

# Bure Park Primary School

Sept. 2017

## NEWSLETTER

**Please read this newsletter carefully as it is major source of information. There will be a weekly update from the Headteacher lots of communications throughout the year sent via the new school App. A paper copy will be in the Reception.**

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Hello once 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 473 children on roll.

We hope that you all had a most enjoyable holiday 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.

I am looking forward to working with you and your children over the coming school year. I hope to be out and about again at the beginning or end of some school days over the year so please come along and say hello or ask any questions which you may have in a more informal setting.

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 work on the mobile classrooms and the painting of some rooms. These things are so much easier to do when the school is not in use. Our Caretaker, Jim Webb, has been extremely busy 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.

The new catering company, Fresh Start, have now taken over the school dinners, cooking an array of healthy and nutritious meals. We are very excited about this new venture. Please remember that your child now has a choice each day from four options and you must order by Tuesday evening at midnight for the following week's dinners so that Fresh Start

can order the right amount of food. You received a letter back in July with all your individual login details and the procedures. This ensures that your child chooses something which they like and receive that choice rather than having to have what is left when they get into dinner. We will all get into the routine of doing this as the weeks go by. The quality of the food has been everything we had hoped for and the portions sizes are very generous. The children are very positive about them -

Lewis Ball - There are better and lots of tasty choices, and also I like it that we know what we are going to have beforehand as we have ordered"

Thomas Merendidis "They are amazing! The portions are now proper portions and I don't feel hungry at the end"

Reuben Mitchell - " I like having proper plates and bowls to eat from, and you get lots to eat!"

Sadly our Cook, Sue Tugwood, has decided over the summer not to join Fresh Start so will not be with us in September. The rest of the kitchen staff will remain the same. We wish Sue well for the future with Food and More.

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 available to order online and are very competitively priced. Children in Reception, KS1 and KS2 need the royal blue sports t-shirt embroidered with the school logo. These are part of the school uniform and the majority of children are now wearing them and classes look very smart at PE times. Buddies also have

regular second hand uniform sales in which some items of school uniform can be purchased. The Buddies newsletter will give the date of the next one.

Our new App has been released so please download this to your mobile phone as we will be using this to send out lots of information and notices. The Parental feedback forms last March said parents would like more communication so this should hopefully be very useful.

There has been a real buzz in the classrooms and around school this week and the children have settled back to school really well. The topic hook-ins have really raised the children's enthusiasm for their learning - the excitement has been tangible! We have had alien visits in Key Stage One, Roald Dahl character costumes and making potions in Year 3, Egyptian excitement in Year 4, Groovy Greek scholars in Year 5 and Vicious Viking activities in Year 6. Thank you to you all for the amazing costumes that you have put together with your children.

We are looking for some volunteers to help us with a cycling proficiency course which we hope to run in school. We need some people who are willing to give up their time to go on a training course at no cost to them and then give up some time to teach the children. If you are interested in this then please come in and arrange to have a chat with me.

There will be a trial of a new early morning procedure starting on Monday, which the children are aware of, to ensure that we are settled ready for learning at 8.50am. A hand bell will be rung outside just after 8.40am and at that point the children will begin to line up at their classroom doors to be welcomed in by their teachers at 8.45am and doors closed at 8.50am. The school gate will then be locked at 8.55am for Safeguarding purposes. Any children who arrive after 8.50am should report to main Reception as usual. These are the same timings for the opening of the doors as previously.

Over the course of the year please do not hesitate to come in if you have queries, worries or problems so that we can address them in a timely manner rather than delaying, and things growing out of proportion.

Here's to a great first term and a successful and enjoyable academic year!

### INFORMATION

We try very hard to keep you informed and there is always lots of information in various convenient places. The school Website has lots of useful information and the school App available by searching 'ourschoolapps' and selecting Bure Park Primary will have regular updates including the Head Teacher's Weekly Update.

