

Bure Park Primary School

Term 1 – Sept. 2016

NEWSLETTER NO.1

*** Please read your newsletters carefully as they are a major source of information about the school.**

As is usual in September, this will be a major newsletter as there are many items of information to pass on. Newsletters will be sent out once, or twice a term. They will contain relevant and important information and it would be much appreciated if you could read them carefully. We try very hard to keep you updated as much as possible but dates etc. do change now and then. This is your opportunity to know what is happening and when! Please update your calendars at home.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Hello again to everyone returning for another year at Bure Park and, to those of you joining us for the first time, we extend a very warm welcome to you. We now have 519 children on roll. We hope that you all had a most enjoyable break and are looking forward to the new school term. A very positive start has already been made and we are looking forward to another successful year. It is a privilege to be starting the term as the new Headteacher of Bure Park Primary School, and I am looking forward to working with you all, and your children, in this new role. I hope to be out and about at the beginning or end of some school days over the year.

Much happens within the school during the long break. Contractors work in the school and grounds to put right many of the smaller things that need attention, plus some that are not so small, such as the renewing of the flooring in the long corridor, painting of some classrooms, new cabling for better access to the internet (and we have to thank one of our Governors David Magee for organising and overseeing this work for us. He has being a great help) and finally a new soft surface outside Key Stage One as an outdoor learning

area, which will also stop the mud! All these things are so much easier to do when the school is not in use. Once again, Paul Pieton, has been extremely helpful refreshing the markings in the school car park plus a great deal of routine maintenance work. We are very grateful to him and extend many thanks for his hard work, ensuring that, after nearly 16 years the school still stays looking fresh and clean.

I hope that you also noticed that we have a lovely new flagpole which was kindly and generously given to the school by Mrs Bell, on her retirement, as a lasting memory of her 16 years at the school. We wish Mrs Bell a long and happy retirement. Thank you Mrs Bell.

We also gave Mr Pearson a great send off as he retired at the end of term. Thank you to you all for your generous contributions to his leaving gift. He was given a cheque to buy some artwork as a memento of his time here. I know that he has already used some of the money to purchase a painting whilst he was in Bali over the summer – a place special in his heart. We will miss him here but wish him well in this new chapter of his life. I am sure a few “cameo appearances” are on the cards!

We would also like to thank the Buddies for their generous funding of the special story seat that was commissioned with a Tree Sculptor by our hard working Arts Committee, ably led in this venture by Mrs Beal. Thank you to Mrs Beal for all her organisation and enthusiasm. This chair was designed by the children to commemorate Mr Pearson’s time at the school and is now positioned under the big lime trees on the field and is called “Pearson’s Place. Please visit Pearson’s Place to view the chair and maybe spend a quiet moment’s contemplation.

Mr Pearson very kindly donated money towards a new sound system for the hall for sharing assemblies and productions.

So we should now have better clarity and tone! Plus no more shaking or blowing into the old microphone. Thank you Mr Pearson. We must also thank Phil Healey, our sound and events guru, for his help with the purchasing of this equipment and indeed helping with many school events last year.

Thank you to all parents who have made a real effort to ensure your children come to school in the correct uniform and footwear. The children have been presented beautifully and are a credit to the school and their families. Please note that your child should also be wearing the school sweatshirt or cardigan embroidered with the school logo. These are always available from the school office and are very reasonably priced. Children in Reception, KS1 and KS2 now need the royal blue sports t-shirt embroidered with the school logo. These cost £4.00 each from the school office and are now part of the school uniform. The majority of children are now wearing these and classes look very smart at PE time. Buddies also have regular second hand uniform sales in which many items of school uniform can be purchased. The Buddies newsletter will give the date of the next one.

Here's to a great term!

INFORMATION

We try very hard to keep you informed and there is always lots of information in various convenient places. The notice board by the entrance gates carries up to date and immediate information and in Reception there are useful documents like absence requests, change of details forms, cycling to school authority requests, term calendars etc., and the noticeboards in Reception are invaluable for community news regarding clubs and events.

The Nursery has its own noticeboard in their classroom for relevant Nursery News and so does Buddies, our PTA. The Buddies board is on the wall by the main entrance doors into school.

Please check your childrens' book bags every day to check if letters have been sent home. You may also find it useful to check your child's classroom drawer as well. We very often find quite a few letters have been put in them instead of into your hands!

You will always find a warm welcome and helpful advice from Michelle, Sharon, Emma, Alison and Helen in the school office. Please do not hesitate to come and ask for our assistance.

MEDICAL

Please could all parents be aware of the guidelines received from Oxfordshire County Council.

