

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



Thursday 23rd January 2020



Happy New Year, and what a wonderful start to the year it has been. We were greeted with the news from Moles Country Stores that Berkeley had won the Christmas tree competition with our rainbow tree design which many of you admired in the front foyer. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote, this means we now have £50 to spend in Moles which we intend to use to buy materials towards revamping our EYFS provision.

Also, staff were delighted to read some truly heart-warming emails sent by parents, full of such positive feedback; these were so well received, and made all the difference to our happy start during a damp, dark January. Please see the attached results from our recent Parent survey, which has again been so encouraging to all staff, and also provided useful insight into driving school improvement further. THANK YOU!



Weekly Certificates

YR – Lilly
Y1 – Finley
Y2 – Harry
Y3 – Lucas
Y4 – Jude
Y5 – Jack
Y6 – Matilda



Mr Hart held a maths information event last week to explain our new Maths approach to Teaching and Learning. This was highly attended, and we received superb feedback from parents on the 'incredible impact on children's self-esteem' and how much easier it was for the children to understand and practise and explore new concepts. We also had time to discuss homework with parents, providing such useful insight, and as such, are currently working on adapting our Homework policy to ensure we have further consistency and understanding for the children and parents. This will not only help children practise new skills, but will also hopefully help family life without the 'battle for homework'. More details to follow.



After half term, we are launching an exciting new app called 'MarvellousMe' which will improve school communication, giving you regular insight into what your child is learning, and any rewards, certificates, stickers, housepoints etc they receive in 'real-time'. Please see the attached letter for more information. To launch this with the children, we will be hosting the much anticipated 'SUPERHERO' day on Friday 14th February. Children can come into school dressed as a superhero of their choosing or design, and we will share with them this exciting new app. Costumes had already been prepared for Term 1 which we had to postpone, so we are asking you to dust these off and utilise them for this exciting event.



Also on Friday 14th February, we will be sending our winning House team on their termly treat day. We have secured a booking at NINJA WARRIOR in Gloucester for this, and will send out permission slips to the winning House once the team with the most points has been announced. The school fully fund these treat days, as an incentive for good learning attitudes and behaviour and to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle. We have arranged transport and booking fees, and this will happen within the school day. Lucky children!



BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



As we said in our last newsletter, we are endorsing positive, happy vibes here at Berkeley which integral to the ethos of the school. The positivity postbox is now up and running and can be found by the main front entrance to the school.



This year our Book Fair will be held from the 24th February – 2nd March. The fair will take place in the school hall from 3:15pm every day that week. Book tokens entitling you to £1 off will be sent home the week before. These tokens do not need to be spent at our book fair, but please remember we earn commission on every book purchased, which is then spent on books for the school. Thank you.



We just wanted to say a big thank you for everyone who supported the last Type Onesie day. We hope everyone enjoyed coming to school in their PJ's or Onesie! The great news is we raised £130 which will go to a children's charity called JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). This charity is leading the way to find a cure for Type One Diabetes. This lifelong auto-immune condition means the pancreas stops producing a hormone called insulin. A message from the Scott-Leighton family: *'As many of you know, our daughter, Maisie in Year 6, was diagnosed with Type One Diabetes when she was five years old. Over this time, the school has been amazing in its concern for her well-being and in allowing us many opportunities to fundraise and increase awareness of the condition. The support that the school (staff and children alike) has offered both her and us as a family has been incredible. We feel very lucky she goes to such a caring school so we just want to extend our thanks and gratitude to you all.'* Katie, Neil, Maisie and Olive Scott-Leighton



As many of you may know, one of our Year 5 pupils, Kittie, has been selling some cute koala hanging decorations in aid of the animals affected by the Australian wildfires. The koala's caused quite a stir with Kittie and her mum being inundated with orders! Kittie has made a fantastic £137 which she will donate to WWF Australia. Well done Kittie! We are all very proud of you!



BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



To help teach handwriting across the school we have adopted a handwriting programme called 'Letter-join'. Attached you will find a user guide and login details so children can use it on their tablets or PCs at home. Once logged in you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school.



Upcoming Events

Items highlighted in blue are for parental involvement/action. Other items are for information only.

Date	Event
Any event highlighted in blue indicated opportunities for parental involvement. Please add these dates to your calendars.	
Monday 3 rd February	Height, weight & vision screening for Reception & Year 6
Tuesday 11 th February	Reception 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon 2pm
Friday 14 th February	Superhero Day
Friday 14 th February	Treat day 3 for winning House
Friday 14th February- Last day of term	
Monday 24th February- Spring 2 begins.	
Monday 24 th February	Children start back at school
Monday 24 th February	After school clubs start (6 weeks)
Monday 24 th February	Book Fair 3.15pm-4:00pm all week
Thursday 5 th March	Parents' Evening 1:30pm-7:30pm
Friday 3 rd April	Treat Day 4 for winning house

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



Friday 3rd April- Last day of term Monday 20th April- Summer term begins	
Monday 20 th April	Children start back at school
Monday 20 th April	After school clubs start (5 week term)
Friday 8 th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 11 th May	SATS and whole school assessment week. Brain foods, early nights and no appointments that week please.
Friday 15 th May	Mindfulness Day
Friday 22 nd May	Treat Day 5 for winning house
Friday 22nd May – last day of term Monday 1st June –Summer 2 begins	
Monday 1 st June	Children start back at school
Monday 1 st June	After school clubs start (6 weeks)
Friday 19 th June-Monday 22 nd June	Y6 CAMP
Tuesday 23 rd June	Y6 children day off school to recuperate
Monday 29 th June	INSET DAY
Tuesday 30 th June	Children start back at school
Friday 3 rd July	Swim Galas KS2 AM/ KS1 PM
Thursday 9 th July	Sports Day KS2 9:15am
Friday 10 th July	Sports Day KS1 9:15am
Wednesday 15 th July	The Berkeley Musical (TBC) 7pm
Thursday 16 th July	Treat day 6 for winning house
Thursday 16 th July	Y6 Production 6pm
Friday 17 th July	Y6 Leavers assembly 10am
Monday 20 th July	INSET DAY
Friday 17th July –End of term	

Yours sincerely

Miss Robbins and all the team here at Berkeley Primary

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



Parent Survey Results

Parent Survey 2019/2020

Our latest Parent Survey was carried out during the Autumn of 2019 during the Parents evening on October 24th, where Sarah Jones (school governor) was handing out the survey. It's terrific to see so many positive comments from parents and carers regarding Berkeley Primary School and the results give us much to celebrate. We will also be using the comments and suggestions to further improve the school in the future so thank you so much to everyone who took the time to complete it.

	Agree	Strongly agree	Total agree
My child is happy at this school	50%	50%	100%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	64%	32%	96%
School makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	71%	21%	92%
When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly	65%	26%	91%
My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	13%	63%	76%
The school has high expectations for my child	63%	33%	96%
My child does well at this school	66%	31%	97%
The school lets me know how my child is doing	71%	25%	96%
There is a good range of subjects available for my child	59%	28%	86%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at the school	52%	34%	86%
The school supports my child's wider personal development	57%	32%	89%
Would you recommend the school to another parent?	Yes – 96%		

Bullying	Agree	Strongly Agree	
My child has not been bullied	76%		
My child has been bullied	24%		
	Agree	Strongly Agree	
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	57%	29%	86%

Feedback included the following positive comments regarding Strengths of the school;

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



"Berkeley Primary school makes children want to learn and help them grow"

"My child is very happy to come to school"

"Berkeley's greatest strength is their understanding of the individual child"

"Berkeley is a very happy environment"

"Praising children for all areas, not just testing!"

