**October 2019**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It doesn't seem that long since we were starting a new academic year in September and here we are, only two weeks away from half term! We were treated to a fantastic Harvest Festival by Year 3 and 4 last Friday with excellent singing, acting and a crucial message about how we can help those less fortunate than ourselves. One Can Trust came and collected six shopping crates and numerous bags of food to take back to their warehouse, so thank you all very much for your generosity.

It was a delight to show 25 families around the school last week for our Open Morning for prospective parents. Our Year 6 children made terrific tour guides and received many compliments about how well they had done during the morning. We have another Open Morning on November 21st if you know of anyone who might be interested in attending.

Our festivals with the Princes Risborough Sports Partnership have started again with Year 1 and 2 taking part in multi-sports competitions and also in football tournaments. Everyone who has taken part has had an excellent time, and we have also performed very well, finishing in 3rd place in the football. Our Year 5s and 6s will be taking part in netball and football competitions at Princes Risborough, (the netballers are defending their title), and we have our first competitive football match of the season, an U11 cup game against Ash Hill.

Our first projects of the year are also nearing completion with Year 2 displaying what they have been working on about keeping fit and healthy and Year R having a Teddy Bear's picnic. Year 3 will be publishing the long-awaited sequel to Incredible Edibles and Year 6 will be showcasing their learning around the theme of Arabian Nights. Please make every effort to attend these events when invited - they are amazing!

I am also pleased to confirm that Mr Owen Nichol will be joining our staff team to work in Year 4. Mr Nichol is an experienced teacher having worked in different year groups both in Buckinghamshire and abroad. He taught an engaging lesson, and I am confident he will be able to achieve a smooth transition from Mrs Bulmer.

**Parents' Evenings**

We are looking forward to meeting with you next week to discuss your children's start to the academic year. As usual, when you arrive at school make your way to your child's classroom and have a look through their books. The class teacher will come and collect you when it is time for your appointment. Children are welcome to join you at your appointment. Staff will make every effort to keep to time to avoid parents having to wait for their appointment beyond their allotted time. Please, can you be mindful of this during your meeting and be respectful of the fact other parents are waiting for their allocated time. If your appointment is running over the teacher will suggest making another date to continue the discussion. Please, can I encourage you to take them up on this offer rather than extending the time spent with them on the evening as this has significant knock-on effects for later appointments?

**Walkathon**

We are looking forward (weather permitting!) to our annual Walkathon at the end of half term. Please do come and support this fantastic event. The children encourage each other to do more, right the way through the school, and there is a real sense of camaraderie throughout the afternoon. The Walkathon itself will begin at 1:30 pm, and the gates will open shortly before this to allow spectators onto the field.

**The Book People's Big Book Boost**

Big Book Boost is The Book People's brand new fundraising scheme. Every time you place an order with us over £10, we'll donate £1 to a school of your choice for them to spend on books! With your help, we aim to donate 1 MILLION BOOKS to UK Schools by 2022.

We have signed up to this as a school. If you are using the Book People, please choose Bledlow Ridge School at the bottom of the linked page and then continue to shop as usual.

<https://www.thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost>

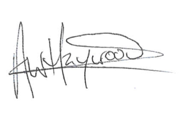
**School Field**

The school field has now reached the point where it is too wet and slippery to use on a day to day basis. However, to relieve numbers on the playground we do allow the children in the year groups who have their ‘football day’ to use the field if they are wearing a tracksuit and trainers. This should be a separate from their PE tracksuit, so that is able to stay clean for use in lessons.

**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**

18.10.19 Hot Dog Day

11+ Results Published

21.10.19 Parents’ Evening Year R, 1, 2 and 3 from 3:30 – 6:30pm

22.10.19 Parents’ Evening Year 4, 5 and 6 from 3:30 – 6:30pm

23.10.19 Year 6 Project Presentation @ 2:30pm

Parents’ Evening Year R, 1, 2 and 3 from 4:30 – 7:30pm

24.10.19 Parents’ Evening Year 4, 5 and 6 from 4:30 – 7:30pm

25.10.19 Walkathon 1:30 – 2:30pm

Break up for half term @ 3pm

04.11.19 Children return to school

08.11.19 Film Club for Key Stage 2

21.11.19 Open Morning for prospective parents

Maths Information Evening for Parents – Teaching Calculations

22.11.19 Science Day

27.11.19 Christmas Fayre Mufti Day

School Disco

29.11.19 Christmas Fayre 2pm – 4pm

03.12.19 KS1 Nativity Performance @ 1:30pm

05.12.19 KS1 Nativity Performance @ 9:30am

06.12.19 KS1 Nativity Performance @ 1:30pm

12.12.19 Carol Service at the Church

19.12.19 Finish for Christmas @ 1:30pm