Any child who has a sickness bug involving vomiting or diarrhoea should be kept away from school until the child has been free of the symptoms for **24 hours or more**. Occasionally we may increase this to 48 hours if there is a particularly nasty bug going round, but we will inform you if this is the case.

Please do not send your child in to school to 'see how it goes' because these bugs spread like wildfire through children *and* staff. If a teacher becomes ill then it is difficult for the whole class.

If your child needs prescribed medication, the office staff are happy to administer this, provided the correct medical form has been completed. This can be collected from the office. Non-prescribed medicines e.g. eczema creams/hay fever medicines etc. will still need the medical form completed but may be kept in the child's classrooms.

Inhalers for children will be kept in their classrooms.

WET PLAYTIMES

As the year moves on into Autumn and Winter there is more likelihood of wet playtimes. Although we are able to provide reading books for these circumstances, it might be a good idea to ask you to pop a puzzle book, or similar, into your child's bag to keep him/her amused should the need arise. No electronic games please!

DINNER, SWIMMING AND TRIP MONEY

Payments for all these activities can now be made via ParentPay. Alternatively if you need to you can put money in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and occasion/event the money is for and given to your child to hand to his/her class teacher.

Please do not bring in loose change.

If you need to bring money in at any other time, you will find a blue box inside the Reception area, to the right of the doors. There are envelopes provided – please put your child's details on the front in the usual way (very important) and put the envelope in the box. We will empty this once a day. Many thanks.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Dinner money

Please note that school dinners for KS1 children are free and those for KS2 children are **£2.15** per day. Please could you make sure that it is paid **in advance**. **Please use ParentPay to make your payments. If you still haven't activated your child's account and need a copy of your letter just let us know. Alternatively please send it in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class. Arrears are not allowed and we reserve the right, if dinner money is not paid, to inform you that your child will need packed lunches until the debt is settled. Cheques should be made payable to Oxfordshire County Council.**

Change of details

It is **essential**, that we are kept advised of any change of details, such as addresses, mobile numbers, contacts, etc. to enable us to keep our records up to date – especially important if your child is taken ill and we need to contact you quickly. Please give any changes to Michelle, Sharon, Emma, Helen or Alison in the office. ***There is a blue form for this purpose in Reception.***

Absences

Some of you may be aware that we have a registration programme on the office computer, which accurately records all absences on a weekly report. We are required, by law, to request, and record, the reason for any absence and would be most grateful if you could either complete an absence request form for hospital appointments (***to be found in Reception***) or, in the case of sickness, call the school on the first day of absence or send in a note on the child's return to school.

Late Arrivals

The school day does not begin at 9am. Doors open at 8.45 and school begins at 8.50am. Registration takes place at this time each day and your child should have arrived at school and be sitting down in class. The gates will be closed at 8.55am.

If, for some reason, your child should arrive at school during, or after registration, please ensure that your child knows **he/she must report to the office before going to their class.** This is for safeguarding reasons, so we know they have arrived at school.

If you need to collect your child during school hours for an appointment such as dentist, doctor, etc., please sign them out of school in the appropriate book at the Reception window. Likewise, when you return them to school, please sign them back in.

RESPECTFUL REMINDER RE PUBLIC INTERNET NETWORKS

May we take this opportunity to highlight an important safeguarding matter with you?

In order to respect parental wishes, and to ensure the safety of our children, we would ask that you **do not post any images of our children, taken at school, i.e. sports days, school productions, sharing assemblies etc., on public websites without prior consent from the school.** There could be very good reasons why the child in the background should not be shown on public sites. Knowingly breaching this guidance may cause repercussions for the child and their family and could potentially lead to legal proceedings.

We would also like to remind you that there are clear laws around 'Defamation of Character' of individuals across the community. As such, we would ask that you respect this law by refraining from posting personal comments, or responding to personal comments about members of our school community on public internet sites e.g. Facebook, blogs and Twitter.

We appreciate your support and co-operation with these matters.

BRINGING BIKES & SCOOTERS TO SCHOOL

If your son or daughter rides their bike or scooter to school, please could you reinforce with them our rule that they are **to wear helmets and must dismount before entering the school grounds** and they are **absolutely not allowed to be ridden on the paths leading to the classrooms.** This also includes young children not yet at school but who come to drop off or meet their siblings.

Recently there have been occasions where children have ridden into adults from behind and where smaller children have ridden in front of adults, tripping them up as they try to avoid squashing the child. On more than one occasion, this has resulted in adults and children being hurt. This has also happened outside the school premises so please remind your children to take care at **all** times.

