

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Tuesday 3rd May 2011

Welcome back after a lovely break. We hope that everyone had opportunity to spend some time with family and friends whilst making the most of the sunshine.

We are now entering into the Summer Term which hopefully brings more sunny days and lots of opportunities for getting outside.



Please remember that all trip and class swimming monies must now be paid through ParentPay or Pay Point.



Week beginning 9th May is our assessment week. This means that Y6 will be sitting their SATs and all of the other children (with the exception of YR and Y1) will also be taking formal assessments over the week. These assessments enable us to measure your child's progress over the year and to plan for the new year in September. We politely ask that you do not keep your child out of school during this week with all appointments to be made for after school. Please be reassured that the children have assessments all through the year and these assessments complete the picture of success. If your child is absent then the assessments will need to be taken upon return which many children may find an anxious experience as they are being treated differently to their friends who would have been assessed in a relaxed and normal environment. Thank you for your support on this matter.



Over the holiday there has been lots of work carried out in and around the school.

- The main block corridor has been painted to complete the programme of redecoration work for this building.
- The area around the pond has been cleared to enable the children to be able to use this valuable outdoor learning environment. This is phase one of the development of the pond area. Phase two will take place over the summer term. This is to include areas for the children to grow vegetables, an area for an outside learning classroom and an extended habitat area for wildlife. This is being supported by Berkeley Power station which is enabling us to really focus on maximising the opportunities for teaching and learning.
- The Swimming Pool Committee have organised the raising of the swimming pool floor and much needed filtering improvements. Hopefully the pool will be open again this term for after school swimming. Again this is part of the planned phased improvements to the pool.
- To further improve the security of the school grounds you will have noticed a new higher fence at the front of the school. We have also put fencing at the back of the building and new gates at the front. This is to prevent anyone entering the main playground during school time. The new gate guides visitors to the main office to sign in to have their identity checked before entering the school. This means that we have slightly changed the morning and afternoon procedures.
 - The double gates will be open in the morning to access the main playground
 - The bell will ring at 8:55am to indicate the start of the school day
 - The double gates will then be locked
 - Anyone arriving after this time will need to go to the office and this will be treated as a late
 - At 3pm the gates will be unlocked to allow parents/carers to congregate in the playground to await their child(ren)

I am sure that you can appreciate how important it is that we do everything we can to ensure the safety of all of our children and so we politely ask that you arrive in good time in the mornings to avoid having to enter the school via the school office.




Year 2 will begin their term of swimming at Dursley swimming pool on Wednesday 4th May (tomorrow!).




On Friday 6th May the children will be having an assembly from another Headteacher who visited the Zambian school that we are linked to. This will mean opportunity for the children to see the area, people and school that they have written to this year. We will be developing this link further over the term and coming year. If you have any comments, information or anything that may be of interest to the children in understanding the life of the Zambian children then please contact a teacher or myself.




Please note that Mrs Camm is not in school on a Wednesday this term. Should you need to see or speak to her please ask at the office to make an appointment.

 The Governors and I are looking to reduce the number of unauthorised absences in the school. Guidance from the Local Authority states that requests for family holiday should always be denied unless there are extremely good reasons.


Please think very carefully about your request and the consequences on your child's learning. Your child is only in school 185 days out of 365 days in a year! We would appreciate your cooperation on this matter as it is in the interest of your child's progress and confidence. Thank you.


 The first meeting of the Home School Link group is on Thursday 12th May. Thank you to those of you who have indicated that they will be attending. If you would like to come along then please let the office know.

 You may remember that we sent out the schools questionnaire in the Autumn Term. The Governors and I would like your comments and feedback on how we have responded to your suggestions and concerns for continuing to move the school forward since then as part of the school development plan. We have attached the original questionnaire for you to complete and return to us by Monday 9th May. We have been working very hard to make many improvements across the school. Here are a few that you may like to consider when giving feedback.

- Enrichment of learning and teaching through a creative curriculum,
- policies and procedures we have reviewed (behaviour, safeguarding...)
- encouraging the wider community as well as parent/carers to become involved in school, take part in trips and access in to the classrooms to celebrate success,
- improvements to the building and outside areas,
- the introduction of Breakfast Club,
- ways we communicate with you to keep you up to date with changes and expectations, class letters, fortnightly newsletters, termly topic maps
- opportunities/procedures for SEN children to ensure progress,
- communication from the PTA and swimming pool committee to involve everyone,
- provision for parent/carer support (Family Learning on site),
- improvements to parent evenings,
- able to make payments to school electronically,
- greater opportunities for sports including competitions,
- wider after school activities with parent/carers welcomed to enrich the provision (knitting, netball, French)
- Information evenings; phonics, e-safety, changes to maths in Y5/6

There are many others and I am sure that there is more we could do but, we need you to take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it if we are to include them in the school development plan for the coming year.

 Thank you to everyone who helped with or supported the Easter Eggstravaganza on the last day of term. We raised £166.26 for PTA funds. The gardens made a fantastic display at Wyevale Garden Centre, so well done to everyone who had a go at creating one. The overall winners were Ellis Castledine (KS1) and Iris Buffery (KS2). Please collect your plate/garden from the school office. The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th May at 3.20pm in school (exact location TBA) where we will be planning the summer fayre. Do come along and join us if you can.

 I will now finish on a very happy note. I am able to inform you that Mrs Lanceley and her husband are expecting their first baby in September. Mrs Lanceley will go on maternity leave at the end of the summer term and return in 2012.

Regards

Debbie Marklove and staff