

Spring
2024

BISPHAM DRIVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

21st Century Learning for the 21st Century Child



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Bispham Drive
Junior School
Ad esse optimum

February 9th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Unbelievably here we are already at February half term. The children have been working really hard and can enjoy the week off with that in mind. As this Spring term is a short one overall it would be a great idea to keep them reading to ensure that they make the 60 reads reward afternoon. Remember all reads from December 18th onwards count, so it is perfectly doable and we have a number who are well on their way to 60.

Speaking of reading, I have noticed an increasing number of children wearing their Blue Peter reading badges. We are so pleased that these are finally being sent out, so encourage your child to wear theirs when it arrives. Sadly, my plea to send badges to staff who also read children's literature in order to keep up to date with new writing, seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

This week we have also held another referendum. We are constantly monitoring the impact of our amended Behaviour Policy. It is designed to iron out the low level disruption we can sometimes see and to build the idea of choice in terms of behaviour. It was also created to build the notion that we make positive behaviour choices because we know it is the right thing to do not because we want a reward or to avoid a sanction. We undertook some focus groups with children around the use of raffle tickets and uncovered some disparate views - so we put this to the vote. I gave an assembly that made the intent behind them clear and the resultant vote showed a massive majority in favour of continuing to use them. We will continue to review the policy with children as it will work best with their input. Still the power of a referendum to give the children a voice in these matters continues to be a positive part of school life and develops their understanding around democracy. Enjoy the half term.

Andrea Goetzee
Headteacher

Notices

Skateboarding lessons - The very popular skateboarding lessons I introduced last year will be returning after half term. Year 3 on Tuesday afternoon and year 6 on Wednesday afternoon. The lessons are for 6 weeks and years 4 and 5 will follow after this time. Please note this is your child's formal PE lesson and this may mean their usual day to wear PE kit changes. There will also be a free afterschool club for those year groups receiving lessons that day, but places are strictly limited to 15. Bookings for the club are taken on a first come first served basis and will open for years 3 and 6 at 6.00 pm this evening. Children may bring in their own skateboards if they wish. I know this was so successful last year that a number of pupils continued to skateboard after lessons finished.

WEDUC messaging - This is a further reminder that emails can no longer be sent using Weduc and all messaging will be via the app. If you are experiencing difficulty downloading or using the app please contact the school office who will be more than happy to help. Please remember the app is our primary method to communicate important messages to you and if you choose not to use it you may miss things.

Parent Conference information - I have attached a flyer regarding a free parent conference for those whose children have additional needs.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day. After the success of last year instead of coming as book characters we are asking pupils and staff to come dressed as an adjective. This time we are asking that when they think of an adjective they go to a thesaurus and see if they can find an even better synonym to use. Building vocabulary by stealth! We will also be running the community free storytelling and cocoa event at 6.00 pm as it was such a lovely experience last year.



Key Dates

February

19th Return to school
 26th INSET Day
 w/c 26th R.E. Week activities

March

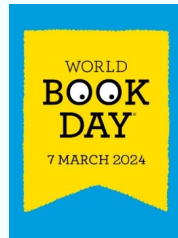
7th World Book Day
 25th Year 4 matinee performance 1.30 pm
 26th Year 4 Evening performance 6.00 pm
 28th End of term

April

15th Back to school
 15th Year 5 Viking Day
 17th Year 3 visit Gurdwara
 w/c 22nd Shakespeare Week
 22nd Year 4 visit Hindu Temple

May

1st Year 5 visit Mosque
 6th Bank Holiday
 w/c 13th SATs Week



Headteacher's Awards

Orion	Olivia, Max B	Pegasus	Zainab
Hydra		Leo	
Columba	Howard	Volans	Adam, Sophia, Ruby D
Andromeda		Phoenix	

SBAP Parenting Workshop

School draws support from this group in a variety of ways. They are currently offering a 6 week course to parents whose children are displaying negative behaviours. It is currently limited to 6 families and it is open to a number of schools, so if you are interested don't delay in getting in touch. There is a flyer with more information attached to this bulletin.

BFG Events Save the Dates

I recently met with some of the BFG committee and we agreed the events they would be offering for the rest of this school year. Obviously, full details of these will be advised in due course but meanwhile I thought you might want to make a note of them so you don't miss anything.

March 14 Film Night for children

April 26th Spring Disco

May 16th Film Night for children

June 28th Summer Fair

If you are able to help staff any of these events please do get in touch with the BFG as they are happy to receive any support.