



Newsletter: September 2018

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 remained constant at 94.54%. Whilst this is within national averages it is still below the national expectations of 96% and we will strive to meet this in 2018/9. Our Education Welfare Officer will be working with all those families where attendance falls below **92%**. This will be either through letter, telephone contact or face to face meetings. Staffordshire University Academy trust do not authorise holidays in term time and there is an increased likelihood of fines being issued in the coming year. The children have 13 weeks holiday each year so please ensure that any family holidays are taken in this time.

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

2017/18 Overall: 94.54%

1 st	Y3	95.43%
2 nd	Y1	94.91%
3 rd	Y5	94.66%
4 th	Rec	94.47%
5 th	Y4	94.32%
6 th	Y2	94.25%
7 th	Y6	93.87%

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

Morning Routines

In order to make the most of our learning day and to avoid congestion on the playground, children will now go straight in to class in the morning. Class doors will open at **8.45am** so that children can settle and be ready to start their morning work 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 their classteacher will let you know when they need to have suitable closing in school.

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 are all entitled receive a free school meal. We strongly encourage parents to take advantage of this benefit as it will save you up to £200 each year and gives the children the opportunity to try a range of new foods. Each term we have a celebration day where all infant children will be given a meal to try. You can still send a packed lunch in on this day if you wish and we will advise you when it is. No child will be forced to try foods if they don't want to, all we ask is that they collect a tray from the kitchen. The meal will show on your Live Kitchen account but there will be no cost to yourselves. By doing this we are not only encouraging new tastes but also are eligible for extra funding from the government. We are grateful for your support on these days.

Children may bring in snack items 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 for morning snack.**

For junior pupils, the cost of a school meal remains at **£2.30 daily** (£11.50 per week) and continues to be paid through Live Kitchen.

Music Hub Raffle

As I mentioned in July, we will be holding a weekly raffle to raise funds for the Music Hub and its equipment. Tickets will cost 50p and are on sale on Tuesdays only. Each week a winner will be drawn and will receive £10 in cash. It is hoped that we will be able to raise £1200 this year to complement the music teaching in school and all children will benefit from the new hub. I hope you feel able to support us in this initiative and good luck!

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 classroom doors to let the children in. 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.

Behaviour for Learning Contract

At the beginning of term, all children will sign the Behaviour for Learning Contract and will bring a copy home for you to discuss with them. Please support your child to do the very best they can so that they can each achieve the success they deserve.

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 2018/19. 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. This will be used to continue to fund swimming lessons for all children in Year 1 - 6, have sports providers to work with the children each lunchtime and support outdoor education through subsidising summer visits.

The Biathlon took place in June and we were delighted to raise over £1300! Several prizes for sponsorship were drawn in assembly at the end of term. Well done children! From this, we will donate £200 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.