"Range of subjects taught"

"Wide variety of subjects, lovely library and swimming pool on site"

"Friendly atmosphere"

"Great incentives for the children who work/ behave well"

"Broad -based learning"

"Encouraging children's skills and hobbies and the House competitions"

"Lovely teachers and teaching assistants"

"The children are very happy"

"Approachable, caring and academically focused"

"Inclusion: seeing the individual child positively"

"Topic structure across the school; reward systems; extra-curricular opportunities"

"Community spirit and great facilities; lovely teachers!"

"Focus on overall wellbeing"

"Communication"

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



Parent survey 2019/2020 school response

Concern/Question from parents	Response	Actions
Staff retention needs to be addressed	<p>We agree, and you will have seen widely in the press that nationally, there are constant new initiatives, curriculum changes, Ofsted framework changes, and daily pressures and demands put on teachers in an over-stretched budget. Workload for teachers has undoubtedly increased. We tackle this workload here at Berkeley by ensuring we do not have strenuous marking policies, which mean teachers are not marking daily, late into the evening. We ensure marking is purposeful to help children make good progress in lessons. We do not have unsustainable systems for assessment and record keeping which takes focus away from teaching and learning. We have an extremely supportive team who work together to ensure that everyone can maintain a healthy work/life balance and we are consistent and positive in our approach to making Berkeley the best, happy environment for our children and staff.</p> <p>Quality of Education is at the forefront of everything here at Berkeley. Whilst we understand that changes in teachers can cause some unrest, we strive to ensure consistency for the children and their education through any such changes. There are many reasons for teachers leaving, and this is not unique to Berkeley. Teachers leave to progress in their careers, change career, family commitments and growth, and sometimes changes in personal circumstances, which are beyond our control.</p>	<p>Continue to ensure Quality of Education is of a consistently high standard, despite any changes that may occur.</p> <p>Continue to share positive words of praise and gratitude from the entire school community</p> <p>Parents to understand and respect teacher's privacy, and trust the school in all decisions regarding the Quality of Education for the children.</p>
One stop key dates need to be on the website	<p>The school publishes Annual dates at the start of each academic year on the website which can be found at: https://www.berkeleyprimary.org.uk/parents/diary-dates</p>	<p>Parents to be proactive and sync diary dates to engage with the school community.</p>
Greater communication	<p>Communication was also cited as a strength of the school during this survey, and as such, it would be helpful if we could have further information on what area of communication the school could improve on. As society has developed, there are so many channels that information can be communicated; not all channels are used by everyone. This is why we do not currently use facebook, twitter etc as we need to ensure we reach ALL parents on a mutual platform.</p> <p>The school currently communicates via the official website www.berkeleyprimary.org.uk where the most updated information will always be, which include class blogs. We send regular emails for all relevant communication in each year group, and texts to remind and inform for more immediate events. Regular newsletters give information on the latest news, and include a running list of diary dates, which are available on the website from the start of September of each academic year. Bi-annual parent consultations inform</p>	<p>If you have any constructive suggestions for the communication you require, outside what the school currently provides, please pop your ideas into our positivity postbox outside the school office. Thank you.</p> <p>We will be launching a fantastic, child, teacher and parent friendly app in Term 4. This will give</p>

