

Byerley Park Primary School Newsletter

Issue 4 – 18th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, I cannot believe we are coming to the end of our first half term of the year. We were so pleased to be able to welcome parents in to school for the Harvest Festival and life at school seems to be reaching some sort of 'normality'. Thank you for your continued support with Covid regulations, donations and general school life.

Have a lovely half term break next week and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 1st November 2021.

Mrs Pattison

School Council



Our School Council comprises of a small group of pupils and staff. The School Council discuss a wide range of topics regarding school life at Byerley Park and the School Council representatives give a child's eye point of view to these topics. Previous School Council Members have also been involved in interviews for members of staff: e.g. the new Head Teacher and Caretaker. The School Council members aim to meet each half term.

The following pupils have been appointment to the School Council for this academic year:

Jack & Sophia – Y6
Frances & Harper – Y5
Jessica & William – Y4
Harry & Chloe – Y3
Ethan & Grace – Y2

Team Captains

The Team Captains (all from Year 6) for this academic year are:

Democracy – Oscar & Tyler

Respect – Jake & Chloe

Liberty – Maddi & Zac

Law – Lily & Emily

The Team Captains count the team points across the school each week. They motivate others in their Team to do their best and are role models for younger pupils. The Team Captains also represented our school at the recent open afternoon for new Reception parents, where they each talked about life at Byerley Park and were fabulous ambassadors for our school.

PTA led End of Term Disco – Thursday 21st October

The PTA are delighted to be able to hold an end of half term disco. This is **not** Halloween themed, so no fancy dress outfits please - just normal party clothes.

Infants – 5.30pm - 6.50pm

Juniors – 7.00pm – 8.30pm



£2.50 per child to include entertainment, crisps a drink & a take home mix up bag. **Payment must be made via ParentPay by 4pm on 21st October, at the latest.**

Parents of Infant children may stay if they wish, but there is no obligation to do so. If you do stay, a face mask must be worn. For safety reasons, please do not drive into the school car park to drop off/pick up children.

School Uniform - Please Name it!



As the colder weather approaches, children will need to wear warmer outdoor clothing. **Please remember to name every item of clothing so we have half a chance of returning lost property to its correct owner.** The children have been told in school to take responsibility for their own clothing in an attempt to reduce the disproportionate amount of time spent in school looking for 'lost' items during lesson times and it is therefore crucial that it is named.

Each child has a coat peg in the cloakroom to hang their outdoor coat. Please can you make sure that the coat has a loop on it to make hanging it up easier for the children. You would be surprised how many 'hang' on the floor!

Boots and wellingtons can be worn to school; however, children must wear school shoes once inside the building. **Again, please ensure footwear is named too.**

Advance Notice – Remembrance Assembly for Junior Parents



Parents of **Junior children** are invited to attend our Remembrance Day Assembly **on Thursday 11th November at 10.45am**. Doors will open at 10.35am.

Due to Covid restrictions, we must restrict numbers to 2 per family and masks must be worn by all adults attending (unless you are medically exempt).

Advance Notice - Children in Need - Friday 19th November

Once again, we will be supporting the Children in Need appeal.

We are asking children to wear something spotty instead of their school shirt and tie (please wear school skirt/trousers on the lower part of the body). There is no need to buy an outfit especially for this day - you could sellotape paper or fabric spots on to a top. Donations of at least £1 should be made using your Parentpay account and you can pay this any time from now up until the 19th November. All proceeds will be sent directly to Children in Need.



If pupils do not wish to dress up, that is fine. Normal uniform applies.

Thank you for your support.

Fundraising for Charity



As a school, we think it is good that the children learn that there are many ways that we can help others less fortunate than ourselves.

So far this term we have supported the Newton Aycliffe Foodbank. When we return after the half term break, we will be asking for donations for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Children in Need.

There are many other worthwhile charities that ask for our support, however, I am sure you will understand that we are unable to donate to them all.

Thank you all for your continued support – it is greatly appreciated.

Water Bottles

It is really important that children are kept hydrated throughout the day. This aids concentration.

Ideally, children should bring in a filled water bottle every day. We have water coolers in school to refill if they become empty.

However, I am aware that some children simply will not drink water. If this is the case for your child, please send in sugar free diluted squash instead of plain water.

Fizzy drinks must not be brought to school.

Christmas Tea Towels/Mugs etc.



All children have created a festive design that will be sent away to be professionally transformed into a Christmas Card.

As soon as we get the proof copies back, we will send them home with instructions on how to order from a range of personalised products, such as Christmas cards, mugs, tea towels, gift tags, etc.
(all of which make great presents for grandparents)!

Orders will need to be paid for using your Parent Pay Account. Watch this space over the next few weeks, for more information.

School Meals – Winter Menu

When we return to school after half term, we will use our winter menu. We operate a ‘card system’ where children in Year 2 and above select their choice of meal in advance so that they will be guaranteed that they will get the meal they have chosen.

If you would like your child to move from packed lunches to school meals, please contact the School Office. School Meals cost £2.15 per day (£10.75 per week) and children get a substantial main course, bread, dessert and drink.

Keeping warm in school

Whilst we do have the heating on in school when the weather is cold, we also have to keep windows and doors open, to ensure good ventilation around school, in line with our Covid Risk Assessment. This naturally makes the inside of the building cooler than in previous years.

Therefore, please could I ask that children wear warm underclothes (i.e. vest, t-shirt) under their school uniform, in addition to wearing their sweatshirt/cardigan, to help them keep warm whilst in class.

Reading Corner



This Newsletter’s tip is:

‘Ask Questions!’

Ask questions about the story as you read it:

- e.g.
- What is the story about?
 - Why do you think they made that choice?
 - Was it a good choice?
 - Why did that happen?
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - What was your favourite part of the story?
 - Why?