We would appreciate your cooperation in this matter and it is a condition of being allowed to bring bikes and scooters to school that this is followed. If children come to school on a bike without a helmet permission to bring their bike will be rescinded until we have assurance that they will comply with the school rules – this is for their own safety. Thank you.

SHARING ASSEMBLIES

I would like to, once again, warmly invite you all to our regular (and popular) Friday Sharing Assembly for KS1 and KS2. This is held at **9.05am** in the school hall. Because of the size of the school hall, we alternate weeks on an Odds and Evens basis (class number) for comfort. The rota will be posted on the notice board in front of Reception and is also shown later on in the Newsletter. This is an opportunity for the children to tell you about projects they have been working on or special pieces of work they have produced. It is also where we present Achievement Awards for good work produced in school or awards they may have won for out of school activities. Please join us and give the children a chance to share this with you.

*As we are trying to increase the children's presentation skills, in order to be sympathetic and sensitive to the children who may be speaking, could I request bringing in a toy or drawing book etc to amuse younger pre-school siblings who may become restless during assembly. This would be much appreciated as the sense of calmness will be beneficial to everyone. As we have children with dairy allergies could we please ask that if you bring a drink for your younger children during assembly that it is **not milk** as if it is spilt on the floor it can cause an allergic reaction during PE sessions. Many thanks.*

CARS

Once again, may I please remind parents of the need to avoid driving cars into the car park at either end of the school day. **For safety reasons and because staff need the available spaces, this car park is reserved for staff cars only.**

We would especially ask for your consideration in the mornings if you are dropping off children to Breakfast Club when staff are trying to park and get into work for the whole day, not just for a few minutes drop off time.

Please use the community car park by the Bure Park shops, just a very short distance from the school. Also, we have been requested by Bicester Traffic Police to request that no-one park their car outside the school gates. The road narrows at this point and this could cause, at worst an accident, or, also, serious congestion. The police regularly patrol the area and may issue a ticket for offenders.

LOST PROPERTY PLEASE HELP US!

At the end of last term there was a **huge** amount of lost property left around the school, the vast majority of which was un-named. I am sure this is as frustrating to you as it is to us (to say nothing of being time consuming to us and costly to yourselves). We usually have everything from socks and t-shirts, to expensive **un-named** coats waiting to be claimed. Lost property is held in the blue bin in the School Reception area and any un-named items left unclaimed at each half term will be either washed and given to Buddies for their second-hand sale, or recycled to the school Clothing Bank. **This could be your child's clothing!**

There is a simple solution. Please name your your child's clothes!

We ask that you check that all your child's clothes are **always clearly labelled with your child's full name please using a Sharpie permanent marker.** As you can imagine, merely writing initials or a first name is not enough unless your child has a unique name. We do our very best to ensure that any named clothing is returned to its rightful owner but simply writing initials or a first name is not sufficient and is very time consuming trying to ascertain to whom it belongs. Please also check during the term to see that the name has not washed off!

Believe us, we want to return your child's lost property. We would far rather it be in your house than in a box in Reception but we really need your help to do so.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

VOUCHERS

We always appreciate you collecting vouchers for the school and have been able to buy much welcome extra equipment since the school opened.

We also collect Tesco/Sainsbury vouchers during the year and used postage stamps for a local Hospice. Boxes for all of these collections can be found in Reception.

DOGS

Please note that dogs are not allowed onto school premises at any time. Please ensure that, if you tie your dog to the railings outside school, it is well away from the school gates to ensure children are not frightened.

HOLIDAY REGULATIONS - IMPORTANT

Registers and absences are regularly checked by the Education Social Services Dept and returns are made each term, which show our level of authorised and unauthorised absences.

In September 2013 The Department for Education made amendments to the regulations with regard to school attendance and Headteachers in all schools will **no longer be allowed to authorise leave of absence for any family holidays during term time.** From that date Headteachers are not permitted to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances and the number of days authorised for this would be determined by the Headteacher (DFE Guidance June 2013). Applications for these exceptional circumstances should always be made on the pink form found in Reception and in an additional letter if space does not allow.

As a Bicester partnership of nineteen schools we will not normally authorise holidays in term time because of the impact absence from school has on a child. As a partnership we believe that attendance at school is the best way of making sure your child makes progress and does well at school. When children are absent they miss not only the teaching provided but are less well prepared for the lessons on their return. They miss important information for future lessons and this can impact on progress, attainment and self-esteem.

In summary:

- Schools are no longer allowed to authorise leave of absence for family holidays.
- Any leave of absence requests can only be authorised by the Headteacher in **exceptional** circumstances.
- Headteachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if **exceptional** leave for the reasons shown above is granted.

