



Newsletter 1, September 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. This is my very first September at Bell Farm and I'm now looking forward to completing my first full year at the school.

We have been very pleased with the academic progress that children have been making across the school this year. Year 6 tests saw an improvement in our L4+ results in English and Science, with our focus on writing showing in improved results across the school. I am also pleased to say that our attendance was 95.5% for 2010/11 which is the best for many years. Remember all the research says pupils with good attendance at school do the best. The continued improvement in pupil behaviour across the school is also reflected in our lowest detention numbers since we started recording them in 2006 – well done to all the children.

The school was not quiet over the summer holiday. Several areas have been painted and very large old fixed cupboards have been removed from 6 classrooms. You may also have seen the new ramp for improved access at the front of the school. Good news on the new outdoor theatre which we hope will start to appear on September 19th, the bamboo has been very hard to eradicate. Thank you again to the Friends for supporting the theatre development.

Best wishes

Valerie Blackwell
Headteacher

Don't miss this - Our New Curriculum meeting for you about your child's learning this year.....

Come and find out what your child will learn about this year.

The session will be from 2.30pm to 3.15pm and will take place in the drama hall

Tuesday 20th September - **Y5** parents/carers
Wednesday 21st September – **Y4** parents/carers
Thursday 22nd September - **Y6** parents/carers

Values for 2011/12



So much of the development of pupil attitudes in the school is down to our values based curriculum. If you can find a way to talk about these values at home it will help to reinforce and support this work.

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| September | Respect |
| October | Happiness |
| November | Unity |
| December | Love & humility |
| January | Hope |
| February | Trust |
| March | Thoughtfulness |
| April | Appreciation |
| May | Quality |
| June | Fairness |
| July | Courage |

Classes for 2011/12

6OG Mrs Gill - **year leader**
6QH Mrs Howard
6NH Mr Hinkly
5LP Mrs Parsonson - **year leader**
5KW Miss Walker
5JH Mrs Howard
4CD Mrs Doughty & Mrs Downes - **year leaders**
4DS Miss Smith
4BJ Mrs Jones
4AL Mrs Lian (previously Miss Starnes)
3FW Mr Wasserberg - **year leader**
3GP Miss Parker
3HD Mrs Diot (previously Miss Gumbrell)
3IB Mrs Balcombe

Mr Arnell is the **Deputy Headteacher**
Mr Wasserberg is the **Assistant Headteacher**
Mrs O'Brien is our **Special Needs coordinator**
Mrs Joshi is our **French teacher**

Do you have a skill or talent? If you do, then we need you! We are looking for parent volunteers to offer their expertise to the children to provide or support an after school or lunchtime club. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Miss Walker or use the email contact above.

Desperately needed

For our new lunch time club – unwanted lego, good quality board games and comics/comic books. Please bring any contribution to the school office.

Homework Diary

Hopefully you will have noticed our new slim line homework diaries that have been making their way home to you. They have changed in response to comments made by parents and staff and now come in two versions (upper and lower school). The children should know all about them but come to the Curriculum Meeting (see above) for your year group to find out more.

100% Attendance - Congratulations to the **19 students** who received certificates for 100% attendance for the whole year

Letters that have gone home since the last Newsletter.....

07/09/11 Mobile phone letter
07/09/11 Bikeability - Y4
07/09/11 Swimming - 4DS
08/09/11 Admission to secondary school leaflet - Y6

Congratulations to the Peer Mediators for 2011

All these children successfully applied, in writing, for the post of Peer Mediator at Bell Farm. They have all now undertaken training with Mr Arnell.

Sam Whelan, Louis Spurrier, Chloe Wood, Alec Morris, Athavan Ravinthran, Leah Favell-Clarke, Ellie Brosnan, Ella Snooks, Robert May, Ella Malenoir, Danielle Fairhead, Annable Poulter, Jack Bielous, Leah Davidson, Megan Carter, Sophie Evans, Millie Wallace, Callum Clements, Sophie Anderson, Dennis Gorman, Grace Polley, Hailey Mahon

School Dinners

School dinners cost £2 per day. Please let Mrs Willox know in the school office if you would like your child to have a school dinner.

Partnership with Parents are holding two FREE Information Days for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-19 with special or additional educational needs, and for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to age 25.

