

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



If children are happy, they will achieve!

Friday 7th September 2018



Welcome back to the start of a brand new term. The school is awash with vibrant colours, and the staff and children have already been busy getting creative with their new topics! Y6: The Blitzed Brits; Y5: Groovy Greeks; Y4: We can be heroes; Y3: Awesome Animations; Y2: On the Move; Y1: The Enchanted Woodland; YR: Paddington. Class teachers will be sending home welcome letters, detailing the routines for the coming term. The blogs will be up and running next week too, so as always, keep an eye on what is happening in each class.



BERTIE THE BUS: We have had a VERY exciting arrival over the summer...Bertie the BUS! Many of you will have seen our incredible bus if you have used the swimming pool this summer; it is hard to miss with its bold, vibrant rainbow colour, which is a colour theme throughout the school. There are some final additions we need to make over the next couple of weeks, but we hope to get Bertie up and running this term. We will have a grand opening, so watch this space for further news!



CURRICULUM NEWS: This year, we are having a big focus on developing a rich curriculum for all our children, catering it to their needs and interests to inspire them even more in their learning! We designed our curriculum by asking the most important people in the school-THE CHILDREN- what inspires and motivates them to learn. The highest demands were for drama, music, cooking, sport and anything outdoors! As such, we welcome Miss Blyth to the school, who will be working with the whole school throughout the year delivering drama and music lessons. Mrs Clark-Smith will continue to work with our EYFS children with music, and shall deliver individual lessons in our 'new music room!' Mr O will continue to deliver outstanding sports provision, and an additional sports coach, who will run 'alternative sports' and education on the impact of health and fitness on our children's lives as they grow, will join us. As well as my newsletters, this year, the subject leaders will be sending out 'Subject Snapshots' each term to give you an insight into what happens in each subject across the school, and to help the children see the 'bigger picture' too.

We have made the decision to continue streaming groups for maths this year, but to only partially stream for Literacy in KS2. KS2 pupils will be in set Literacy groups each Monday to learn specific, targeted skills on spelling, punctuation and grammar. They will then continue their Literacy learning in their respective classes for the rest of the week, applying their skills through a thematic approach. We feel this will inspire creativity, and allow them to apply their skills across all areas of the curriculum, helping to develop a deeper understanding and love of learning.



ENRICHMENT FRIDAYS: Friday afternoons shall also be filled with further enrichment to learning. The children will be in mixed groups, from Reception to Y6 and shall 'come off timetable' to learn through enriched activities. These include cooking, outdoor pursuits, mindfulness, TV, journalism, and yoga. The groups and activities will change throughout the year, giving all the children a wealth of learning experiences. Exciting stuff indeed! You will notice a new enrichment icon on our website, where you can see the latest updates throughout the year.



HOUSE POINTS & REWARDS: We have a fabulous new house point system this year, which you will see in the entrance to the school. Please ask your children to explain how this works, if they haven't already. To add further incentive to excellence, we are rewarding the winning house each term

with an active treat day. There will be six treat days throughout the year, with the dates published on our website. The first treat day will be on Friday 19th October for the children in the winning house. We have organised for mobile climbing walls and instructors to come to school for this, giving the children an active, fun and rewarding experience! Further news on upcoming treat days will be sent out shortly; there will be no cost for these treat days, as this will be funded using our PE grant to promote active lifestyles. Health & well-being is big on the agenda this year, and as such, we also have purple points for children to achieve to reward both physical and mental health. Classes will decide on their own class rewards for these if their purple points reach the top of the tube each term.



HOUSEKEEPING: Some slight changes to notify you about this term. From Monday, school will finish at 3.15pm for the whole school, rather than the later time of 3:20pm for KS2. Now that the children have spent the week getting to know their new classrooms, please help us during morning drop offs and collections by waiting in the designated area on the playground. Thank you. The only exception to this will be for the new Reception children who will be starting on Monday. I am sure we will all help them to feel welcome and safe in their new school. Little Jesters children may use the front entrance, and will be notified by Mrs Williams on their routines.



DIARY: Please see attached for some annual diary dates, and as always, keep an eye on the website www.berkeleyprimary.org.uk for upcoming events. We have a free event running on...to help make life easier with your children. The staff have all had training in emotion coaching, and it has such a positive impact on children's behaviour and well-being. We would highly recommend this approach and would encourage you to attend, even if your children are angels...there may come a day when this will be your saviour! Staff have found this highly effective with their own children. Please fill in the attached form if you can attend.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miss Robbins'.

Miss Robbins and all the team here at Berkeley Primary