

## NEWSLETTER 1 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents, Pupils & Governors,

**Welcome** to the new school year – everyone arrived looking smart in their uniforms. Thank you to all the parents who encouraged their children to complete work over the holidays and take part in the library reading challenge. All children should have a coat for playtimes and come into school in their full PE kit on their PE days (not Reception). Please ensure everything is named – we have already had some mislaid items! I would like to thank Mr Littleford and his team for their hard work over the summer in preparing the school building for the start of term, the school looks fabulous.

### **Term Time Holiday Information from Attendance Compliance Enforcement Service –**

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of Platt v Isle of Wight Council which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school ‘regularly’ means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who are absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for. It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is ‘exceptional’ and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the ‘resident’ parent. *Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.* Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s). Your child’s progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

This information is available on our school website.

**Reception Class** - Reception children have made a really good start, thanks to parents for preparing them for this big step and to the BSA for helping our new parents with a welcoming coffee morning.

**Contact Details** – Data collection sheets are being sent home for all children – please check the detail carefully and amend as required. Return signed forms by *Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Sep*. The Privacy Notice detailing how we use information about children is available on our website.

### **PE & Forest School Timetables –**

	<u>PE Day</u>	<u>Forest School Session</u>
Monday	Mrs Roberts, Mrs Ellwood & Mrs Morris	Mrs Bent
Tuesday	Mrs Mills	
Wednesday	Mrs Bent, Miss Butler & Mr Thackway	Mrs Ellwood
Thursday	Mrs Walsh, Mrs Hudson & Miss Eyles	Mrs Roberts
Friday	Miss Drissell	Mrs Hudson (Year 1)

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**Reading Books** – Please check at home for school reading books that you may still have from last term.

### **Reminders:**

- **School Meals** – The price of a school meal is £2.25 for children in KS2 and are free for children in Reception & KS1. Families of children entitled to income dependent free school meals should still register so that we can claim *Pupil Premium of up to £1390* to help support your child in school. Please go to [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) to apply or contact us in confidence for further information.  
*Delibags* are available for children in Reception and KS1. These must be ordered at morning registration and orders cannot be changed at lunchtime.
- **Bump Notes** – We send home a ‘bump note’ if a child has any kind of bump to the head during school time (however minor), so that parents can look out for any possible after effects .
- **Water Bottles** – All children should bring in a named water bottle each day. Do not send in juice.
- **Nut Allergies** – Several children in school have severe nut allergies. Please help us ensure their safety by not including any nut products in packed lunches.
- **Milk** – If you would like your child to receive milk during the school day please apply online at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com). Children who are **under 5** automatically receive free milk, please let the office know if you do not wish your child to receive milk. Children who qualify for welfare free school meals are also entitled to free milk – please ask at the office.
- **Book Bags** – Children in KS1 should use bookbags for transporting books to and from school. Please do not use a rucksack.
- **School website** – Please use our website ([www.bidfordonavon.warwickshire.sch.uk](http://www.bidfordonavon.warwickshire.sch.uk)) to find lots of useful information about school including term dates, diary dates, dinner menus, newsletters, activities and policies.

**Clubs** – During the year we provide a variety of after school activities. Some of these are privately run by external providers who take responsibility for the children and charge a fee.

- Young Voices Year 3-6 starts Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Artbase Year 1 – 6 starts Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 3.20 – 4.20pm (fee payable)
- Girls Football Year 3 - 6 starts Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 3.20–4.30pm
- Arts & Crafts Rec – Year 6 starts Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September (fee payable)
- Tag Rugby Year 5 & 6 starts Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 3.20-4.30pm
- Hockey Year 3 & 4 starts Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 3.20-4.30pm
- Girls Netball Year 5 & 6 starts Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 3.20-4.30pm

Letters are available from the office and details of other clubs will follow over the next few weeks.

### **Dates for your Diary -**

- Year 3 Swimming lessons start on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.
- Second Hand Uniform Sale Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September - Hall
- The ‘Bidford Bash’ is being held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 2pm-6pm on the Big Meadow. Family fun with stalls, rides, live music, raffle, food stalls, bars, Zorbing and lots more.
- Individual pupil photographs will be taken on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- School Open Mornings for prospective parents will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October between 10 and 11.30am – please spread the word!
- Teacher Training Day (school closed to children) on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Book of the Week** – Children in Mrs Roberts’ class have been reading ‘The Man who Wore all his Clothes’ by Allan Ahlberg. One morning Mr Gaskitt puts on all his clothes, Mrs Gaskitt picks up a robber in her taxi, Gus and Gloria have trouble with a teacher. Horace the cat goes to a friend's house to watch TV and the car radio gets things wrong. But then what happens? And why does Mr. Gaskitt wear all his clothes?

**Mr A Simms**

*The latest from Bidford School Association...*

## **Welcome (back!) to the BSA!**

We have our first meeting pencilled in for Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> September – please join us if you can!

### **Uniform Take and Donate – Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September**

Come along after school and pick up any pieces of uniform you have forgotten to buy or not bought enough of! We will have a voluntary donation pot for BSA funds.

If you have any spare uniform you'd like to donate, please bring it on Monday to the school office.

If you have any spare pants and tights that the younger classes can use as spares, please bring those to the office too!

Our next event will be our school discos in October. Wishing everyone all the very best of luck for a great school year!

***The BSA Committee:***  
***Emily, Glenda, Laura and Sue***  
Emily Lee – Chair  
(07989323997)

Glenda Vassie – Vice-Chair  
(07928656855)  
Laura Simpson – Secretary  
(07712166158)  
Sue Woodward – Treasurer