

Blossomfield Infant & Nursery School

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

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Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to the new school year. We hope you have all had a happy and relaxing summer and that the children are ready for a busy and exciting term. A special welcome to any families who are new to Blossomfield. We hope you will soon feel at home but please ask if you have any questions or need any help.

This first Newsletter has a lot of information so please note any dates on your calendar/diary. We know you won't want to miss anything! We will send out additional information about some events nearer the time but for others, this will be the only notification. All letters are e-mailed to parents and are also posted on the school website so no need to miss out. Watch out for weekly year group newsletters that give information about what is happening each week in your child's class.

We are very excited to have a new purpose built Foundation Stage Unit at Blossomfield. Our Foundation Stage Team has worked hard to create an outstanding indoor Early Years learning environment over the summer holiday and has now started work on reflecting this fabulous environment outdoors. We have re-organised Year 1 and 2 in order to create a 'through Key Stage' experience. This has been achieved by linking pairs of Year 1 and Year 2 classes and Key Stage One teams of staff in adjacent classrooms. We believe that closer working relationships and staff planning together will give children the best chance of

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mastering all curriculum areas by the end of Key Stage One.

We are planning to have a grand opening of our new building when we have perfected the outdoor environment, including our new activity playground and playground markings. We are very much looking forward to this community event.

Open Morning
Thursday 9th November



This is an opportunity for new and current parents to visit and be shown around. If you know anyone who would like a Nursery place or who has a child due to start Nursery/Reception next September, please invite them to come.

We look forward to seeing you.
School will be open 9.15am - 11.15am

Staffing News

Welcome to new members of staff in school. Miss Kilby is teaching Year 2 Ash Class. Miss Humphreys is teaching Reception Holly Class.

VALUES

You will find Blossomfield's School Values at the end of this newsletter. Our Values are displayed within school and are regularly shared with the children. The commitment of children, parents, staff and Governors to keep these values makes Blossomfield a happy and successful school.

Important
DATE!

Welcome to Year Group meetings

These meetings are an opportunity to meet the staff and to hear about the curriculum and systems in each year group. The meetings last for an hour and you will be given information about English and Mathematics and what homework will be provided. In Yr2 there will be information about end of year assessments, learning the recorder and the Dunfield visit which we hope to be chosen for this year. Please try to attend as I'm sure you'll find it useful.

Dates for Welcome Meetings:

Reception - Tuesday 12th September - 6 - 7pm

Yr1 - Thursday 14th September - 6 - 7pm

Yr2 - Thursday 21st September - 6 - 7pm

Nursery - Thursday 28th September - 6 - 7pm



Playground Reminder

Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring that children do not ride bikes or scooters on the playground at the beginning or end of the day. Bikes and scooters should be dismounted on entering the school site and pushed to the storage provided. At the end of the day please ask your child not to mount their bike/scooter until they have left the school site. This is to ensure the Health and Safety of other people on the playground. **All bikes and scooters should be named and are left at the owner's risk.**



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be on Thursday 12th October. Once again we will be inviting residents of a local retirement home and we will post pictures on the website.

This year we would be very grateful for donations of non-perishable foodstuffs such as tinned foods, tea and coffee. Donations will be divided between two charities.

Mildenhall House is a semi supported scheme for young homeless people in the centre of Solihull. The aim of the service is to support young people to gain opportunities, experience
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and skills to enable them to prepare for independent living.

Crossroads is a charity which provides soup, sandwiches, a hot drink and clothing for homeless people in the centre of Birmingham twice weekly and has done for over 20 years. Our Deputy Head, Katy Morrison often helps on a Sunday evening making the soup and sandwiches with donated food items and then serving it to around 80 very grateful men, women and children in a central Birmingham location. Any donations, big or small, of tea, coffee, sugar, powdered milk, pasta, soup, tinned vegetables, meat or fish would be appreciated. If you would like to know more about Crossroads please speak with Katy Morrison.