The notice board by the entrance gates carries up to date and immediate information and in Reception there are useful documents like medical 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.

**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, 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 **48 hours or more**.

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.

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

### School Dinners

Please note that school dinners for KS1 children are free and those for KS2 children are **£2.30** per day. All school meals whether paid for or not must be ordered via the Fresh Start Meal Manager by the end of the day on the Tuesday before the week the meals are required.

### 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. *There is a blue form for this purpose in Reception.*

### Absences

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 8.50am.**

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.

## DOGS

Please note that dogs are not allowed onto school premises at any time, unless they are a disability dog. 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.

## 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.

## TRIP AND SWIMMING MONEY

Payments for these activities and other items can 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.

## 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.

Rachael Howells  
Music Lessons Coordinator

### **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 or in front of adults tripping them up as they try to avoid 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, permission will be rescinded until we have assurance that they will comply with the school rules – this is for their own safety.

We also remind you that bikes and scooters must be locked up in the bike/scooter shed and should not be left there over night for their own safety.

Thank you.

### **SHARING ASSEMBLIES**

We 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 is posted on the notice board in front of Reception and posted on the Website and via the school App. 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 gained 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 yourself during assembly that it is **not milk** or has milk added as if it is spilt on the floor it can cause an allergic reaction during PE sessions. We request that adults do not bring coffee or tea into Sharing Assemblies for the above reason. 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 day.**

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 do issue tickets for offenders.

### **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 2017/18.

Their website address is [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

### **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.

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The new teacher led after school clubs will begin again in the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **ABSENCE 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 in writing to the Headteacher.

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's learning. 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.

### **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 in the reception area.**

1. 'Like' us at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) search for Buddies – Bure Park School PTA
2. Do your shopping online through: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/uk/bureparkprimary>

### 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, cardigan and PE T-shirt are embroidered with the school logo and they can be ordered via the Brigade website [www.brigade.uk.com/brigade.uk.com/](http://www.brigade.uk.com/brigade.uk.com/)*

**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.

Please can we ask that hairbands are in school colours and kept plain and the more unique and colourful ones are kept for our Mufti days.

### SPORT

We have a busy and exciting first term in regards to sport. Mrs Hall has joined our Sports Team, and we are pleased to welcome Mr Davis as our school sport coach. Clubs will start week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> September, with a huge variety of active and sporting pursuits for the children to enjoy and there are several competitions coming up. This year we will be focusing on getting the children more active than ever. We are aiming for the children to be active for at least 30 minutes each day, so are thinking of more ways for them to be active in playtimes and during the curriculum time. Some classes will be trying the daily mile, skipping challenges, aerobics and many other ways to keep themselves fit.

Mandy MacIntyre, Susie Parker and Lisa Hall  
Sports Coordinators

### BURE PARK BUDDIES

**Who we are, what do we do and who benefits from our work..?**

Buddies is the parent /teacher association for Bure Park school. We are run entirely by volunteers who organise many fundraising events throughout the year. We have a lot of fun, enjoy what we do and are proud of the money we raise. Our PTA is a very important part of school life. Every year Buddies make a significant contribution to our children's educational experience and seeks to engage a wide network of parents and our wider community.

**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 informing you of forthcoming events, and can also keep up to date by following us on Facebook.

Our events are very popular and raise an incredible amount of money for the school. Last academic year we raised over £11,000 which means that all of our children benefit! Money raised last year was spent on the soft mulch play area, indoor games, Arts week, a new PA system and much more. However we always need more parents with ideas, energy, contacts and a little time to spare! 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! Everyone is welcome.

**The first meeting of the year is our AGM which is being held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the ICT room at school. We will be celebrating the good work that was done last year with a little wine and some nibbles, and then voting in a new committee. It's also an excellent chance to socialise, and is particularly good if you are new to the school. Please come along and see what we are all about!**

I look forward to seeing many of you soon!  
Many thanks

GEMMA SCRIVENER  
Buddies Chair

## **ICT UPDATE**

### **School website**

Our school website can be found at **[www.bureparkprimary.org](http://www.bureparkprimary.org)**. Please visit the website for important information about school updates, news and events. The Class Blogs are accessible from the website where you will be able to subscribe to your year group.

