



The Bardfield Buzz

Newsletter #0 Friday 1st September 2023

Next week we are very much looking forward to welcoming everybody back to school. We hope you have had a wonderful summer break and that you have enjoyed time with your families and friends. This first newsletter of the year contains lots of important information and attachments so please do take a few minutes to read and digest it.

New Beginnings

We will soon be welcoming twenty new Reception children to Garwood Class. Mrs Whittaker and Miss Smith have been working extremely hard preparing the classroom and outdoor area for your arrival and the whole school is looking forward to meeting you properly on Wednesday 6th September.

On Wednesday and Thursday, new Reception parents can drop off and collect their children from the main entrance at the front of the school. On Friday, and going forwards, please come through the wooden gate on the front playground and follow the slope up to the back playground. Garwood Class is at the furthest end of the new building where there is an area for you to drop off and collect your child.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our children who are moving into Year 7 the very best of success as they begin their new secondary schools. I hope you come back and visit us and let us know how you are getting on.

The School Day

Just a reminder that the school day begins at **8.45am** and ends at **3.15pm** for all children. Please bring your child to the locations below **from 8.35am** and wait for the class teacher to open the gate/classroom door.

Garwood Class (R/Y1) – use the main gate to enter the school grounds, come through the wooden side gate and wait with your child in the ‘Garwood Zone’.

Bawden Class (Y1/2) – use the main gate to enter the school grounds, come up the slope and wait with your child in the ‘Bawden Zone’.

Aldridge Class (Y3/4) – use the main gate to enter the school grounds then go through the wooden gate and in through the back door of Aldridge Class. Collection at the end of the day is from the courtyard outside the hall.

Rowntree (Y4/5) & Ravilious (Y6) Classes use the main gate to enter the school grounds and line up on the front playground.

At the end of the day please ensure you **collect younger children first** if you have more than one child at school. If you wish your **Year 6** child to walk to and from school, **please email permission** to the school office **before we return to school**. We will not release your child without this written permission.

Attendance

At the start of this new school year I would like to remind you of our approach to attendance. Our policy states; 'Ensuring a child's regular attendance at school is a parental responsibility and allowing absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.'

Please support us by adhering to our policy and be aware that any unauthorised absences may lead to a fine. If your child is absent from school, parents must follow these procedures:

- *Contact the school on the first day of absence before 9.00 am. The school has an answer phone (Press 1) where you can leave a message or you may speak to someone (press 2)*

Alternatively, you can call into school personally and speak to the office staff

- *Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 9.00 am*
- *Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible and you provide any medical evidence, if requested, to support the absence*

Please see our Attendance Policy on the website for more details.

School Lunches

A reminder that the price of a delicious school meal is £2.40. Children from Reception to Y2 receive fully funded school meals from the Government. Please pay in advance for your KS2 child's meals via Parent Pay. If you have any problems please speak to Mrs Leslie who is in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Our first week back will follow the Week 1 menu (attached) and on Tuesday the hot choice will be sausage roll. The dessert will be ice-cream just for this week.

School Uniform

It is always wonderful to see how smart the children look in their school uniforms in the first week of term. Our detailed uniform guidance can be found on our school website. **We ask that all sweatshirts and PE shirts bear the school logo.**

No jewellery can be worn for PE so please make sure your child is able to remove earrings by themselves or that they do not wear them to school.

KS2 children only will continue to come into school in their PE kits on their PE days. All classes will have PE on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** except Rowntree Class who will have PE on Mondays and Fridays.

Please ensure that all uniform (and footwear) is labelled.

We always seem to accumulate such a large amount of lost property. Any unclaimed, unnamed items will be recycled at the end of each half term.

School Dog

We are very excited to share the news with you that from September, Great Bardfield Primary School will have its very own school dog. It is something many of the children have been

requesting for a long time and now and, after much research and preparation, I can finally announce that 'Merlin' has arrived! He is a flat-coated



Retriever and will live with Mrs Whittaker. Merlin will go through the Kennel Club training programme and the children will be taught about how to behave around him in due course.

Our **draft** policy is attached to this email and will be available on our website as soon as it is ratified by the Governing Body. We ask that if there are any parents who do not wish their child to interact with our school dog, Merlin, to please let the office know via email.

Moore on 01371 810580 for more information.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you all back at school next week.

Mrs Crow

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our Autumn Term Sports clubs will begin the week beginning **11th September**. These are for children in Years 1 to 6. The clubs before school are free. There is a cost to parents for the after school clubs. Please sign up for **all** sports clubs on the Premier Education website or use the link below.

*After school clubs are £5 per session (*if booked before 10th Sept, £6 if booked after)*

<https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/847785>

Before School Gymnastics

Monday 8.00am-8.45 am Y3-6

Afterschool Football

Monday 3:15pm-4:15pm Y1-2

Before School Gymnastics

Wednesday 8.00am-8.45am Y3-6

Afterschool Football

Wednesday 3:15pm-4:15pm Y1-2

Afterschool Tag Rugby

Thursday 3:15pm-4:15pm Y3-6

Celebration Assemblies

Celebration Assemblies will continue to take place at 9.00am on Fridays. Parents and family members are very welcome to attend. We will send a message from the office if your child is receiving an award. Our first assembly will be on Friday 15th September.

After School Club

There are places available before and after school over at the wonderful ASC (After School Club). Please call Pat