



The Bardfield Buzz

Newsletter #1 Friday 5th September 2020

The newsletter will be circulated to all parents every Friday. Newsletters are also held centrally at the School Office and are on the website.

Welcome back

Welcome to the new school year everyone. Given the difficult circumstances of the last few months and Lockdown, the children have made a tremendous start back. They have settled very well and have been so pleased to see their friends and get back in to a routine. **We would like to thank you for making sure that your child was so well prepared for school this week-it really makes a difference to their confidence.**

It has been great to see the children looking very smart in their school uniforms. We have also received some amazing holiday homework which are making the classroom displays look fantastic! It is great to see that the children are already taking pride in their achievements.

School website and communication

The website is always the best place to visit if you have any questions, especially now as we cannot welcome parents on to the school premises. Hopefully, the answers to any questions you have are there but if not Mrs Leslie and Mrs Harrison are happy to help in the office. If you do have a concern, then please make an appointment to speak with your child's class teacher, on the telephone in the first instance and then Mrs Kerrell if you are not happy with how your concern has been managed.

New Unicorns

We are so excited to welcome our new Unicorns to the school, for half days, from Monday 7th September. The children do not need to wear their school uniform as these are settling in sessions.

In a change to what we said at the meeting last night, please drop off and collect your child from the wooden back gate (next to the classroom).

Group A 9.30am-11.30am

Group B 1.00pm-3.00pm

Your child should then come to school in their school uniform on Monday 14th September which will be their first proper day. All the children will do mornings during this week from 8.45am-12 noon. Drop off and pick up will then continue to be from the wooden back gate.

Mrs Atkinson and Miss Hooper have loved meeting everyone this week and can't wait to see the children on Monday.

Class Letters

Teachers will be sending out class letters on Monday with information about the classroom routines and days that things will happen on. Due to Covid restrictions we will be setting homework remotely. Tapestry Log Ins will remain the same for Year 1 and 2 and we will issue new log ins for Seesaw for Years 3-6. Log ins for TT Rockstars and Bug Club are the same.

Clubs

Our Before and After School sports clubs will start again next week and will be run by Premier Sport.

As the children are in class bubbles and cannot mix, we are offering each class bubble the opportunity to take part in one club only. To support the children with their health and emotional wellbeing, these clubs will be free up to the end of the Autumn Term.

Places are going fast and must be booked on line at <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/6689/?location=cm7%204rm>

Pegasus

Tuesdays 3.15-4.15-Gymnastics.

Pixies

Wednesdays 8.00am-8.45 am Football

Leprechauns

Wednesdays 3.15pm-4.15pm Football

Dragons

Thursdays 3.15pm-4.15pm Football

Phoenix

Fridays 8.00am-8.45am
Dance and Performing Arts

As parents are not permitted on site, please drop off and collect your child from the front gate. The children will be met by the Premier Sport Coach. If your child is more than 5 minutes late, they will not be able to attend the session.

If your child is going to the After School Club, after their sports session, a member of the After School Club staff will collect them from the hall.

Teachers will not be running clubs at this time as this would involve mixing bubbles. Instead they will be offering support and recovery sessions 1:1 or 1:2 with some children. If we feel that your child is in need of this, we will let you know next week.

Uniform

At Great Bardfield Primary School we take pride in our appearance and wear our school uniform and emblem with pride. We feel that we belong to a very special community.

It is a requirement that children wear a school jumper or cardigan with our school logo on. Plain navy blue jumpers and cardigans may be worn up until the end of September as we believe some people are still waiting on uniform to arrive from Brigade.

As part of our Covid Safety procedures we ask that children wear a clean school uniform every day to keep cross contamination to a minimum.

Details of our school uniform can be found on our school website: <https://greatbardfieldprimaryschool.co.uk/parents-info/school-uniform/>

There is also the option to purchase good quality second hand uniform at very reasonable prices. If you have any old uniform which you no longer need please consider donating it or passing it on to others. We can give parents more information if they contact the school office. The proceeds of this go the PTA and monies raised so far will be contributing towards the purchase of new football goals.

Please label all uniform so that we can quickly and easily return lost items. We will no longer be holding lost property in school due to our Covid procedures.

PE KIT

Children should have the navy blue school PE T Shirt with our logo on. This is essential so that children can be easily identified if we attend an inter-school sports event. Again, a plain Navy T Shirt can be worn until the end of September if parents are still awaiting uniform.