I hope that this clarifies the regulations which all schools have had to enforce from September 2013.

MUSIC

Music plays a huge part in school life here at Bure Park. We are able to offer lessons on a wide range of instruments, including brass, strings, woodwind, recorder and piano. Please come and talk to me if your child is interested in learning any of these instruments.

Rachel Howells
Music Lessons Coordinator

UNIFORM

Thank you for making such an effort in sending the children to school in full uniform. We are keen to maintain high standards and this is a reminder of the dress code at Bure Park:

Boys – grey trousers; white polo shirt; navy blue sweatshirt with school logo*, grey or navy socks.

Girls: - Grey skirt, trousers or pinafore dress; white polo shirt, pale blue gingham dress (summer time only), navy blue sweatshirt, or cardigan with school logo*, grey or navy tights or socks.

** The school sweatshirt or cardigan is embroidered with the school logo and they are available from the school office.*

Outdoor footwear needs to be black or navy blue and low heeled. **Trainers are not allowed.** If they are necessary in special circumstances, please inform us in writing.

Indoor footwear – black plimsolls with non-marking soles (no black soles) will be required to change into at all times inside the school building.

P.E. and games – Navy blue sports shorts, Royal blue school t-shirt with school logo and a change of socks. Track suits may be worn for outdoor activities in cold weather; footwear to be both practical and appropriate.

COOL MILK SCHEME

- 1) If your child is under 5 years of age he or she is entitled to free school milk every day.
- 2) If your child is over 5 years of age he or she can also have school milk at a subsidised rate.

The scheme is run by Cool Milk at School and you can apply on-line or by completing a form available from the school office which you will then return direct to the firm, not the school.

It will take them approximately 2 weeks for the administration to be completed and once we receive the weekly lists showing that your child is to be included, he/she will begin receiving milk.

Please note that if your child was in the scheme last academic year, you may have to reapply to Cool Milk for 2016/17.

Their website address is www.coolmilk.com

ICT UPDATE

School website

Our new school website www.bureparkprimary.org is now up and running. Please visit the website for important information about school updates, news and events. New Blogs are under construction and these will be accessible from the website where you will be able to subscribe to your year group.

e-newsletter

We produce a weekly e-newsletter summarising what has happened around the school during the week. Each year group will include a synopsis and photo which is an opportunity for you to engage with what your child has been learning in school. In addition to this there will be updates from Mrs Hewson, details of sporting and other curriculum events and information from the office. We would like to strongly encourage you to sign up online by entering the address below.

<http://goo.gl/GFD7v>

IMPORTANT

You should have recently received a letter with our internet SMART rules for you to complete with your child and also a very important 'Permissions' letter. We need these to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible as they are important pieces of documentation. If you did not receive these please go to the school office and collect a copy.

*Karen Ward and Heidi Batram
ICT Coordinators*

DID YOU KNOW?

Reversible school coats are also available from Buddies for £25 for ages 3/4 up to 11/12. Order forms are available from the board in Reception by the school office.

1. 'Like' us at www.facebook.com search for Buddies – Bure Park School PTA

2. Do your shopping online through: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/uk/bureparkprimary>

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The new teacher led after school clubs will begin again in the week beginning 26th September.

As these clubs are run by teachers in their own time, it would be much appreciated if your child could be collected promptly at **3.50pm.**

BURE PARK BUDDIES CALLING ALL PARENTS - COME AND SEE WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO!

Our PTA is a very important part of school life. Buddies is the parent /teacher association for the school, run entirely by volunteers and we organise many events throughout the year. We also run a very successful second hand uniform sale every term in which you can purchase clean, good quality school uniform items for a very reasonable cost. We have a lot of fun, enjoy what we do and are proud of the money we raise.

As parents, every one of you is automatically a member and can take advantage of the social events such as Summer and Christmas Fayres, Barbecues and disco's for the children. You will receive regular newsletters, via your children, informing you of forthcoming events.

These raise a huge amount of money for the school which means that all of your children benefit – the Outdoor Classroom, Arts Week, the Pirate Ship, all weather areas, raised allotment beds, picnic tables and a mud kitchen are just a few of the things we have raised money for, but we always need more parents to help us.

There is a hardworking committee organising the events which includes mums and dads as well as teaching staff but, of course, we could always use extra help. Nobody will be asked to take on onerous duties and the old saying rings true 'Many hands make light work!' Don't worry; you don't need to be a member of the committee to help us, nor to commit to anything on a regular basis and you will be made very welcome at our friendly meetings which are held in the local Bure Farm pub!

