

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



If children are happy, they will achieve!

Friday 20th April



Welcome back everyone to the Summer term, where we may actually see some sunshine! As the weather heats up, please ensure your children have a water bottle in school, and come dressed for the weather, with hats, shades and sun cream! This brings me onto the summer uniform. Shirts and ties are no longer required as the weather gets warmer, and can be replaced with white polo t-shirts. Shorts and summer dresses are encouraged, but little toes must remain covered please with footwear. Flip flops are only permitted for the pool. We are all looking forward to the pool opening after half term.



Our new school vision, with the headline "If children are happy, they will achieve!" can now be found on our website, and is now in pride of place on our new, green feature wall in the school hall. It looks stunning, and sets the tone for our positive vision, with inspiring, fun learning for all. I shall also be updating the school's core values shortly, so watch this space! The blogs are now up and running on our website, after some technical difficulties! Please take a look to gain an insight into what the children are learning at school.



I have updated all the term dates for the summer term on the website, so please take a look and be sure to add these to your diaries. We have a jam-packed term, with sporting events, wow days, camps, productions etc, so please make a note of these early on.



As I informed you back in September, Sports day for **KS1 (9.15-10.30)** and **KS2 (1.30-3.15)** this year will take place on **Thursday 24th May**. We made the decision to set an earlier date, due to the ever-changing/unpredictable climate, where May seems to be better than July! It also spreads out all the activities towards the end of term, which I hope will enable you to make arrangements to attend.



Run4Mums was a huge success, with the children raising a whopping £877.04 for CLIC SARGENT and The Ectopic pregnancy Trust! Wow! Thank you all so much, and a huge well done to all the children for their energetic running during the last week of term. Collectively, they managed to exceed 26 miles! We wish Mrs Rome, Mrs Fifield and Mrs Cerullo the very best of luck for their marathon this Sunday!



Yesterday, 9 children went to Dursley Rugby Club for the Year 5 Tag Rugby Tournament. They played brilliantly winning all matches bar one with the end result being that they came second overall. Great teamwork and good sportsmanship was shown by all members of the team. Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who provided transport, support and kept the score.



Congratulations to Berkeley's very own 'running man'-Declan. Before the holidays, Declan was selected to compete against the very best runners across the county, in Cross Country. He performed extremely well and finished in 42nd place. Making the 'Top 50' across the county is a fantastic achievement and we are all very proud of him- Well done Declan.



The children are very excited to invite you to an exhibition of their artwork on Monday 21st May from 3.15 pm to 6 pm. This special event will be one of the highlights of the school year and we know the children will be very happy and proud to show you their work. The pictures have been professionally mounted, framed and catalogued, and will be displayed on special boards, allowing you to stroll around our real art gallery (the converted school hall!) Your child's framed picture will be available for sale in support of school fund-raising, providing you with an opportunity to take home a lasting memento, or perhaps a gift for a family member. The professionally framed pictures look fantastic. There is no obligation to buy, so please help make this event special by dropping in. We know it will be an enjoyable experience for everybody. Refreshments will be provided by the PTA and it should be a good time to have a chat and get together too. We hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Baker who is organising this event.



We have two exciting art competitions coming up! The first is being run by Berkeley Hunt Agricultural Society, who will provide the school with a wheelbarrow and 2 bags of compost. Using the theme "Follow the Yellow Brick Road – At the end of the road you will find good things," the children need to design a garden to go in the wheelbarrow with vegetables or flowers. How you interpret the theme is entirely up to you. We will then use the winning design and create the wheelbarrow by appealing to local suppliers to help with the contents. The wheelbarrow will be judged at Berkeley Show on Sunday 24th June. A prize fund of £500 will be awarded to the winning school. We would like the children, on a rota basis, to stay with their wheelbarrows to answer any questions from the general public, so we will be asking for volunteers who will be given free child entry tickets to the show by The Show Committee. Entry forms can be found on the school website on term pages and the closing date is **18/5/18**.



The second competition is to design a wooden castle to be carved into the top of the large wooden stump in the courtyard near Year 1 and fairy doors to go at the bottom. The winning design will see their creation carved by a real wood artist who will be working with the school. The design could be based on Berkeley Castle, a fairy tale/ book or completely from your imagination. Entry forms can be found on the school website on term pages and the closing date is **18/5/18**.



On **Friday 11th May**, the whole school are having a Mindfulness day, aimed to improve well-being and a sense of calmness. More details on this day shall be sent home shortly. We will be trialling some pet therapy throughout the day with the children, in the form of Maddie the dog! She is a very calm, well-trained, young Cocker Spaniel (unlike my mad dog, Buddy!) If your child has any allergies towards dogs, please inform your class teacher in writing, and we will ensure they do not come into contact with her on the day.



We say a very sad Goodbye to two long-standing staff members this term. Wendy, our pre-school leader is off to ventures new as she has been asked to run a brand new Nursery near her home. Wendy has worked with so many children at Berkeley, and has been outstanding in her role. Jeanette is also off to ventures new, as her business 'Having a Hoot' crafts is really taking off, and she is going to live her dream of sewing and creating her wonderful masterpieces. She can put her hand to anything, so make sure you like her facebook page for any future items you may wish to purchase. She makes bespoke designs on demand! Jeanette has been a master of all trades here at Berkeley, supporting the whole school in her many roles. She has been a huge support to me during my introduction as Headteacher at Berkeley, and no doubt, tears will be shed. We wish Wendy and Jeanette the very best in their future endeavours and shall miss them both a great deal. Good luck ladies!



When one door closes, another one opens, and as such, May will be busy with recruiting new staff to fulfil the roles of Pre-school leader, School administrator and also a new Deputy Headteacher. Once we have completed the recruitment process, we shall announce all new staff, and also the teaching staff for each year group for September 2018.



This next announcement won't be popular with the children, but I am afraid I have to impose a ban on children bringing toys to school. We have an increasing amount of 'Squishies' and slime making their way into the classrooms, which is causing distractions and drama! Please do not let your children bring toys into school. Thank you.



PTA newsflash: CARBOOT SALE on Saturday June 16th 12-3pm! A chance to have a clear out and maybe grab a bargain! A great time to sell on any outgrown school uniform too! SCHOOL DISCO: Friday 13th July! More information to follow on both events.

Enjoy your weekend ☺

Yours sincerely,

Miss Robbins and all staff at Berkeley