Children should also have navy blue or black shorts. They will need a plain navy blue tracksuit for cold weather as we will be outside. Children should have trainers for PE which can be left in school. **Please label everything.**

Coats and waterproofs

Due to the arrangements for staggered drop off and pick up it will not be possible to bring the children in to their classrooms earlier if it is raining. This may involve children standing outside for a while. Therefore we ask that children have a waterproof coat so that they are not soaked coming in to school and a warm coat to combat the weather as it gets colder.

Healthy Snack and water

Just a reminder that our Reception and Key Stage One children are provided with a healthy snack every day, as part of a Government scheme. This will start again from Tuesday. In the times where the fruit has not been available the school has met the cost of this as we feel children having fruit every day is very important.

Children in Key Stage Two are welcome to bring their own **healthy snack** to school every day. This must be a piece of fruit or a vegetable. No crisps, chocolate or biscuits please.

Children should also have a refillable water bottle to bring to school every day so that they can stay hydrated.

Roald Dahl Day

In spite of Covid, we are still determined to enjoy this event. Sadly, no dressing up this year though! We will have special lessons dedicated to Roald Dahl on Friday 18th September.

Bikeability

Our **Year 6 children** will take part in Bikeability on either the 22nd and 23rd September (Group A) or the 28th and 29th (Group B). A letter of interest will be emailed to parents today and this must be returned by Wednesday 9th September. We will then let you know what group your child is in and send you an information pack. Children will need a bike which is in good condition and a cycle helmet to take part.

Macmillan Cancer

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions we will not be able to run our usual Great Bardfield Bake Off this year. As you know we raise funds for Macmillan Cancer by selling the delicious entries.

We have therefore decided that instead we will have a remote Bake Off and raise money at the same time. The first homework that is set next week will be to bake cakes and take photographs of them. These can then be posted on Seesaw or Tapestry for the teachers to see and we will still choose a winner and three runners up who will receive a prize.

It would be great if the children could think of ways they could sell their cakes to raise money for Macmillan. Photographs of the cakes should be posted on Seesaw or Tapestry (please do not send these to the admin email) by Thursday 10th September. Winners will be announced on Friday 11th September.

To raise some money for Macmillan we would be grateful if parents could send in £1.00 next Friday as we will have a non-uniform day. Please wear something that is green or purple.

Rewards

It was great to see the amount of work that so many children put in last summer term and before during Lockdown. As parents will know we gave special House Point awards out to children on completion of a weekly reward charts.

From Monday, children are welcome to bring these in. They can be the printed certificates (black and white is fine) or if parents don't want to have more expense with ink, the children can bring in a list of the rewards that they earned which we can check against what we emailed to you.

Assemblies

As we have organised the children in to class bubbles which cannot mix, we will be unable to have our usual assemblies this year. We are also not allowed to sing due to Covid restrictions.

Instead, Mrs Kerrell will deliver one 30-minute assembly each week to each class bubble and on Friday she will visit each class to give out Golden, Presentation and Reading Awards. We will continue to let everyone know who our weekly superstars are by writing the names in the Friday Flyer.

Parent Volunteers

We are always grateful when parents are happy to help us in school. Sadly, due to the restrictions with Covid we are unable to have Parent Volunteers at this time.

Covid Home Learning Agreement

If you have not yet completed this, we will need to have it returned by next Wednesday please.

Parents Evening

We will still have a Parents Evening for your child this term but it will be organised differently to accommodate social distancing and rules for being Covid Safe.

We will allocate parents a time slot (at a later point) which cannot be changed or swapped with other parents. We will offer the following dates:

Reception and Key Stage One
Monday 9th November

Key Stage Two Tuesday 10th and
Wednesday 11th November

We will do our best to group siblings into consecutive slots.

Please save the date.

Holidays in term time

It is so important that children are in school during term time. When a child misses valuable learning time it can be very difficult for them to make up what they have missed and also as the curriculum moves so fast, they may miss a key concept completely.

We follow the guidelines from Essex County Council on attendance in term time. If parents take their child out of school for 5 days (10 sessions) or more during a 10-week period, a Penalty Notice may be issued. This is currently £60 per parent per child. Parents must complete an absence request form which are available from, the school office. Mrs Kerrell will then consider the request and will either authorise (only in exceptional circumstances) or un-authorise the absence.

Families may have had to rebook holidays during term time because of a cancellation due to Covid-19. Holidays which would have taken between **23rd July and the 3rd September 2020** will be considered by Mrs Kerrell on an individual basis. Proof of the cancellation must be provided.

Year 6 children must not be taken out of school for a holiday between 7th and 15th May 2021 due to SATs.

On behalf of all of the staff we would like to wish everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

