



RAF Benson Community Primary School



Newsletter

Wednesday 23 October 2024

Dear Parents,

We have almost made it to the end of the first and the longest half term of the school year and what a term that has been. I have to say a heartfelt thank you for the loveliness and kindness you have extended to the team following the passing of Sarah Hastings and for your understanding in us closing the school early at 12pm on Friday this week to allow the team, as whole, to celebrate Sarah's life and support each other as well as our finance officer and her husband, Mark. and her children and father. It has been incredibly difficult; however, your support has been wonderful – thank you.

At the end of this week, we, very sadly, have two members of our school team leaving and moving on to new and exciting adventures.

Mrs Stokel will be moving due to a posting to a new area. She has worked in many year groups across school during her time with us and it has been great to see her develop in her role as she has undergone her own personal study with the aim of training to be a teacher. Mrs Stokel's kind and positive personality will be very much missed – we will also miss her fabulous staff quizzes!

Mrs Vickers is leaving us to step into the dark side of Secondary education as an Exams Officer. She has been the face of our school in our 'mission control' office with her big welcoming smile and fabulous Midland's accent since September 2022 and has supported many of you and the staff team in her role. Nothing has ever been too much trouble for Laura and her helpful and friendly nature will be very much missed from our team.

I am sure that you will join us in wishing both Mrs Stokel and Mrs Vickers every success in their new roles and many happy adventures ahead.

We are currently in the process of recruiting for Mrs Stokel's post however, on 11th November, we will be welcoming Mrs Willis who will be joining us to work in the school office. She has been in this role previously at another school and we are looking forward to welcoming her to the team. Thank you for your patience whilst we have a week covering the office ourselves during this time.

Here are a few dates of upcoming events and some notices for you.

Dates and Events

Friday 25 October – School finishes at 12pm for the half term break.

Wednesday 6 November – Parents Evening - This takes place in the school hall with classrooms open for viewing books and work. Online booking is open and thank you to those parents who have already booked. We do look to have 100% attendance from parents at this event so that teachers can share with you how your child has settled into their new class and the areas where they need further support. We look forward to seeing you then!

Friday 8 November – Service of Remembrance for Service Pupils – Again this year we will be attending a service at Dorchester Abbey to 'Remember and be Thankful' to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Our Year 5 and 6 will be attending with some of them reading and leading the service for Service children from local schools. We look forward to sharing their experience when they return.

Sunday 10 November – Act of Remembrance in Benson Village - Each year we gather outside of Derry's Den at 10:20am to get ready to join the parade. We ask children wishing to represent our school to be in school uniform and this year, I am looking for the members of School Council to be the group to lay our school wreath on the memorial on the morning. Children will need to have had breakfast please and also to wear a warm coat – we will hold the coat for those children walking to the memorial. We like to take a photo of all children attending for our social media page and then, for those families that wish to, you can then go on to the service at St Helen's Church. It usually is a lovely way to support our community and remember and thank those who made the ultimate sacrifice and, of course, those of you who still serve today.

Monday 11 November – Station Remembrance – Children in School Council will represent the school again in the Station act of remembrance and we will also be taking some children to read. During this time, a service will also be held in school allowing the whole school to reflect and remember those who gave their lives for our today.

WC 11 November – Learn with Your Child. We will be having a Learn with you child week again where we invite you into class to take part in a lesson with your child. A timetable of sessions will be issued the first week back.

Friday 15 November – Coffee Morning - Our next coffee morning for this term will be on Friday 15 November. Come and join us and some of the community team in the school Wessex Room for a hot drink and a biscuit or two from 9am to 10am. Little ones are very welcome too!

Wednesday 4 December - Christmas Fair – We are looking forward to welcoming our community to this event in school where we will have the school choir singing carols, there will also be class stalls with high quality seasonal products, festive food, chocolate tombola, Christmas games and hopefully (with help from some wonderful volunteers) a Santa's grotto! If you can help us pull this magical event together, please do email the school office.

Thursday 12 December – KS1 Nativity – We are excited to say that we will be holding our nativity on 12 December in the Station Church, and this will involve all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We are asking parents to select a performance to attend from either 10am or 5pm on this day and allocate **only two places per family**. This is so that we can accommodate everyone who would like to attend. We are not doing physical tickets as we would like to trust that everyone will respect our request please. If there are siblings, please do bring them and we ask that they either sit on the floor/laps of parents where they can see or stand at the back. For the later performance, we keep the children in school at the end of the day, provide them with some snacks to keep their energy levels up and take them to the church for you to collect from the church at 6pm. More information will come out closer the time but please save this date in your diary!

Friday 13 December - Christmas Jumper Day – No money. No donations. Just for fun!

Friday 20 December - Carols around the tree – come and join us at 2pm where we will be singing carols and festive songs to finish the term in a very Christmassy way. Classes will be singing their own songs and, to give you some advanced notice, 'some' audience participation will be required....

Notices

Parent Helpers – Thank you for to those parents who have expressed an interest in becoming parent helpers. We will be in touch with you after half term for an induction session and get you in and helping support learning and on school trips where we need additional adults.

Fundraising – Perhaps linking to the above, I am keen to start some of our fundraising activities such as school discos and quiz nights up and running again however we really need your help. As we do not have a PTA and due to the nature of many people moving around, we are looking to

work in a different way – which a lot of schools in our position are doing. I am looking for a few willing parent volunteers who might be willing to be part of a ‘fundraising’ group to discuss events and activities and help with the organisation and running of these. If you are interested, please do email the school office – we would love to hear from you...especially as the School Christmas fair is approaching and we are looking for a team of people to help sprinkle a little Christmas magic.

Attendance – Just for this term, communication around your child's attendance will be issued towards the end of this week. Please do note that it is our policy from the LA to inform you if your child's attendance is low (below 95%) or if your child is a persistent absentee (below 90%). We will know why your child will have been absent and it may have been for as little as 3.5 days, however we just need to let you know. Over time, with good attendance, the percentages will improve. Thank you for your support.

Mobile Phones – A reminder that mobile phones are not to be used on the school premises please. This request stems from not only a safeguarding perspective but also seeing children enthusiastic to share their day with parents who are walking off on their phone. It has been so lovely since bringing this in to see parents and children positively chat about their day and we want this to continue with your support.

What is your child learning? – As a reminder, class teachers will update the class web page with photographs during the term to reflect what your child has been learning in class. At the start of each term, you will receive a Topic Web which will share with you the areas that the children will be looking at over the next term and you will also get a Knowledge Organiser which details the key facts that the children should be able to know and remember by the end of the term. Please feel free to rehearse these facts with your children to support their learning in school. These documents will also be put on the class web page too.

Finally, a personal thank you to you all for your support to the team in my poorly timed absence due to my broken leg which, thankfully, is on the mend! I know school is in very capable hands with everyone stepping up and supporting Miss Galvin and the leadership team with the day to day running of school; which is testament to what a superb team we have here at RAF Benson.

As always, should you have any questions, please do get in touch and I hope that you have a lovely half term break with some great autumnal activities with family and friends.

Best wishes

Steph Fawdry

Steph Fawdry
Headteacher