelmed with the positive feedback. I am so pleased that our new and improved annual reports have been so well received. Our aim was to personalise them fully this year, discussing 'the whole child' in line with our school vision. I am really happy to hear how much you have enjoyed reading them.



Swimming has been strong this term, and we have been blessed with such tropical weather for it too. Our KS1 children took part in the 'Sharkley' gala with children at Sharpness Primary, which was fabulous. We have seen a marked difference in children's water confidence and swimming technique. KS2 enjoyed their swimming galas, with 'Scott house' taking the lead, and winning the trophy for 2018. Smashing! BSQ2BSQ got the children motivated to 'get their swim on' even more, with their swimathon. The children and staff swam a total of 86.7 miles collectively! This is a phenomenal achievement, particularly from children who have not been in a pool before this summer! Sponsor money is still coming in, but on the last count, we have raised over £700 for Meningitis Now, CJD and Sue Ryder. Thank you to everyone for taking part in this for the whole community. The children were awarded a HUGE trophy to honour their tremendous effort in their part in this community event, and we could not be prouder! I also want to extend huge gratitude to our parent helpers this term, who have volunteered so much time to help with swimming; we appreciate your time and support so much, thank you!



Our Year 6 pupils were treated to a morning of Kayaking here at Berkeley this term, which they enjoyed a great deal. Helping our pupils make a big splash were Mrs Gibson, Mr March and Mr Day, who gave up their free time to train the pupils, giving them a valuable, life lesson and wonderful experience. Thank you so much. Again, a testament to what a wonderful community Berkeley is, with people only too willing to contribute to our young people's enriched education!



Sevenside Youth Football Club will be holding their annual Presentation/Open Day on Saturday 21st July at Berkeley Town Football Club, Station Road. It's a day where existing players and their families come together to celebrate the season past, but it's also a great chance for anyone new to see what's it's like too, so why not come along between 11am and 5pm and join in the fun! There will be a BBQ, bar, bouncy castle, penalty shoot-out, face painting, Bake off competition, raffle and lots more!



We have some VERY exciting news indeed! For years now, Berkeley have been without their own school library, as rising numbers in children (which is wonderful!) has seen us turn cupboards into classrooms and kitchens, therefore, leaving little 'extra space'. A library has always been on the top of my wish list, and with funding in education not at its greatest, I had to get creative with my thinking! I have seen library buses in other schools, and started researching into cost etc. With the bus, and the conversion to a library, we were looking at around 20k, which would take us many bake sales to raise! But, we have had a little miracle here at BPS and have been working with some engineers at First Bus in Bristol, who have DONATED a double decker bus to BPS...AND...this is just incredible, they are fully converting it for us, inside and out, with all our design specifications...FOR FREE!!! In a profession where we are excited to receive glue sticks, this is a MAJOR WIN! We are so happy! Therefore, in September, we will have a new library and an extra classroom (top deck) space for group work. It even comes with USB ports for ipads! Berkeley library have also kindly offered to provide new books each term, to keep our stock updated, and encourage that love of reading to all our children...and staff!



Thank you all so much for your positive feedback on our new drop off and pick up transition systems. It has made such a huge improvement, providing a calmer start and end to the day. It has aided essential safety measures too, particularly at the end of the day, as staff can easily see children to their responsible adult. We



will be having a nicer border built next term, in place of the 'tatty tape'. This will also ensure that children using our after school provision have a safe area to play in, away from open gates to the road.



The end of term is nearing, and we only have a few days left. Standards in uniform must remain a priority please. The same rules apply to no make-up, jewellery and nail varnish, so please ensure children are in their correct uniform at school, as it sets the standard for behaviour and pride. If for any reason your children are not able to wear part of their uniform, e.g. school shoes broken or too small, please inform your class teacher in writing. Thank you.



The golden 'Star awards' are fast approaching, and the teachers have been collaborating to decide on a worthy recipient. This term, I have widened the scope for celebrating achievement, and shall be introducing some new awards. This is in line with our school vision, celebrating the whole-child, and acknowledging a variety of achievements. We are so proud of the children, and want them to take pride in their achievements. This term, awards will be given as follows:

- Golden Star Award (Outstanding all-round achievement, including behaviour)



- Star Artist Award

- Sports Star Award



- Drama Star Award



- Berkeley Ambassador Award



As the children will be bringing their belongings and books home, could you please ensure they bring a bag to school with them on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. A bag for life, or a large rucksack would be great please. Thank you. On Tuesday, the children will be sharing memories with the Y6 children in their leavers' assembly during the morning. After that, the Y6 pupils will be having their BBQ with their families. During this time, we would like our children to have some sociable, 'structured fun' in their classes, and therefore, invite them to bring in a game to play with friends. By game, I refer to board games, not ipads or gaming devices, as we want to encourage them to play and interact with friends.



**NO BALLS ALLOWED:** For the remaining days of term, the staff and I have decided to have a NO BALL zone. In this heat, football games are getting 'heated' and therefore, we want to encourage alternative playground games and friendship groups. In September, we will be introducing a playground rota to promote a range of activities, and therefore improve playground games and behaviour.



Thank you to Mrs Goodwin and Mrs Sansom who have stepped in to teach Y3 and Reception this term. Good luck in your next teaching adventure! Thank you to the whole team, for making Berkeley such a wonderful school. I visit many schools in my role, and have to say, that BPS has a very 'happy vibe' and is buzzing. The children are happy, and enthusiastic in their learning, which has been reflected in their incredible academic results this year. Well done to the whole of BPS community! Thank you children, parents and staff for all your hard work, positivity and kindness; it makes for a very happy school indeed.

Have a wonderful summer break with your families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink.



**PUPILS RETURN 4th SEPTEMBER 2018**

Miss Robbins and all staff at Berkeley

