



“Believe in yourself...Learn together...Persevere...Succeed”

Executive Headteacher: Mrs D P Webb

Associate Headteacher: Mrs V E Ballantyne Associate Headteacher: Mrs A C Knight

Newsletter Week Ending 9 February 2018

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write with an update of what has been going on behind the scenes. I was out of school for a couple of weeks at the start of term and Mrs Knight, Mrs Ballantyne and the senior team continued to run the school very effectively on a day to day basis but also continued moving forward with the developments for school improvement. It gives me a lot of confidence to have a great team around me. This term there is a lot of work going into the teaching of reading with staff training, more emphasis on basing the curriculum around key texts and plans to move the library to a completely new location and a complete revamp. I hope you notice when you come into school how bright and cheerful the classrooms are looking and also the corridors. All the staff have been working really hard to create some lovely displays, many of them are themed around books. The children have been commenting about how much brighter everything looks. The teachers have been working closely with teachers from other schools to ensure Barley Lane's standards are in line with those of schools around us. I am pleased to say that this is the case, it is really important to work with other schools. Unfortunately the nature of my particular job means that I don't get to spend as much time with the children as I would like and lately I haven't been able to get out into the playground as much as I would like in the mornings. However, your children are all so lovely and friendly when they see me around.

I have relocated the medical room out of the main office with Mr Mercer being the key person in school who deals with child welfare. There are plans to decorate more of the classrooms as some of them are in urgent need of this.

Finally, I have been showing round prospective candidates for the position of Headteacher. There has been a fair amount of interest and I am hopeful that the governors will be able to find the right person for Barley Lane this time round.

Have a good break everyone.

Mrs Webb

Executive Headteacher

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the Governing Body has completed the first stage of the process to appoint a new Headteacher. The post has been advertised and potential applicants are now making arrangements to visit and be shown around the school. They have until 1st March to submit their application.

The next stage will be to select the best applicants for the interview process, which will take place in the week commencing Monday 12th March. I expect to be able to announce the outcome on Friday 16th March.

The new Headteacher will take office in September. In the meantime, Mrs Webb will continue as Executive Headteacher with Mrs Knight and Mrs Ballantyne as Associate Headteachers. The Governors are grateful to them for all their efforts in ensuring the school is continuing to run smoothly.

David Backhouse

Interim Chair of Governors

National Leader of Governance

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

The count was held this morning and we would like to welcome Dr Russell Kabir to the Barley Lane Governing Body. Thank you to the unsuccessful candidates for supporting our school and showing an interest in this role.

LOCAL ELECTIONS CLOSURE

Due to local elections, school will be closed on **Thursday, 3rd May 2018.**

SAFETY WARNING FOR PARENTS - ROBLOX

Children have enjoyed playing ROBLOX since 2011 where they can create characters and play in open online worlds which are also created by its users. The app specifies that a child-friendly chat system limits the amount of engagement younger players have with strangers. However, as with all social networks, it does not eliminate engagement with strangers and children often receive friend requests from people they do not know.

Kent police raised concerns about ROBLOX after speaking with children in years 2 and 3 and finding that most of them had not told their parents about friends they have on ROBLOX. They also told Kent police that they had received many in game messages and had spoken to strangers via their headset and they had not told their parents. Many children also said their accounts were 'maxed-out', meaning they have 200 online friends.

We advise every parent to:

Check their child's ROBLOX account, as well as any other online games that they play.

Check that their online friends are known.

Speak with your child about staying safe online and monitor their usage.

Parents, raise any concerns with your school.

For more information and advice go to - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>



DRAMA WORKSHOPS -YEARS 2 & 4



A drama company will be coming to our school on Monday 26 February and Tuesday 27 February 2018 and they will run a series of literacy workshops. Monday's workshop will be "Alice in Wonderland" for Year 4 children and Tuesday's workshop will be "Roald Dahl" for Year 2. The cost for each child is £3.00. You will need to pay via ParentPay in advance. If you do not have access to the internet, please let us know and we will arrange for you to have a barcode letter issued so you can pay at a PayPoint facility. If the money collected is not enough to cover the cost of activities, the workshop may have to be cancelled. Please ensure you make payment for either workshop before Monday 26 February 2018. This is an important workshop to complement the work the children are currently studying in class, and will coincide with World Book Day on 1st March.



INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN IN NURSERY

Please ensure that your child's book bags are sent to school on their specific reading day. It is important that they are given the opportunity to share books at school and are able to change them regularly. We will also be giving children picture books from our reading scheme to encourage the children's language development. Thank you.

Miss Taylor & Mrs Mander



HEAD LICE



We would respectfully ask that you check your child's hair regularly. Using a fine tooth comb is helpful and should you find any sign of head lice, it is a good idea to check the rest of the family.

Suitable products can be bought from a chemist, supermarket or from your doctor. Please treat your child's hair immediately if you find anything as they are easily passed on to other children.

BRINGING MEDICINE INTO SCHOOL

We would like to remind all parent/carers that prescribed medication will only be administered during the school day if the dosage prescribed is 4 times a day. This medication must be given into the office and a MED 1 form must be completed. Please do not send children into class with any medication and please do not try and pass any medication to the class teachers. Children should not have any other medication with them during the school day, this includes cough sweets or throat lozenges.



ATTENDANCE

The whole school attendance for last week was:

93.68%

Class Attendance

The classes with the best attendance were:

Foundation & KS1 : 98.67% 1R

KS2 : 99.33% 4A & 6R