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



	<p>headlines on children's achievement and progress, and allow a platform for discussion with class teachers, plus appointments can be made for meetings with teachers outside this for any further needs or queries. Full school reports are sent out in the summer term.</p>	<p>a valuable insight into what your child is learning every day. Watch this space!</p>
<p>How is RE taught?</p>	<p>The school is a non-faith school and not affiliated to any particular religion. We teach Religious Education as part of the curriculum where children are taught about the major world religions in accordance with the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus and we use a scheme called Discovery RE here at Berkeley to implement our RE teaching and learning https://discoveryschemeofwork.com/</p>	<p>Parents have the right to withdraw their child from R.E lessons. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about the religious curriculum.</p>
<p>Homework needs to be marked</p>	<p>Yes, homework should be marked, and is often done so with the children, so that it is interactive and informs progress. House points are given, and children are given subsequent homework to ensure they make further progress based on their achievements.</p> <p>If for any reason this is not the case, please address with the class teacher in the first instance, and if further incidents occur, please notify the Headteacher.</p>	<p>We are currently in the process of reviewing our homework policy, based on really constructive feedback given at our recent maths event.</p>
<p>Why is there a lunchtime seating plan?</p>	<p>Lunchtimes used to be somewhat chaotic when children were running to get their space, with lunchboxes often being thrown onto tables to 'get a seat' next to someone, which was both unsafe, and caused some upset with friendship groups. The lunch hall was the place that new reception children said they found 'scary' and so we researched different approaches to our lunchtime systems. Early in 2019, we introduced Dine and Shine! The reason for this was designed with careful thought and research into the psychology behind eating environments and social interactions. In order to build gratifying human relationships, it is vital that children learn and have the opportunity to practise the social skills considered appropriate by society. It is important to teach children to conduct themselves in ways that allow them to develop relationships with other people. We firmly believe that our Dine and Shine system allows for this. We believe, that our lunchtime 'restaurant' feel, has a positive impact on our pupils' well-being and behaviours, whilst equipping them with vital life skills. We listen to the feedback the children give us, and make positive changes where possible to enhance their happy lunchtime experiences. We have seen a huge, positive impact on behaviour at lunchtimes, both inside and outside. It is wonderful to see children across the school engaging in new conversations, helping each other and enjoying building new relationships. Furthermore, Dine and Shine has a superb impact</p>	<p>We change our seating plan every term, taking children's friendship requests into account. If for any reason your child is not happy and it is having a detrimental affect on their wellbeing and eating experience, please let the class teacher know and they will ensure this is addressed swiftly.</p>

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



	on all children's learning, as afternoon lessons are able to start promptly, without the need for staff to follow up on lunchtime incidents. Our approach has been so successful, that it is now being observed and used by other primary schools.	
--	--	--

MARVELLOUSME

Dear Parent / Carer

I am delighted to let you know that we will be launching an exciting new app called MarvellousMe.

MarvellousMe is a light-touch app that our teachers will use to share wonderful news with you about your child's/children's learning and skills development.

The MarvellousMe Parent app is free, fun and simple to use. It will help you to:

- ☑ **Have a meaningful conversation with your child about their school day.**
- ☑ **Continue your child's learning and practise topics that they've done in class.**
- ☑ **Celebrate and reinforce their successes and positive behaviours.**

You will be able to enjoy MarvellousMe on your smartphone, tablet or online, and can easily share it with partners, carers and family members.

We will send you a letter containing all the details of how you can sign up to MarvellousMe, and your special join code.

You can find out more at www.marvellousme.com. We think you will love it!

Kind regards

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

if children are happy, they will achieve!



Letter-join Home log-in

Dear Parents,

Our school is now part of the Letter-join handwriting scheme and our pupils can log in to the Letter-join website on iPads and tablets as well as desktop and laptop computers at home. There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school.



DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN

Log in at www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Desktop log-in option with these details:

User name: **eg2538**

Password: **home**

PC Browsers:

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs/Macs:

- Google Chrome

- Firefox

- Safari

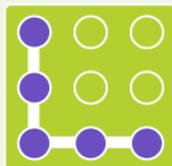
Do not use Internet Explorer.

IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN

Go to www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Tablet log-in option with these details:

User name:

Swipe code
(starting at top left):



Tablet/iPad Browsers:

Letter-join will run on the following tablets:

- iPads running iOS7 and above through the Safari browser.

- Windows 8 tablets (8 inch and bigger) using the built-in browser.

- Android tablets (8 inch and bigger) using Google Chrome, Firefox or Oper

Choose a Classroom

Once logged-in, choose your child's classroom and you will be able to watch how to form all the letters of the alphabet using the same style that we use at school. You can then trace over the letters and words on your tablet and print out the worksheets from your PC for real handwriting practice.

We are limited to the number of users who can log in to this account, so please only log in with this username and password/swipe code for your own personal use.

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



if children are happy, they will achieve!