Donations can be sent into school in the week beginning 9th October



Parental Partnership

This group consists of representative parents from each class. The first meeting of the year is on Friday 13th October at 9am. The group discusses issues related to school, feedback on events and generally contributes to school/home dialogue. The meetings are very informal and if you would like to attend, please come along. If you cannot come along but have something that you would like raised at the next meeting, please put it in writing and hand in to the office or send an email to the office. Once we have a list of representatives, you will be able to ask them to bring your questions to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

Parking

We respectfully request that parents park considerately, and legally, outside school. Please park on one side of Lawnswood Avenue, as parking on both sides restricts access for buses. Please also refrain from making 'U' turns at the junction of Eastcote Close with Lawnswood Avenue, as this practice is hazardous.



Absence from school

If your child is away from school, please remember to notify us on the **first day** of absence. A quick phone call to the school office is all we need. (0121 744 5522)

Leave of Absence must be requested by completing a form which is available from the office and submitting it at least **10 school working days** before the date of the request. In line with Government Policy, leave of absence will only be granted in **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**.

Parent Consultations

We will be holding our first parent consultations on Tuesday 17th October between 4pm - 6pm and Wednesday 18th October between 5pm and 7pm. There will also be an afternoon session that teachers will inform you about at a later date. This is an opportunity for you to talk to your child's new teacher about how they have settled into their new classes. *We will send out more details nearer the time.*

Family Workshops

We invite a Parent, Carer or Grandparent to come into school once a term to work alongside teachers for the benefit of the children. During each session we aim to share a teaching skill which can be used at home in order to continue the learning for the rest of the half term. We believe that this managed approach, which sees parents as one to one expert tutors, has a very positive effect on outcomes for children. It is also an opportunity to spend quality time with your child.



Now that our building project is complete we are once again able to offer free childcare for younger siblings during family workshops. Treehouse Kid's Club will be running a crèche that parents can use during their child's session.

The dates and times of sessions are detailed in the autumn term dates sheet below.

You will receive more information about your child's workshop nearer the date with details of how to book a place in the crèche.

Blossomfield Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Blossomfield PTA is a group of friendly parents and teachers who do an excellent job of organising events that raise funds for school. All funds raised are used to enrich the educational experience for the children at Blossomfield. If you have a child in school then you automatically become a member.

We desperately need new members to join our PTA as we lost many key members when their children moved on to Junior School at the end of the last academic year.

If you would like to take an active role in supporting the PTA please come along to their meetings which are held at 7pm in the evening. **The PTA Annual General Meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 20th September.**

Pushchairs in school

Please observe the sign on the front door kindly requesting that, for Health and Safety reasons, pushchairs are not brought into school.

Community Family Mentor

Yvonne Cooper is a qualified counsellor and she is Blossomfield's Family Support Worker. She is experienced in supporting families who need advice with regard to their children or other family circumstances. Yvonne is available for consultations on Tuesdays and Wednesdays or by appointment at other times. She offers a confidential service and can signpost families to a range of support services. Yvonne also co-ordinates our Charity Events calendar in school. Yvonne can be contacted through the office.



MacMillan Coffee Morning
Friday 29th September 9 - 10am

The PTA would like to invite you to join us for coffee, to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support. We would welcome donations of cakes or biscuits that we can sell on the day to raise funds for this good cause.

AUTUMN TERM PROVISIONAL DATES

Please note these dates for your diary. Look out for more dates in weekly class newsletters and on the website. If dates need to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances parents will be informed in class weekly newsletters and on the website 'stop press' line on the home page.

