



Bernards Heath Junior School

Newsletter 1

5th September 2016

Autumn Term 2016

REMINDER:

Children may come onto the playground from 8.40 am in the morning. Children should not be left on the playground before that time as they are unsupervised. **LINDEES** have their children on the playground in the morning. If you require a place for your child at breakfast club please contact **LINDEES** direct. (lindees@hotmail.com 01727 848355) Children should be collected at 3.20pm from the playground. Parents may decide when they think it is appropriate to allow their child to meet at the gate or indeed walk home alone. Every circumstance is different; distance from school; safety of journey and maturity of child. The default position is for the child to return to school if their arrangement breaks down for any reason. Make sure you discuss contingency plans with your child.

- ❖ **Welcome back.** I hope you all enjoyed the summer break; not least the break from the alarm clock and precision morning routines. Usually the children are pleased to be back with their friends and many of us feel the same about getting back to our usual routines. Teachers have all been in school during the holiday planning, preparing with their year group teachers to ensure that the children's learning experiences maximise every minute that we have them in school. Mr Albone has been in for much of the holiday working hard to ensure that the school is clean, tidy and organised for the start of the term.
- ❖ **Bernards Heath Junior School:** School Office. Mrs Wharton and Mrs Hague are our office managers. There is also a drop box where you may leave items in envelopes (clearly marked) located directly under the reception hatch. **Office staff are available from 8.30am to 4.15 pm.** May I ask that you avoid phoning the office with routine enquiries until after 10.00am. The office staff are very busy for the first hour in particular, with registration, lunches and the arrival of visitors, staff and children. The office staff will always do their best to help you; they will not however be able to help you with queries about homework, teaching, playground and behaviour incidents. Please speak to class teachers for these sorts of queries.
- ❖ **Staffing:** I am pleased to welcome Mrs Jane Claxton, our new School Business Manager and Mrs Lucy Simpson and Miss Emma Jones as Teaching Assistants. We also welcome Mrs Hannah O'Malley (3 O) onto the teaching team.
- ❖ **Lost property:** Naturally children mislay clothing and property from time to time. We ask parents to label items such as uniform, pencil cases, lunch boxes and water bottles. If the item is named we will do our best to return it. This is not possible with unnamed items and we build up vast stocks of unclaimed property. Please help us by naming your children's property clearly. Each cloakroom has a lost property box. Thanks.
- ❖ **Car safety:** There has been much in the media recently about dangerous parking and driving outside school entrances. The situation at BHJS is the same as at most schools in St Albans or nationally. All parents and carers collecting children are reminded to park away from the school entrance, off yellow zig-zags, not on neighbour's drives or on busy corners and junctions. This is to ensure the safety of all of our children. Parking away from the immediate entrance and walking into school makes a safer situation for everyone. Unfortunately, Safer Highways and School Crossing Team have been unable to appoint a Lollipop Person due to no applications that they can consider. We are still hopeful that this position can be filled.
- ❖ **Money payments to school:** All individual music lessons must be paid in advance each term. Lessons will not start until payment has been received. Thank you to the majority of parents who have paid last term in advance. Any other payments to school should be in envelopes, clearly labelled with your child's name and class and the reason for the payment.

❖ **New to Yr 3, 4, 5 and 6 Information Meetings for parents.**

Yr Group	Date and time
Yr 3 Hall	Thursday 8 th at 7pm (no children)
Yr 4 Hall	Thursday 8 th 3.25pm (ch supervised on playground)
Yr 5 Hall	Thursday 15 th 3.25pm (ch supervised on playground)
Yr 6 Hall	Thursday 15 th 7pm (no children)

The supervision of children is for Bernards Heath Junior children only. Under 5s should not be left on the playground, siblings over 5 may stay with their elder sibling; however, please inform staff that you are doing so.

- ❖ **Break time snacks and birthday treats:** Children may bring a snack to eat at morning break time. This should be broadly healthy e.g.: fruit, vegetable, cheese, frube, bread, rice cakes, cracker, and cereal bar. Children are not allowed chocolate or crisps at morning break. A small chocolate biscuit (not sweets) and packet of crisps are allowed at lunchtime, if part of a balanced packed lunch e.g. Sandwich, vegetable/fruit, crisps and biscuit/cake slice. Birthday treats are allowed if you choose. **Lollipops and balloons are not allowed.** Please do not send sweets containing nuts. A box or packet of sweets to share, or multi packs of small sweets, a biscuit or small cakes are all acceptable.
- ❖ **Swimming:** Starts for Yr 4 on Monday 12th September. Yr 4 children and parents know the routine with the coach collection arrangements. The classes have been split for swimming and you have been informed of your child's group.
- ❖ **After School and Lunchtime Activities:** We have worked hard to put clubs and after school activities on the website well in advance of the start of term. All clubs require a form to be filled in. Please only apply for one club on each form as there are so many clubs now and various teachers/leaders need a copy of the form. **Bookings for clubs cannot be taken by e mail or phone.** Hard copies of forms are available from the office. This information has been put on the website. Remember also to look at Sports Blog and Music Blog for additional information.
- ❖ **General information for parents September 2016**
This has been updated for parents and is on the website for reference.
- ❖ **Dates for the year 2016-2017:** The date list for the New Year has now been finalised and issued to parents. Please keep for reference and it will be on the website.

Finally, as we start the new school year, with our new children and families, I have every expectation that this will be a very productive and enjoyable year for us all. Do come and say hello on the playground. My aim over the next few weeks is to get to know the names of all of the new Yr 3 children and their parents and carers.

Yours sincerely

Sian Kilpatrick
Headteacher

All newsletters are archived on the school website for future reference

