

Ursula Taylor Church of England School

Newsletter
15th May 2014



MAY VALUE 'TOLERANCE'

I am not perfect. Are you? Let us accept the fact that nobody is perfect. Let us learn to accept our imperfections as well as those of others.

Source unknown

MRS MORRALL'S MOANS...

This is the sad part of headship that has to be done but is never enjoyable. I know this does not apply to the majority of parents although there are a small number of people consistently breaking our school policies. Ironically this is during our monthly value of 'Tolerance', although we are all learning that some things do not need to be tolerated! **Please** abide by the following...

Strictly NO Dogs on the school site. This is a source of great concern to some of our children. Our children come to school to feel safe and cared for, unfortunately this is not always possible when dogs have been brought on the premises. This includes not tying dogs up on the school gates.

Strictly NO smoking on the school site. This includes the grassy area by the bike sheds. Please do not bring lit cigarettes onto any part of the school site.

NO playing on the balcony areas before / after school. It has been reported that children are playing with the resources on the balcony whilst waiting for school to open in the morning. We do NOT have insurance to cover any injury to children before they are in the care of the staff. Please ensure your children stay on the playground until the doors are opened.



SCHOOL LUNCH ARREARS

It has been brought to my attention that there are considerable amounts of outstanding dinner monies owed to Caterlink. There will be reminders issued next week and I ask that these are paid promptly, especially as we are coming into the last part of the school year.

Caterlink ask for dinner money to be paid in advance or on the day the meal is for. They reserve the right to refuse a child a school meal if they receive no payment.

There is a very serious side to not paying for meals eaten. The money has to be paid to Caterlink. If parents do not pay for the meals taken then the school has to pay out of our budget. Our budget is extremely tight and cannot take the hit of paying for children's lunches. This money has to be paid out of the learning resources budget which directly impacts negatively upon your children's learning.

Frontier Centre 2014

Once again the Frontier Centre trip has been an enormous success. The Year 4 children have come back full of tales of daring adventure and with beaming smiles on their faces. I would like to thank Parents for supporting the trip and giving your children the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful experience. I would also like to thank the staff who went on the trip and also those who helped with the admin aspects of the residential. It is also important to point out how amazing your children have been. Their behaviour, involvement and confidence has been great to see and hear about. The Teachers have reported that the children were a dream to take, they ate well, slept well, tried everything and were a credit to our school and to you as parents. I hope the washing isn't too arduous and that you all have a restful weekend to recharge!

Swimming

We have been told by our maintenance people that the work on the pool will be finished in time for us to start swimming next week. For the first week the children will only swim for one session as an introduction.

Please make sure your child has their kit in school on **Monday 19th May**

The kit must be named and comprise of: costume / trunks, towel, swimming hat (available from School office for £1)

Dinner Money for the 2nd Half of the Summer Term (2nd June to 23rd July)

Full 1/2 term - £79.80

Friday dinners = £14.70

Cheques to be made payable to Caterlink



PTFA Magic Show

There will be a flyer in your child's book bag today about the PTFA Magic Show. Please complete this and return as soon as possible if you would like your child/ children to attend. It is always a very popular event and well supported by children and families. Our thanks to the PTFA for organising this.

PTFA 'Kids on the Catwalk'

Thank you very much to the PTFA for their efforts with the Fashion Show, I understand that the money raised stands at around £600 so far with the potential for a little more to follow. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event and we hope it is something we can organise again in the future.



Cats at Bedford Modern School

Last week the children in the Year 3 Choir and some of Year 4 who didn't attend the Frontier Centre had a lovely afternoon at Bedford Modern watching their performance of Cats.

The performance was very impressive and had our children entranced. It was lovely to see such awe and wonder on the faces of our children!

I must congratulate the children on their impeccable behaviour and manners, they were a wonderful group to take on a visit!

Term Dates for 2014 -2015.

I know some parents need to organise childcare in advance for the coming academic year. We have decided to stick with the term dates on the Bedford Borough website. This falls in line with Lincroft and Sharnbrook. The only difference is one training day which we will have, which the Middle and Upper will take at another time.

For more information please see: http://www.bedford.gov.uk/education_and_learning/schools_and_colleges/school_term_and_holiday_dates.aspx



Badgers at UTS!

You may be aware that we have had terrible issues with our Badger Sett currently around by the Foundation Stage area. We have had holes in our field created by foraging Badgers, big holes in the Foundation garden and Mr Beacon nearly swallowed alive by a hole suddenly appearing. In order to keep our children safe and provide the educational experiences we have had in the past, we have had to take steps to move the Badgers.

Over half term an artificial Badger Sett is being created on another part of the school site, away from the problem areas. The Badgers will, in time be encouraged to move to the new sett through the use of peanuts and raisins! Once the Badgers have moved, the old sett will be closed down permanently. Unfortunately the Badger sett is so far reaching that the Mulberry Tree over which the Badgers live has become unstable and potentially very dangerous. In order to assure the safety of our children staff and parents, the Mulberry Tree will be removed. This has been a decision not taken lightly and over a period of many months of watching the problem become steadily worse.

Due to the protected status of badgers, we have had to follow a very strict procedure and abide by the laws of a badger licence. The process is one which is time consuming and expensive, I am pleased to say that this will not impact upon our general school budget as we have been able to secure funding directly from the DfE to cover something as unusual as this.

There will also be some positives to come out of this process:

- No more damage to our grounds!
- Foundation can enter their gardening competitions again
- A new 'values' tree can be planted in a more appropriate place
- The children can learn about badgers and ecology in depth during the process
- The BBC will be filming to make a programme about ' Britain beneath the Earth'! (Details to follow...)
- Year 2 and Foundation can claim their 'land' back
- Sports Day and future Summer Fairs can occur trouble free

I hope you find this information useful, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.