**January 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year! I hope you had a restful and refreshing Christmas break. We are delighted to welcome you back to another calendar year at Bledlow Ridge, filled with lots of exciting opportunities and experiences for the children. At the end of last year, we were treated to an amazing performance of Prickly Hay by Key Stage 1. It was amazing to see the confidence of the children involved and the joy on their faces as they performed. They did ever so well to get through three performances, all of which were very well received. Year 6 also hosted a 1940s Tea Party for parents and members of the British Legion, showing their work and learning from their topic ‘Everything Changes’ which focussed on a key turning point in History, in this case, The Battle of Britain.

This term we have a number of things to look forward to – our school pantomime performance, trips to the Ashmolean Museum (Year 3 work on Egyptians), a Harry Potter Tour (Year 6’s topic Wizarding Worlds) and after half term Year 5 will be beginning work on their Shakespeare play. Year 5 will also be creating a book based on the Alps and are hoping to run a book launch ceremony. As well as all these exciting things going on in the classroom, we will also have our continued involvement in the Princes Risborough Sports Partnership, giving opportunities for all year groups to compete against other local schools in a variety of sports.

On February 6th we have our next Time to Talk day. These are important days on our timetable where we leave our usual timetable behind and dedicate a whole day to talking about aspects of mental health. Often these days lead to powerful discussions with the children and they always amaze us with their thoughts and strategies for approaching new situations. You can find more information at <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk>.

**Mrs Roberts**

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Mrs Roberts will be leaving us next week. Mrs Roberts has been an excellent teaching assistant, working effectively and skilfully in Year 1 since 2017. She is moving to John Hampden Primary School to increase the hours she is working. She will be missed as an important and enthusiastic member of our staff team and I would like to thank her for all of the hard work and time she has given to Bledlow Ridge School over the last two years. We wish her all the best for the future. The recruitment process is underway, and I will inform you when we have appointed a new member of staff to work in Year 1.

**Parent Helpers**

We are always grateful for any help that parents can offer us in school. This may be listening to children read, helping with cooking, organising and making resources or helping with other aspects of day-to-day life in the classroom. You do not need to help in the year group your child is in and you do not need to commit to coming every week. You will need to undergo our usual safeguarding checks as part of this role. If you would be willing to come and spend some time in school, please contact the school office.

**Child Protection Training**

If you do volunteer in school, you must undertake Child Protection training. Safeguarding of the children is of paramount importance and staff and volunteers must ‘regularly’ update their training. The next training takes place over two Tuesday afternoons, the 4th and 11th of February from 1-3pm. Please can you make it a priority to attend this training. If you have a certificate of Child Protection training from another provider, please send the school office a copy for us to add to our records.

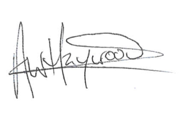
**Severe Weather Policy**

As winter is upon us, I have attached the Severe Weather Policy which gives guidance as to the procedure if we need to close the school. We always strive to keep the school open and operational, but we have to consider the safety of children and staff and their journeys to school. While a number of children live close to the school, this is not true for the staff. If the site becomes unsafe, travel conditions are unsafe, or we will not have enough staff to safely open the school then we will make the decision to close. We will always try to make this decision as early as possible.

**Parental Contributions**

Thank you to those parents who have generously made a contribution to the school following my previous newsletter. We are very grateful to those who have chosen to give. School Funding remains an ongoing problem nationally, and I am afraid that we have still had to set a deficit budget for this year. The notional increases set out by the government amount to around £100 per pupil for the next financial year. This extra money would cover our shortfall if we had no other cost increases, and I am sure you will agree that this is unlikely. We would still be very grateful for any contribution you feel able to make to the school. I have once again attached the original letter, giving slip and gift aid declaration to this letter. Don't forget that you can also donate to the school using Easy Fundraising!

As always, thank you for your continued support.



Alastair Haywood

Headteacher

**DIARY DATES**

15.01.20 Y3 Trip to the Ashmolean Museum

20.01.20 Height and Weight checks for Year R and 6

21.01.20 School Pantomime by M and M productions

24.01.20 Year 6 Harry Potter Studio Tour

04.02.20 Child Protection Training Session 1 1300 - 1500

06.02.20 Time to Talk Day

11.02.20 Child Protection Training Session 2 1300 - 1500

14.02.20 Proposed date for Y6 to show books at Wee Book Shop, Chinnor

14.02.20 Break up for half term

24.02.20 Pupils return to school

23.03.20 Parents Evening Y4, 5 and 6 1530 - 1830

24.03.20 Parents Evening YR, 1,2 and 3 1530 - 1830

25.03.20 Parents Evening Y4, 5 and 6 1630 - 1930

26.03.20 Parents Evening YR, 1,2 and 3 1630 – 1930

30.03.20 Year 6 Trip to Kilvrough

31.03.20 Year 5 Production @ 1345

01.04.20 Year 5 Production @ 7pm

02.04.20 Easter workshops at St. Paul’s church

03.04.20 Break up for Easter @ 1:30pm

20.04.20 Return to school