These will take place on:

- Saturday 15 October 2011 at Kings College, Guildford, GU2 8DU and
- Saturday 12 November 2011 at Partnership with Parents Office, Noke Drive, Redhill, RH1 4AX

Both days are from 9.30am - 12.30pm

More information is available on the Partnership with Parents website.

Parenting Puzzle Course



Raising children can be puzzling at times, but puzzles have solutions – The Puzzle helps to provide them.

The Parenting Puzzle Nurturing Programme is a 10 week course that encourages and supports parents and carers to enjoy bringing up children of all ages and to get the best out of family life. It offers positive, practical ways of guiding children so they learn to handle both their feelings and their behaviour. The sessions are informal, fun and a great confidence booster.

The next course will be starting at: Otlands Infant School, The Oscar Building, St Mary's Road, Weybridge KT13 9PZ on Tuesday mornings from 20th September (excluding half term), from 9.45am till 12.15pm (approx)

To find out more/book a place please contact Jo Carroll-Smart 077033 22068 or Nikki Bird 07969035379, Home School Link Workers

Childminder needed who has their own car and can pick up our daughters from two different schools 2-3 times a week. We need someone to pick up Tess (year 3) at 3.20pm from Bell Farm and go on to Thames Ditton Junior School to get Rosa then bring them both home to Hinchley Wood. The days needed would be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and the hours would be approx 3pm-7.30pm. £10 an hour plus petrol money. Please call Georgia Armstrong on 07966 171 504 or email her on georby.armstrong@gmail.com

Dates For Your Diary

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| Monday 19th September | | Start of Open Air theatre construction |
| Tuesday 20 th September | Y3 Parents & carers | 9am to 9.45am – Reading in Bell Farm |
| | Y5 parents | Y5 Curriculum meeting – hear what’s happening this year 2.30pm |
| Wednesday 21 st September | Y4 parents | Y4 Curriculum meeting – hear what’s happening this year 2.30pm |
| TBC | All staff & parents/carers | Friends AGM 7pm for 7.30pm |
| Thursday 22 nd September | Y6 parents | Y6 Curriculum meeting – hear what’s happening this year 2.30pm |
| Monday 3rd October | | Harvest assembly |
| Wednesday 5 th October | Y2 parents | Prospective parents meeting (Y3 in 2012) 7 – 8pm |
| Wednesday 12 th October | Lower school | Inter house football competition |
| Thursday 13 th October | Upper school | Inter house football competition |
| Monday 24 th October | | Half term |
| Monday 31st October | | School Inservice day(2) - school closed to children |
| Tuesday 1 st November | | Children in school at 8.35am for an 8.45am start |
| Wednesday 2 nd November | Y6 parents | SATs information evening 7pm |
| | Y5&6 gifted & talented groups | All Souls Day ceramics display at St Mary’s following workshops |
| Wednesday 9 th November | Y6 parents | Sex education meeting 7pm |
| Monday 14th to 25th November | All | Anti bullying week |
| Wednesday 16 th November | | Governing body meeting |
| Wednesday, 30 th November | Reception class parents 2012 | Parents meeting for Reception class 2012 at 7pm |
| Wednesday 7 th December & Thursday 8 th December | All parents | Parents evenings |
| Wednesday 14 th December & Thursday 15 th December | | School Christmas play performances |
| Monday 19th December | children | Christmas disco |
| Tuesday 20 th December | | Last day of autumn term, 2.20pm finish |
| Wednesday 21 st December | | Christmas holiday starts |
| Wednesday 4 th January 2012 | | Spring term starts, children in school |
| Wednesday, 8 th February | All | Safer Internet Day |
| Monday 13th February | | Half term |
| Monday 20th February | | School Inservice day(3) - school closed to children |
| Monday 12th March to 14th March | Y4 | Y4 residential trip to Sayers Croft |
| Friday 30 th March | | Last day of Spring term |
| Monday 2nd April | | Easter holiday begins |
| Monday 16th April | | School Inservice day(4) - school closed to children |
| Tuesday 17 th April | | Summer term starts, children in school |
| Thursday May 3rd | | Election day and inservice day (5) – school closed to children |
| Saturday, May 12th | | May Fair |
| Monday, May 14th | | SATS WEEK |
| Tuesday, May 29th | Choir | Royal Albert Hall Concert |
| Monday 4th June | | Half term |
| Friday 20 th July | | Last day of summer term |
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Don't forget to look on the school web site for the calendar