So please don't leave it to someone else. Come along, have a free drink and some nibbles and hear what Buddies is all about. See our upcoming event dates in 'Dates for Your Diary' at the end of this Newsletter or on the Buddies Facebook page.

Many Thanks
JENNIE BOULTON
Buddies Chairman

SPORT

We have a busy and exciting first term in regards to sport.

Clubs will start week beginning 26th September, with a huge variety of active and sporting pursuits for the children to enjoy and there are several competitions coming up.

On Wednesday 21st September there will be the annual Cross Country competition, which is open to all children Year 1 – Year 6. Last year we had a huge turn out to this event, and were very successful, so we hope for the same again in 2016!

This year there will be a strong focus on core skills in PE, stripping sports back to the basics and practicing the key skills they require. This will hopefully ensure the school keeps up its strong sporting culture, and give the children the opportunity to develop.

We hope your children really enjoy their sporting life this year.

*Mandy MacIntyre and Susie Johnson
Sports Coordinators*

SCHOOL HOUSES

The introduction of School Houses has proved to be hugely successful and introduced a strongly competitive spirit amongst the children.

For parents new to the school the houses are named Beech (Yellow), Lime (Green), Oak (Red) and Willow (Blue). These names have been chosen with relation to the significance of our lime trees on the school field and our love of outdoor learning at Bure Park School.

All children are put into a house when they first join the school and all siblings will be in the same house, although the children in the Foundation Stage will not use the system until they join the main school.

House Points have been linked to our credit system and children will be awarded one House Point for every 10 credits achieved. In addition, House Points will be earned for exceptional achievement. Those children will be placed on Gold on the class traffic light system and a note will be sent home informing parents of this accreditation.

All House Points are given in the form of tokens which the children 'post' into the large coloured tubes in the entrance hall and we are already watching the numbers of tokens grow with great excitement as the term progresses. Updates on House progress will be given during Sharing Assemblies.

In the next few weeks we will be electing House Captains, Vice Captains and Sports Captains from amongst our Year 6 pupils. We have a large House Cup for which children in each House will work together towards winning at the end of the school year and will see a plaque for each winning House added each year, plus it will be decorated for the next year with the appropriate coloured ribbons of the winning House. This is in addition to our House Sports Cup.

As well as individual achievements, we are looking forward to encouraging the children to have a real sense of belonging and working for a team as the year progresses.

We look forward to a very successful term.

Yours sincerely,

YVONNE HEWSON
Headteacher

SHARING AND ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLIES

Terms 1 & 2

SEPTEMBER

16th ODDS
23rd EVENS
30th ODDS

OCTOBER

6st Harvest Festival - ODDS
7th Harvest Festival – EVENS
14th EVENS
21st ODDS
28th HALF TERM – **SCHOOL CLOSED**

NOVEMBER

4th ODDS
11th EVENS
18th ODDS
25th EVENS

DECEMBER

2nd ODDS
9th EVENS
14th CHRISTMAS SHARING – KS2 ODDS
15th CHRISTMAS SHARING –KS2 EVENS
16th END OF TERM 2 - NO ASSEMBLY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – Please make
sure you mark these on your calendars!

SEPTEMBER

19th German children arrive for the week
22nd Photographs of pupils
20th Buddies AGM - 7.30pm ICT Room
27th Full Governors
30th Yr 6 Woodlands clinic for parents
3.20pm in Class 12

OCTOBER

5th Yr 3 Roald Dahl trip
6th Harvest Festival - Evens
7th Harvest Festival – Odds
10th -14th Yr 6 Woodlands Residential Course
6th Phonics & Writing Worskhop – for Fdn
Stage parents - 3.45pm in the ICT Room
21st TERM 1 ENDS 3.05pm
24th – 28th HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED

NOVEMBER

7th Parent/Teacher meetings -5.00-7.00pm
8th Parent/Teacher meetings -4.00-6.30pm
10th Maths Workshop for Fdn Stage parents
3.45pm in the ICT Room
11th Yr 5 trip to Ashmolean Museum
18th Children in Need Day

DECEMBER

1st Foundation Stage Production AM & PM
7th Flu vaccinations for Years 1, 2, and 3
7th KS1 Production 1.45pm
8th KS1 Production 1.45pm
14th KS2 Christmas Sharing Ass –Odds
15th KS2 Christmas Sharing Ass – Evens
12th Carols Around the Tree – 6pm-7pm
14th KS1 & 2 Christmas Parties
15th Foundation Stage Parties – AM & PM
16th TERM 2 ENDS 2PM
19th –2nd Jan SCHOOL CLOSED

JANUARY

3rd INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
4th TERM 3 BEGINS **8.50am**