

# GREAT BRADFORDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

We are fast approaching half term and it seems unbelievable that the first half term is already over. It has been a busy half term already and we must thank Mrs Shead and the teachers for all the elections that have taken place, as well as yourselves for contributing to the Harvest collection. Mrs Shead has also organised all the clubs with my admin team and they got off to a flying start. She has also organised the annual conker competition – it is good to see that such old-fashioned events can still take place and that the children still enjoy these. All names of winners are on the school website or in Reception.

It was good to see so many of you at the Parent-Teacher consultation evenings this week, which is always timed to take place now to review how your children have settled in to their new class and set out the learning targets for the year as well as iron out any niggles. Our next consultation will be around the February half term as the mid point of the year but, as ever, do not hesitate to contact the teacher or myself if there are any issues in the meantime.

I am off to Kingswood with the Year 6 children next week, so would like to wish you all a happy half term. I expect to return to school exhausted so am looking forward to the break and, hopefully, some decent autumn weather with not too much rain.

Best wishes,

Fiona Dorey  
Headteacher



A message from your PTFA: Who we are and what we do.

We are a group of volunteer parents from both the infant and junior schools. We organise and run events including the Easter egg hunt, summer fete and coffee mornings to name a few. All monies raised get shared equally between both schools to help with much needed equipment that the schools normal budgets can't reach. Events cannot go ahead without the help of willing parents to run stalls, sell tickets, wrap lucky dip prizes etc.

The PTFA helped raise money towards the purchase and upkeep of the playpod and are currently raising money to develop the outside area of the school including clearing and improving the existing pond and having an outdoor reading area on the field. The school would also like to use the money to install a sand pit.

If you would like to help and be part of these successful and exciting events, please message us on our Facebook page or leave your name and email address with reception.

Thank you

Kerrie Phillips, Chair



We had a huge response to the after school clubs and are really sorry that we could not accommodate everyone. I appreciate that some children will be disappointed. Where possible we have created waiting lists and those who were not successful will be prioritised for the requested club next term or in the summer. Cooking club, for example, is very popular but we are only able to have eight pupils due to the nature of the activity and the size of the facilities – there were 54 applicants!

If your child is not able to stay for a club we do ask that an adult lets us know either by a phone call to the office or via Mrs Shead at the door in the morning. We are not happy to accept messages from the children as we need to ensure that we have the correct information so that children do not go missing.

Thank you.



### Once a Week, take a peek

We have found a new website which has been designed to support parents in the constant battle against those little beasts called headlice. It is called 'once a week, take a peek' and has lots of helpful advice for us all. Follow this link for more information: <http://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com/>



### **Scooters, bikes etc:**

Please could we ask for your support in talking to the children about taking care when riding scooters and bikes to school. We have had several complaints already this term of children racing on the pathways which are also used by pedestrians and also doing scooter tricks which have resulted in passing children getting hurt by swinging scooters.

Thank you.

### Half Term Holiday Club:

We are opening the school for Happy Halloween Fun with lots of Spooky Things To Do! 09.30 until 16.30 on Thursday 26th. Only £15.95. All children are welcome. For more information and booking details go to [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com).



### Conker Competition

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October (I know) we held our Great Bradfords Conker Competition. Our winners in each year are Year 3: Holly Spragge 3J, Year 4: Oliver Watts 4R, Year 5: Jack Down 5S, and Year 6: Ronnie Stanley, 6S. After a very tense semi-final and final I can now tell you that in Bronze position was Oliver Watts, Henry House & Ronnie Stanley, Edison House. Silver position was Holly Spragge, Rowling House. The overall winner for the whole school was Jack Down, Simmonds House who gained 100 points for their house. Very well done and well played.

## Harvest Festival

Again our theme for this year is 'Charity Begins at Home, again', I am pleased to say that our stage was well laden with your generosity towards the Braintree Food Bank. The Food Bank looks after families in need in the Braintree area. This year we managed to collect 313 items of food, the items were dropped off on Friday morning and the staff were thrilled with the contributions. Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards this very worthy cause.



Wanted - plastic bottles and lids for an outdoor learning area project.