### **School App**

Regular updates will be sent via the new School App including the weekly Headteacher's Update and Buddies news. Download at the Appstore or Playstore. Search for Ourschoolsapp. You can select Bure Park Primary once downloaded.

### **Class Blogs**

Each year group have their own blogs with information about what they have been focusing on and what's coming up. The Blogs are accessible through the website or the School App. These will up and running in the next few weeks.

### **IMPORTANT**

You will receive 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 Hannah Halstead  
ICT 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.

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

15<sup>th</sup> ODDS  
22<sup>nd</sup> EVENS  
29<sup>th</sup> ODDS

### OCTOBER

5<sup>st</sup> Harvest Festival - ODDS  
6<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival – EVENS  
13<sup>th</sup> EVENS  
20<sup>th</sup> ODDS  
27<sup>th</sup> HALF TERM – **SCHOOL CLOSED**

### NOVEMBER

3<sup>rd</sup> EVENS  
10<sup>th</sup> ODDS  
17<sup>th</sup> EVENS  
24<sup>th</sup> ODDS

### DECEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> EVENS  
8<sup>th</sup> ODDS  
14<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS SHARING – KS2 ODDS  
15<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS SHARING –KS2 EVENS

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

### SEPTEMBER

18<sup>th</sup> Buddies AGM - 7.30pm ICT Room  
19<sup>th</sup> Music for Schools lessons restart  
20<sup>th</sup> OCC Music lessons restart – strings and  
woodwind  
21<sup>st</sup> Individual photographs of pupils taken  
22<sup>nd</sup> Guitar lessons restart  
26<sup>th</sup> Full Governors  
29<sup>th</sup> Yr 6 Woodlands clinic for parents  
3.20pm in Class 12

### OCTOBER

4<sup>th</sup> Yr 3 Roald Dahl trip  
4<sup>th</sup> Yr 4 Ancient Egyptian Workshop in school  
5<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival - Odds  
6<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival – Evens  
9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> Yr 6 Woodlands Residential Course  
16<sup>th</sup> Flu vaccinations for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4  
20<sup>th</sup> TERM 1 ENDS 3.05pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED  
30<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

### NOVEMBER

13<sup>th</sup> Yr 4 at Vue Cinema for Film Festival  
13<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher meetings -5.00-7.30pm  
14<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher meetings -4.00-6.30pm  
14<sup>th</sup> BMX Academy in school  
15<sup>th</sup> Yr 5 at Vue Cinema for Film Festival  
17<sup>th</sup> Yr 3 at Vue Cinema for Film Festival  
17<sup>th</sup> Children in Need Day  
10<sup>th</sup> Yr 5 trip to Ashmolean Museum

### DECEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> Buddies Christmas Fayre 12pm  
6<sup>th</sup> KS1 Production 1.45pm  
6<sup>th</sup> Foundation Stage Production 10.45am  
7<sup>th</sup> KS1 Production 1.45pm  
7<sup>th</sup> Foundation Stage Production 10.45am  
8<sup>th</sup> Buddies Disco  
11<sup>th</sup> Carols Around the Tree – 6pm-7pm  
13<sup>th</sup> School Christmas Dinner  
14<sup>th</sup> KS2 Christmas Sharing Ass –Odds  
15<sup>th</sup> KS2 Christmas Sharing Ass – Evens  
18<sup>th</sup> Foundation, KS1 & KS2 Christmas Parties  
19<sup>th</sup> TERM 2 ENDS 2PM  
19<sup>th</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> Jan SCHOOL CLOSED

### JANUARY

4<sup>th</sup> TERM 3 BEGINS **8.50am**