

Blossomfield Infant & Nursery School



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

Telephone: 0121 744 5522

Fax: 0121 744 0607

Email: office@blossomfield.solihull.sch.uk

Website: www.blossomfield.org.uk

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. I 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 who have subscribed to that service 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.

VALUES

Attached you will find a copy of our school Values. Our Values are displayed within school and are regularly shared with all the children. The commitment of children, parents, staff and Governors to keep these values makes Blossomfield a happy and successful school.

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 Literacy, Phonics, 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:

Yr1 - Thursday 10th September - 6 - 7pm

Yr2 - Thursday 17th September - 6 - 7pm

Reception - Wednesday 23rd September - 6 - 7pm

Nursery - Thursday 24th September - 6 - 7pm

Open Day Wednesday - 11th November



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

We look forward to seeing you.
School will be open 9.15 - 11.15 and 2.00 - 4.00.





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 parked, on entering school, in the storage provided and collected at the gate on the way out. This is to ensure the Health and Safety of other people on the playground.



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be on Thursday 8th 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. Donations will be divided between two charities

The Trussell Trust provides a minimum of three days emergency food to individuals and families experiencing crisis in the UK. In 2013-14 they fed 913,138 people nationwide; 330,205 of these were children. Please speak to Yvonne Cooper if you would like more information.

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 veg, 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 5th October

Parental Partnership

This group consists of representative parents from each class. In the first half term we meet at 7pm and in the second half term we will be meeting at 2.00pm. Our first meeting of the year is on Wednesday 30th September at 7pm. 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.



Staffing News

Welcome to new members of staff in school. Miss Cole is teaching Rowan Class in Year 2. Miss Simper is teaching Birch Class in Reception. Mrs Meads is a Teaching Assistant alongside Miss Jackson in Holly class.

Mrs Mace has asked me to share with parents that she is expecting her first child in the New Year. We are delighted for her and wish her health and happiness at this exciting time. We will keep parents informed of staffing arrangements for Elm class during her maternity leave.

Parking

I 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. Also, please note that the school car park is for staff only and parents must not enter without prior permission.



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.

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. Please note that leave of absence will not be authorised in the autumn term or for Year 2 children in the spring term or during assessment periods. **Leave of absence will only be granted in EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Parent Consultations

We will be holding our first parent consultations on Tuesday 20th October between 4.00 - 6.00 and Wednesday 21st October between 5.00 and 7.00. 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 about this 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 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. The dates and times of sessions are detailed in the autumn term dates sheet below.



Blossomfield Parent Teacher Association

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. 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 first meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 16th September.**

Pushchairs in school

Please observe the sign on the front door that kindly requests that pushchairs are not brought into school. This is because they block narrow corridors, and in wet weather dirty wet wheels mark the carpets and spoil the school environment for the children.

Community Family Mentor

Yvonne Cooper is our Family Support Worker. She is very 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 is able to signpost families to a range of support services. Yvonne can be contacted through the office.



MacMillan Biggest Ever Coffee Morning Friday 25th September 9.00am - 10.00am

The Parent Teacher Association would like to invite you to join us for coffee, to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support. Tea/coffee and cold drinks will be supplied but **we would welcome donations of cakes or biscuits** that we can sell on the day to raise funds for this good cause

Help Harry Help Others

We are continuing to collect old shoes for this cause. Shoes should be paired with an elastic band and placed in the collection bin in the hall. This year we are also collecting used stamps for 'Help Harry' and they should be put in an envelope addressed to 'Yvonne Cooper' and handed in by the children in the classroom or to the office.

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.

10 th Sep	Yr1 welcome meeting - 6-7pm
16 th Sep	PTA Mtg. - 7pm
17 th Sep	Yr2 welcome meeting - 6-7pm
23 rd Sep	Reception welcome meeting - 6-7pm
24 th Sep	Nursery welcome meeting - 6-7pm
25 th Sep	MacMillan Big Coffee Morning - 9 - 10am
30 th Sep	Parent Partnership - 7pm
7 th Oct	Reception Family Workshop Phonics & Reading 9 - 10am Maple Class (All children) Birch Class (surnames A-K inc.) Personal Invitation to follow
8 th Oct	Reception Family Workshop Phonics & Reading 9 - 10am Holly Class (All children) Birch Class (surnames L-Z inc.) Personal Invitation to follow
19 th Oct	Nursery Family Workshop - Personal, Social & Health Education Nam- 9 - 10am - Npm 2 - 3pm
12 th Oct	Photographer in school for individual photographs
13 th Oct	PTA AGM - 7pm
20 th Oct	Parental Consultations for all classes - 4-6pm
21 st Oct	Parental Consultations for all classes - 5-7pm
23 rd Oct	INSET School Closed
27 th Oct- 31 st Oct	HALF TERM HOLIDAY School Closed
11 th Nov	Open Day 9.15 - 11.15 & 2pm - 4pm
6 th Nov	Year 2 Family Workshop 9 - 10am
10 th Nov	Year 1 Family Workshop 9 - 10am
25 th Nov	Parent Partnership 2pm
27 th Nov	Christmas Fair - 5.30pm - 7.30pm
9 th Dec	KS1 Christmas Play - 9.30am

9 th Dec	Reception Christmas Play - 2pm
10 th Dec	Reception Christmas Play - 10am
10 th Dec	KS1 Christmas Play - 2pm
11 th Dec	Morning Nursery Noel - 10.30am
11 th Dec	Afternoon Nursery Noel - 2pm
17 th Dec	Christmas Party Day
18 th Dec	AUTUMN TERM ENDS
4 th Jan	SPRING TERM STARTS (INSET DAY) children return on 5 th January 2014



Dates for the Academic Year 2015-2016

Autumn Term 2015

Starts: Wednesday 2 September (INSET)
Half Term: Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October
Ends: Friday 18 December

Spring Term 2016

Starts: Monday 4 January
Half Term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February
Ends: Wednesday 23 March

Summer Term 2016

Starts: Monday 11 April
Half Term: Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June
Ends: Friday 22 July

INSET DAYS 2015-2016

FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER
MONDAY 4th JANUARY
THURSDAY 5th MAY
MONDAY 6th JUNE