



GREAT BRADFORDS JUNIOR SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, despite the floral decorations around the newsletter (thank you to Mrs Banks for all the pictures and extras as ever) it is still trying to snow and is still cold. I am beginning to wonder whether we will ever see Spring this year. I must say that, thanks to the Gardening Club, Mr Tillsley and Miss Sherman, we do have some flowers around the school in the shape of the geraniums, which they dug up last summer. The plan is to repot these when the weather is better. I am keeping my fingers crossed that it is warmer when we return after half term.

It has been a very short but busy half term and the next half term promises to be much the same. As I am writing this, the children are taking part in the cross-country competition. They are also busy finishing off pieces of work from this half term ready to share with you all during the Parent Consultation meetings to take place this evening and tomorrow. It is always a pleasure to see you all come to discuss your children's learning with them and the teachers and to celebrate their achievements as well as consider what they need to do next to improve further. Another highlight of the recent weeks has been taking the older children in school choir to the O2 for the Young Voices event – such a long day but so enjoyable and a great opportunity for the children to participate in such an event at very little cost. What an experience for them all!

We have had several visitors to the school recently for one reason or another and I wanted to pass on to you that every single one commented so favourably on how friendly, polite and well-behaved the children are. This is always fantastic to hear!

Just to remind you that Friday is a non-pupil day and the teachers and support staff will be attending training, but we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 19th February.

Best wishes,

Fiona Dorey
Headteacher



Mrs Bari

It is with great sadness that I am writing to let you know that Mrs Bari has decided that the time has come for her to retire. Mrs Bari has been the deputy here for almost five years now and she has worked quietly and calmly in a multitude of roles with both the children and the staff. Many of them feel greatly supported by her and she has stepped into the breach on several occasions to take over class responsibility and return to her passion, which is teaching. She is going to finish at the end of the summer term and I know that she will be sorely missed by us all in the school. However, we wish her all the best for her future adventures – she is not going to be sitting back and taking it easy and has lots planned.

Obviously this means that we will be appointing a new Deputy Headteacher and I will write again to confirm that appointment as and when all details are finalised.

Young Voices

Many thanks to Miss Elliston, Mrs Walker and Mrs Turton for all the hard work they put into getting the school choir ready to participate in the Young Voices event at the O2 last week. I just went along for the day and was very impressed with how everything worked out. The children had a great time and those parents who were able to attend also enjoyed the concert. We took some photos and they are on the school dropbox so parents who attended should be able to see those (they will be deleted after a month).



Unfortunately, the children had to suffer a quick history lesson in front of one of the displays of Vinyl albums, old TVs and cassettes and videos, which only served to prove to them all how old I really am!

We have already signed up for next year.

A plea for Volunteers:

We are looking for volunteers to come and help with the digging and clearing of the allotment and sheds in preparation for the children to be able to access them in the Summer Term. Giving the children back a dedicated and useable area of the allotment will be so beneficial in terms of not only their learning but also physically and mentally. The proposed date is Saturday 3rd March 9.00 – 12.00. Please come along and support us for however long you can. Please note - due to health and safety legislation, I must stress that we can't have children on site as there won't be anyone available to look after them. If you can spare an hour or 3, can you please let the office know so I can start compiling a list of attendees. Also, if you have any equipment that you think will be of use on the day, please bring it!



Many thanks

Melissa Rankine



PTFA news:

The PTFA held a quiz night last Friday which was very successful. I understand that a great time was had by all and about 120 people attended. A whopping £670 was raised so a big THANK YOU to all those who organised it and all those who supported.

The next event is the PJ and Popcorn event in the school hall on Thursday 8th March from 5:45 – 7:15pm and then the Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Saturday 24th March. More news to follow on both these events, so look out for the flyers in the bottom of the bags.

As ever, we are immensely grateful for all the hard work put into raising funds for the school by the PTFA members.

Train to Teach:

NEETSA (North East Essex Teaching School Alliance) are hosting a Train to Teach Event in the Essex region. Hear presentations given by Colchester Teacher Training Consortium on teacher training options at **16.30** and **18.00** and speak to teaching experts and receive advice.

Meet representatives from Teaching School Alliances and other providers in this region

Wednesday 21st February 2018

16.00—19.00

Colchester County High School for Girls

Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US



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If you would like to find out more information, please join us.

To book a place or for further information please email: NEETSA@colchestergirls.essex.sch.uk

A fantastic opportunity to drop in and speak with practising teachers, training providers and professionals!

Lost Property:

As we approach half term and many of you are attending Parents' meetings, please could I ask that you check the lost property in reception.

After half term any unclaimed hats, gloves, scarves etc will go into the box in reception before being disposed of at the end of term.

Thank you.



Dates for Your Diary

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

Half Term: Monday 12th - Friday 16th February

(Non-pupil day 9th February)

7th & 8th February	Parents Evenings
26 th February	Bake Sale (Details to follow)
6 th March	Year 3 Fire Safety talks
13th March	Class photos
15th/16th March	Yr 6 visit to Warner Bros Harry Potter Studios
20th & 21st March	Yr 4 Production

Drop In" sessions with Sharon McCormick (Family Liaison Worker)

Junior School – 23rd February, 23rd March, 27th April, 18th May and 29th June

Infant School – 12th march, 16th April, 14th May, 11th June and 16th July

Parents may attend Drop In sessions at either school.

Sharon is able to offer advice and support on many aspects of family life, including behaviour management strategies, home/school communication and support, or contact with other services. Alternatively, Sharon can be contacted via 01376 552393 or sharon@lyonshall.essex.sch.uk