



# Newsletter: September 2017

## **Welcome Back!**

I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday and feel rested and refreshed! (or perhaps you are glad to see the children back at school!) We especially welcome those families new to our school, whether you have a child starting in Reception or in another year group. We hope that you will very quickly feel part of the Boney Hay family. Should you have any queries, please always speak to your child's classteacher in the first instance as they are usually best placed to sort out problems or provide information. A diary of planned events for the year is attached. Please keep this safe so that you know when things are happening at school. We will keep you informed of new dates as they become available.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance improved in 2016/17 to 94.74% from 93.36% in 2015/16. Thank you so much to parents and carers for this achievement. However, we are still below national expectations of 96% and we will strive to meet this in 2017/18.

An attendance review will take place monthly and reminders will be sent to parents should their child's attendance fall below 95%. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, then you will receive a formal letter and the Education Welfare Officer will be informed.

The children are very competitive to win the weekly class attendance award and I can now give you the results for the best overall attendance for 2016/17.

### **Overall: 94.74%**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Y3	95.96%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rec	95.09%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Y2	94.91%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Y5	94.78%
5 <sup>th</sup>	Y6	94.60%
6 <sup>th</sup>	Y4	94.13%
7 <sup>th</sup>	Y1	93.71%

Last year's Year 3 (new Year 4) will receive a treat afternoon as their reward. Well done!

May I also respectfully remind parents that children should be on the playground at **8.50am** with school officially starting at **8.55am**. Once the bell has gone and the doors to the cloakroom or classroom have closed, then children **MUST** enter school via the school office where they will be given the relevant mark. Children arriving between 8.55am and 9.05am will receive a Late mark, children arriving after 9.05am will receive a U mark, meaning arriving after the register has closed. Children with persistent L or U marks will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer and appropriate action taken I hope that we can improve our punctuality and that the children will be able to receive their full hours of education. Thank you for your support

## **Uniform**

We are very proud of our children at Boney Hay and we want them to feel proud to be part of our school. This involves wearing their full uniform with pride. Please ensure that your child is correctly dressed every day including wearing their House badge. This is part of the uniform and encourages the children to develop their identity as part of their house. The children in Year 6 received their blazers and ties in assembly on the first day of term and they look so grown up!

PE is a compulsory part of the curriculum and PE kits must be in school every day. Children will NOT miss PE if they forget their kit, but they will have to wear one of our ill-fitting school ones or do PE in their normal clothes.

Trainers are NOT part of our school uniform and may only be worn on the odd occasion where your child has grown out of their school shoes. Permission will only be given on receipt of a written letter from parents and will be just until new shoes can be bought.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have a weekly Forest School session and will be asked to bring in suitable clothing for this. They will be expected to change back into their uniform at the end of Forest School. Their classteacher will be issuing a checklist of suitable clothing.

### Lunchtime Arrangements

In line with the Government's drive for all children to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to develop healthy eating habits and be fed nutritiously, these pupils will all receive a free school meal. They will be able to choose from:

Hot meal

Sandwich containing cheese, ham or turkey

Plain wrap.

In addition they will have a dessert which could be cake, biscuit, yoghurt or jelly

A piece of fruit

Drink.

May I remind parents that whilst infant children may not bring a packed lunch from home unless supported by a doctor's note, they may provide a snack and drink for morning break.

Suggested items are breakfast bars, cheese, fruit, raw veg, plain or clear flavoured water. We do not allow chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks.

I know that this will be a change for many children, but we will all quickly become used to the new arrangements. It will also offer you a saving of up to £200 per year per child!

As promised, this will be evaluated at the end of term.

For junior pupils, the cost of a school meal will rise to **£2.30 daily** ( £11.50 per week) from 1<sup>st</sup> September and continues to be paid through Parentpay.

### Contact Information

It is vitally important that we are able to contact you throughout the school day in case of sickness or emergency. Please ensure that the office has up to date contact numbers for you. It is very distressing for a child to be unwell in school and for us to be unable to contact you.

Just as we want to be able to contact you, it is equally important that you should be able to talk to us. If you have any issues concerning your child, please always speak to the classteacher in the first instance. A quick message can be passed on at the beginning of the day when all staff are on the playground to escort the children into class. If you need a chat, then please call at the office and we will arrange a time for you to have a proper conversation. Teachers need to be in class immediately at the start of the day so are not able to have a meaningful discussion with you then.

Miss Stacey, our Vice Principal, coordinates the pastoral needs of the children, so if you are not happy with the outcome from the classteacher, then please ask for an appointment with her. If you are still not satisfied, then a meeting can be arranged with Mrs Matthewman. However, this will only be after all other avenues have been exhausted.

We are pleased with the partnership that we have with parents and carers and hope that this process will ensure that your concerns can always be resolved in a timely way. The Compliments and Complaints Policy is on our website should you wish any further clarification. We also have a copy of our Vexatious Complaints policy on the website which I would encourage all parents to read.

Many thanks for your support.

## **School Planners**

Following the successes last year, we have once again invested a lot of money in providing every child with a School Planner. This is a means of communication with parents - please feel free to write notes etc into this. The planner contains useful information regarding the Behaviour for Learning Contract, timetables and important facts. It will also records homework that is set for your children and their homework stamps. It is therefore a very valuable resource as this is how rewards will be given and monitored. Please check your child's planner daily and encourage them to use it fully. Should a planner be lost or damaged, then there will be a charge of £5 for a replacement.

## **Home School Association**

Our Home School Association is a group of very committed parents who raise money over the year to support the extras that the school budget doesn't cover. Last year they gave us over £2000, with a cheque for £1700 being given to subsidise the summer visits. All parents are automatically members of the Home School Association and I know they would love some more help. If you are interested in becoming part of this vital group, please leave your name and number at the office so we can ask them to contact you.

**THEY NEED YOU!!**

## **The Boney Hay Biathlon!**

Once again we have received Sport Funding for the Government and this has been increased for 2017/18. The remit is that we should provide children with experiences that are lasting and will have a positive impact on their health and fitness for the future. Children will once again receive coaching over the year from Progressive Sports and all children in Year 5 will undertake Bikeability training.

The Biathlon took place in June and we were delighted to raise £1273.60! Several prizes for sponsorship were drawn in assembly at the end of term. Well done children! From this, we will donate £275 to Teenage Cancer Trust and use the balance to support the summer visits. Thank you so much to those of you who raised sponsorship money for this.

This also supports our ambition that children walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible. If your child arrives by cycle or scooter, they should lock it into the pod on the Junior Playground with a padlock. Helmets should be worn when cycling to school and they will be compulsory during our coaching sessions. Unfortunately, as with all personal possessions, our insurance does not cover loss or damage, so please make sure they are secured before leaving them.

We are very excited to be able to continue this initiative and know that all children will have fantastic experiences over the coming year.