12 Sept	Reception welcome meeting - 6-7pm
14 Sept	Yr1 welcome meeting - 6-7pm
20 Sept	PTA AGM- 7pm
21 Sept	Yr2 welcome meeting - 6-7pm
28 Sept	Nursery welcome meeting - 6-7pm
29 Sept Charity Event	PTA MacMillan Big Coffee Morning - 9 - 10am
3 Oct	Photographer in school for individual photographs
4 Oct	Year 2 Weston Park Trip (details to follow)
5 Oct	Year 2 Weston Park Trip (details to follow)
10 Oct	Nursery Family Workshop - Personal, Social & Emotional Development Acorns 9 - 10am - Conkers 2 - 3pm
11 Oct	Reception Family Workshop Phonics & Reading 9 - 10am Maple Class (All children) Birch Class (surnames A-K inc.) Personal Invitation to follow
12 Oct	Reception Family Workshop Phonics & Reading 9 - 10am Holly Class (All children) Birch Class (surnames L-Z inc.) Personal Invitation to follow
13 Oct	Parent Partnership - 9am
17 Oct	Parental Consultations for all classes - 4-6pm
18 Oct	Parental Consultations for all classes - 5-7pm
23 Oct- 27 Oct	HALF TERM HOLIDAY School Closed TREE HOUSE KID'S CLUB OPEN
1 Nov	PTA Meeting - Planning Christmas Fair

2 Nov	Year 2 Family Workshop Writing 9 - 10am Rowan (All children) Oak Class (surnames A-K inc.) Personal Invitation to follow
3 Nov	Year 2 Family Workshop Writing 9 - 10am Ash (All children) Oak Class (surnames L-Z inc.) Personal Invitation to follow
7 Nov	Year 1 Family Workshop Phonics 9 - 10am Willow Class (All children) Elm Class (surnames A-K inc.) Personal Invitation to follow
8 Nov	Year 1 Family Workshop 9 - 10am Phonics 9 - 10am Hazel Class (All children) Elm Class (surnames L-Z inc.) Personal Invitation to follow
9 Nov	OPEN MORNING - 9.15-11.15am
17 Nov Charity Choice	Children in Need Spotacular - 'Wear Spots' to school (letter to follow)
24 Nov	Christmas Fair - 6 - 7.30pm
1 Dec	Parent Partnership 9am
6 Dec	Y1 St James trip - 'Journey to the stable'
11 Dec	Reception Christmas Play - 2pm
12 Dec	Reception Christmas Play - 10am
13 Dec	Y2 Christmas Play - 9.30am
13 Dec	Y1 Carol Concert - 2pm
14 Dec	Y1 Carol Concert - 9.30am
14 Dec	Y2 Christmas Play - 2pm
15 Dec	Morning Nursery Noel - 10.30am
15 Dec	Afternoon Nursery Noel - 2pm
18 Dec	Christmas Party Day
19 Dec	AUTUMN TERM ENDS
3 Jan 2018	SPRING TERM STARTS (INSET DAY) children return on 4 January 2018

Dates for the Academic Year 2017-2018

Autumn Term 2017

Starts: Monday 4 September 2017

Half Term: Monday 23 October 2017 to
Friday 27 October 2017

Ends: Tuesday 19 December 2017

Spring Term 2018

Starts: Wednesday 3 January 2018

Half Term: Monday 19 February 2018 to
Friday 23 February 2018

Ends: Thursday 29 March 2018

Summer Term 2018

Starts: Monday 16 April 2018

Half Term: Monday 28 May 2018 to
Friday 1 June 2018

Ends: Tuesday 24 July 2018

INSET DAYS 2017-2018

Monday 4th September

Tuesday 5th September

Wednesday 3rd January

Thursday 3rd May

Monday 4th June

Our Values



At Blossomfield

- We are happy and feel safe
- We are all different, we are all equal, we are all special
- We want to be healthy and active
- We care for each other and the grown-ups care for us
- We look after our world, near and far, so it can look after us
- We learn to make good choices for ourselves and others
- We have fun learning together even when it's hard
- We achieve the best we can

*Children, Parents, Governors and
Staff worked together
to produce our school values*

Blossom at Blossomfield
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