2 litre fizzy drinks bottle with lids

2 pint, 4 pint and 6 pint milk bottles with lids

Plastic bottle lids of any size

Please make sure they are rinsed out before your child brings them into school.



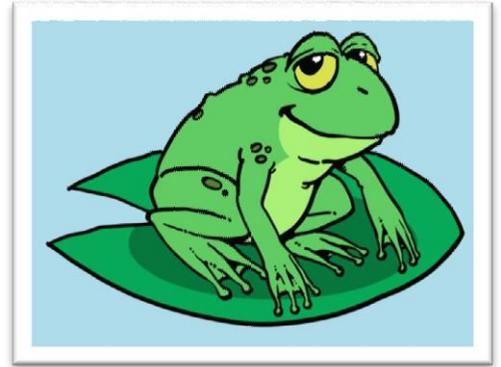
On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Year 4 took part in Outdoor Classroom Day which is a worldwide campaign to get millions of children learning and playing outside. Learning outdoor creates lasting memories, helps build greater awareness of the environment, provides more opportunities to think independently, and gets children feeling challenged and excited by learning. Each child in Year 4 experienced a science, maths and art lesson outdoors. For Science, we build mini beast hotels; for Maths we used our reasoning, estimating and mental calculation skills; and in art the children created their own masterpiece based on the work of Andrew Goldsworthy. It was a fantastic experience for all involved and something that we are planning to repeat every half term and possibly explore within other year groups.



## Wildlife Club

Have you ever met a frog in person? Well I have now, thanks to Wildlife Club. Wildlife Club is held at the playground pond and also at the school allotment. At Wildlife we have lots of fun even though we get our hands dirty! We are working as a team to clear out the pond and help our allotment be healthy and beautiful again. I love Wildlife Club because it makes helping the environment fun and I love finding animals. On our first week we found two eggs and lots more things. I can't wait until next time.

By Melissa Purkiss 6D



## Roman day!

On the Roman day it was really good and I enjoyed it. We made bread and Mrs Bari didn't do herself any because she forgot so I gave her some of mine. After that we went to eat lots of different food like bread with honey, bread with fish and cucumber and olives. We also did something on the computer and it was called mosaic. I did a butterfly.

## Colchester Castle

At Colchester Castle it was really cool because we looked at lots of things. We wore the clothes and I pretended to be Boudicca. We went on a story tour in the dungeons and found out about Boudicca and the Romans. We built a Roman Villa and Celtic Roundhouse. We also went to the park so we could play. It was fun!

Julia Garbacz 4B

## Roman Day

On our Roman day we tried some Roman foods. I tried some olives but I didn't like them. We also did some bread making in the hall. We put different ingredients in the bread. We put in honey, olive oil, flour and water. We tried the bread when we got home. The bread tasted really good. We also did some mosaic on the computers. We all did it in the ICT suite. We also made our own mosaics. I think my Roman day was brilliant.

Holly Howard 4B



## **Dates for your Diary**

**Autumn Term 2017: Monday 4th September - Wednesday 20th December**

**Half Term: Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October**

**(Non-pupil Day 4th December)**

15th-20th October	Yr 6 Kingswood visit
17th October	Yr 5 visit from Zoos4U
7th November	Flu immunisations
29th November	Yr 5 visit to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village

**Spring Term 2018: Tuesday 2nd January - Thursday 29th March**

**Half Term: Monday 12th - Friday 16th February**

**(Non-pupil days 2nd January and 9th February)**

31st January	Choir visit to O2 for Young Voices concert
5th February	Yr 5 visit from Star Dome
13th March	Class photos
15th/16th March	Yr 6 visit to Warner Bros Harry Potter Studios

**Summer Term 2018: Monday 16th April - Friday 20th July**

**Half Term: Tuesday 29th May- Friday 1st June**

**(Non-pupil day 25th May)**

30th April	Yr 5 visit to Legoland
14th-18th May	Yr 6 SATs tests
13th June	Yr 5 Road Safety walks

**“Drop In” sessions with Sharon McCormick (Family Liaison Worker)**

**Junior School – 20th October, 24th November and 15th December**

**Infant School – 16th October, 13th November and 11th December**

**Parents may attend Drop In sessions at either school.**