

# The Bluecoat School and Nursery Unit

*working in partnership with The Stamford Children's Centre*

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**Head Teacher – Mrs C Hines**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

## **May Newsletter 2014**

Dear Parents

Firstly, I hope that you all enjoyed your bank holiday weekend and the lovely sunshine. With three weeks of this term left, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a few matters.

### **Swimming for Y1/2**

Swimming started last week for children in Y1/2. They all enjoyed a really successful first session and it was lovely to hear from the teachers how well behaved and enthusiastic the children were. I would like to thank all of those parents who are supporting the staff by helping with walking to and from the pool and with changing the children. I have been asked by the pool to remind all parents that mobile phones should not be used in the changing rooms at any time. May I also politely remind parents to help children to change in the main part of the changing rooms and not to use the cubicles. Thank you.



### **Our Website**

As you know, we launched our new website last term. We are continuing to develop the content of the website for your enjoyment and hope you all take the time to visit it regularly with your children. We aim to keep you up to date with news and forthcoming events via the website and to share details of your children's learning with you through the photo galleries and our blog section. You can visit the website on [www.bluecoatprimaryschool.com](http://www.bluecoatprimaryschool.com).

### **Bug Busting**

Unfortunately, there will always be incidents of headlice occurring within primary schools. Clearly we would all like to eliminate this problem completely but this is impossible. We are grateful for the parental support we have with controlling the relatively few incidents of headlice that do occur and we do our best to provide school based support where needed. I hope that the 'bug busting' materials we sent home last term to all families will continue to support our whole school positive campaign to target this issue and we are grateful for your continued support with this matter.



## **Another reason to celebrate!**

I am delighted that advise you that we have received confirmation last week that our Nursery is the first in Lincolnshire to be awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark. This award is significant, highly regarded and recognises our inclusive ethos and is another success for our school. Mrs Magan led the application process and I would like to record my grateful thanks to her and the Early Years Team for their hard work and efforts in securing the recognition of our inclusive practice by this national awarding body. We will be attending a celebration ceremony in Lincoln on 8th July 2014 to receive the award on behalf of the setting. You can find out more about the award by visiting [www.inclusionmark.co.uk](http://www.inclusionmark.co.uk).

## **End of Day Arrangements**

A few issues have arisen again recently with regard to the end of the day and leaving the premises after school has ended. These have raised some concerns with regard to health and safety and the wellbeing of children once they have left their teachers. In view of this I would ask that you please observe the following to ensure that all children are kept safe. Thank you.



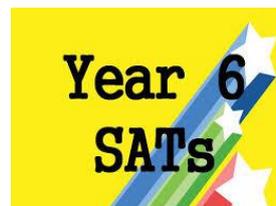
- Once your children have been collected or met up with you, please supervise them yourself and have them wait with you until you are ready to leave the premises.
- **Under no circumstances should children go onto the school field or the trim track equipment either with or without an adult for strict health and safety reasons.**
- Children who go home independently should leave the school premises promptly at the end of the school day.
- Please do not allow your child to ride either bikes or scooters on the playground at the end of the school day. Bikes which are either collected from bike racks or brought by parents to school at home time should not be used at all until after children have left the playground and ideally the premises.



I have shared these expectations with your child today in assembly and I would welcome your support and co-operation with these important precautions which are taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all adults and children at the end of the school day.



## Statutory Tests and Screening Checks



Key Government statutory tests and screening checks and end of year progress assessments take place for Y6, Y2, Y1 and YR during the summer terms. It is really important for all children in these year groups that they are in school every day during the assessment periods and I have noted these below for your information. As previously advised, I will not be able to authorise **any** term time absence during periods of statutory testing.

**Year 6 – Key Stage 2 statutory tests and assessments – week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**Year 2 – Key Stage 1 statutory assessments – throughout May and June 2014**

**Year 1 (and some Y2 children) – Phonics Screening test – week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Reception – End of Foundation Stage progress assessments throughout May and June 2014**

A separate letter has been sent today to parents of children in Y6 providing full details of the arrangements for the KS2 statutory tests next week and parents of children in Y1 have been invited to attend an information meeting regarding the Phonics Screening test on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

## Absence From School for Holiday Purposes



As the summer and holiday season approaches, may I politely remind you again about the important change in the school attendance law which came into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 for all schools nationally. All schools are now only able to authorise any requests for absence for holiday purposes in **'exceptional circumstances'**. These exceptional circumstances are likely to be very rare and will **not include affordability reasons**. All family holidays should therefore be arranged during school closure periods and you all have copies of this year's term dates to support you to make your arrangements during school holidays.

If despite the above guidance, parents do wish to request permission for their child/children to be absent from school for any purpose, any such requests should be put in writing to me in the first instance. Letters should clearly explain the nature of the exceptional circumstances and parents should wait for the outcome **before** making any confirmed holiday or other arrangements.



## Arriving at School on Time

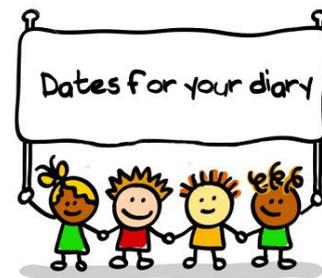
I am pleased to advise you most children arrive at school on time and ready for the bell at 8.40am. There are however, a few children who continue to arrive at school late on a regular basis and I would like to remind you of our expectation and requirement that all children are at school on time each day. Late arrivals are recorded as absence for the morning session and I will therefore be contacting parents where this continues to be an issue within the next few days agree a plan to improve matters.



I am pleased to advise you that our overall rate is improving. However, further improving our whole school attendance and ensuring that all children arrive at school on time, remains a very important school and parent partnership responsibility and I would greatly appreciate your co-operation with this very important matter.

### **Key Summer Term Dates**

Finally, you will find a list of dates of the main school events which are planned between now and the end of this school year attached to this newsletter. I am providing details of these dates well in advance to support those parents who may need to make arrangements to be able to attend events as necessary. Full details of each event will be provided nearer the time. Details of specific events taking place within Nursery and Reception will follow by separate letter from the Foundation Stage team. I hope that you find this information useful and we look forward to welcoming you the various events during the coming weeks.



We are all looking forward to a very busy but exciting and positive few weeks ahead!

Kind regards

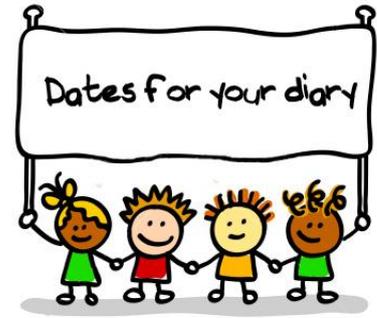
Carol Hines  
Headteacher



## Key Summer Term Dates 2014

### May 2014

- E-Safety Day – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014



### June 2014

- YR to Y6 – Sports Day – Tuesday 24th June 2014 PM
- Y3 Mini Olympics Event in Grantham – Thursday 26th June 2014

### July 2014

- Summer Fayre and BBQ – Thursday 3rd July 2014 – 5.00pm to 7.00pm
- Annual End of Year Reports issued – Monday 14th July 2014
- Y6 Leavers Presentation Evening – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 6pm
- Optional Parent's Evening – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014
- Y1 to Y6 End of Year Fun Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014
- School year ends Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 at 3.15pm