

Academy Update

We were delighted to receive our Academy Order on 29th September and are now in full flow with the arrangements for our conversion to academy status.

We hope to convert on either 1st January or 1st February, depending on how quickly the bureaucratic wheels turn!

We are registering with the name **Boney Hay Primary Academy** and our logo will remain the same with only the change of wording from school to academy. The Staffordshire University Academy Trust will appear on our school sign and all correspondence to reinforce the fact that we are part of a university.

Many parents have asked about **uniform changes** and I am delighted to be able to give you the following information:

Rec - Year 5: There are no changes apart from the logo on the sweatshirts. There is NO need to buy new sweatshirts for the conversion, but as you replace them from either Uniforms Plus or our new online supplier, they will have the new wording on the logo.

Year 6: As we want Year 6 to feel more senior in school and ready for the transition to High School, they will wear grey trousers, white school shirt, school tie and blazer. This will incur NO extra cost to parents as we will provide two shirts, a tie and a blazer to all children in Year 6 on our conversion. For future years, school will provide the blazer and tie as parents would have bought polo shirts anyway.

I am currently in negotiation with a uniform supplier in Leek who has an online shop and will become an official stockist for our uniform. This will then give you the flexibility to buy online or from Sankeys Corner. We are still more than happy for parents to buy trousers, skirts, dresses etc from supermarkets to keep the costs down.

As a school we are very excited about our new future and are looking forward to the new opportunities ahead. I will let you know just as soon as we have a definite conversion date and the details of our launch event.

School Planners

Children and staff are delighted with the planners! It is fantastic to see them being used so effectively and children are taking great pride in bringing them to school. Please remember that this can be used as an effective form of communication between school and home so do use them for any concerns or comments. Many thanks.

Remembrance Day

We will be marking Remembrance Day on Friday 11th November with a joint Act of Commemoration, together with the Nursery and Day Centre. Poppies and other merchandise to support the work of the British Legion will be on sale in school from Monday 7th November in time for Remembrance Sunday on 13th November.

Please talk to your child about the significance of this event and ask them to share their experience with you. It is always a very moving and respectful time in school.

Open Morning

Children and staff would like to invite you to join them for our Open Morning on Tuesday 22nd November. Please line up on the playground with your child at 8.55am and experience what it is like to be in their shoes for the morning. You will work alongside your child in class, go out to play and tuck shop will be available. Parents then leave school at 11.30am so that we can prepare for lunchtime. We really hope to see as many of you as possible and the children love sharing their experiences with you.

Children in Need: Friday 18th November.

We are aware that parents and children have been very generous in supporting our charity events this term, so this year we are supporting Children in Need in a low key manner. On Friday 18th November we will be asking all children to come wearing something spotty in return for a £1 donation. All takings from the Tuck Shop on that day will also be donated to Children in Need. I hope you will be able to support the School Council in their work.

Home School Association

The Home School Association continues to raise money to support the school and we are grateful for your support. Please remember the Christmas Fayre on Friday 2nd December! All Christmas activities are being subsidised by the HSA again this year. This includes the KS2 visit to Shugborough Christmas Experience, the Children's Entertainer for Year1 and 2 and the Birches Valley visit for Reception. The total cost for this is over £2000 and without their contribution it couldn't happen. Thank you!

Christmas Celebrations

Due to the very welcome increase in our pupil numbers, we will be holding two separate and different Christmas Celebrations this year. Children in Year 3 -6 will be celebrating on Monday 5th December and Children in Reception - Year 2 will hold theirs on Tuesday 6th December. Ticket numbers are strictly limited to 2 per family and will only be available if you have a child in that particular year group. A letter to book tickets will follow soon.

We will still be attending church at the end of term, but again, need to separate the key stages. At Christmas, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will go to St John's Church on Friday 16th December at 2pm. Parents and carers are welcome to join in the fun and take their child home from the church. Any children in Key Stage 2 can be collected early from school **following** the celebration. Children in Key Stage 2 will attend Easter celebrations at St John's. Thank you for your support.