

Dear Families,



Russian music event at Millfields First School- developing collaboration and experiences to support wider cultural awareness.

June 2018

We are almost half way through our final half term in school for this year. Where has the time gone? This last half term is vital to your child's education and it is important that they attend school as much as possible. Missing things in school at this time of year is really unhelpful. During this half term, the teachers continue to ensure that the children make as much progress as they can to help alleviate the inevitable time spent away from school during the summer holiday break and some loss of skills. The teachers also work on transition now, helping the children understand the change of expectation likely from September when they are in their new year groups, by raising the expectations just a little higher and expecting more independence, especially from the younger children in Red and Green Classes. For those off to Middle School, teachers and children now receive visits from the Middle School teachers, pay visits to their new schools and take part in work that is sent on to the new schools. During the last week of the term, children visit their new teachers and classrooms and Year 4s take part in their End of Year Breakfast. In addition, we have a Summer Fair, Red Class family assembly, catering projects for all classes, Bellboating Regatta and our new Red Class and Nursery for September 2018 start their storyclub/ visit sessions. We look forward to welcoming both our new Reception and Nursery children and Mrs Webb and Mrs Mander are currently involved in home/ Nursery visits.

### Malvern residential trip

The Year 4s had an amazing trip to Malvern last week. It was the first trip in 10 years where Mrs Moss and Miss Townsend were not woken in the night by children...so this counts as an excellent trip! Many of the children were away from home for the first time and all had significantly more responsibility placed on them than they normally have on sleepovers. It was an absolute joy to see that all of the hard work of families and school in developing those life skills were put to good use on this trip. The children were: enthusiastic; helpful to each other; kind and caring; exceptionally well behaved; brave and resilient and organised and self disciplined. As a result of this, they had a super time and so did we. The instructors always comment on the children's behaviour and attitude and this year was no exception. Infact, this could count as our best ever trip. (Don't tell those older siblings who came with us before...)

Below are some photos to share the learning and experiences that the children enjoyed. Well done Year 4, you were superstars and represented your families and school very well.

### MALVERN PHOTOS



Resilience, teamwork, independence...all on show at Malvern. These skills for life will support them for the future.



### Early Years and Year 1 training for staff

Over the last few years, our Early Years staff members have taken part in extensive training in Early Years Indoor and Outdoor education. Now that we will have such strong Early Years practice and provision in school, we are moving onto develop our Year 1 provision over the next six weeks. In order to support your own understanding of the provision on offer, we will share some of the training with you via newsletters.

### Collective Worship

Our themes over the coming weeks are 'Simplicity,' 'Aspiration' and 'Changes' and we are considering all the things in our world that are so easy to take for granted. We will be considering the UN 'Rights of the Child' article that says that all children have the right to a name and what this means. We will also be looking at nature and learn to appreciate the seemingly simple life of a bee or butterfly. During aspiration week, we will continue the work of our visitors recently in developing the children's understanding of careers and their own future aspirations. As a whole school, we will focus on Community Cohesion and British Values over the coming weeks during Collective Worship, emphasising tolerance and respect between cultures, religions and beliefs. We have been approached by Grace Kelly Ladybird Trust to share a poster with you. This charity works to support families of children with cancer and the poster supports families in recognising the early signs and symptoms. We recognise the sensitive nature of this subject but feel that it is important to share this important work with you all. The poster is attached to this letter.

**Thank you so very much to all of our visiting parents, grandparents and friends/ colleagues who visited as part of our STEM week which started off the children's learning for their 'Build a Business' project. It was superb experience for the children. Thank you everyone.**

### Keeping everyone safe

The school leadership team along with governors ensure that all systems and procedures are in place to make sure that the school is a safe place to be. The teachers also work hard to develop the children's awareness of safety and their ability to keep themselves safe. Below are some of the procedures in place in school:

- Regular audits and visits by the County Council;
- Twice yearly audits, monitored by Governors;
- Termly healthy and safety meetings with Governors;
- Weekly safety checks, including fire alarms, water checks etc;
- Daily safety walks of the site;
- Risk assessments in place for all areas of school, including off site visits, use of the field, classrooms, use of resources such as cooking equipment etc;
- Site safety, including arrangements for visitors on site;
- Risk assessment completed with all children prior to activities, including new activities or refreshing safety procedures at regular activities such as Forest School;
- Staff recruitment;
- Collective Worship focused on safety, including keeping safe from bullying, e-safety, road safety etc and
- Curriculum with all aspects of safety at the heart, such as PSHE (Personal Social and Health education) learning about protective behaviours with regards to safe and healthy relationships.

We have always carried out termly fire drills. This is evacuation from the building. Last year, however, we evacuated the whole site for the first time so that both staff and children were aware of the procedure. The procedure has been in place in the event that we would need to leave the site and St Catherine's Church has kindly provided us with keys for a number of years, in order that we have alternative accommodation should the need arise. In the autumn term last year and again this term, we also rehearsed our lock down procedures which went smoothly and supported us in developing our systems further. Mrs Bailey and Mrs Hargreaves, who are central to such emergency procedures, continue to ensure that all systems operate smoothly. Well done everyone.

### Early Years 'Quality Mark' award

We are delighted to announce that after almost a full day inspection of our Early Years (Red Class and Nursery) by an inspector for the National Quality Mark, we have received a super report and I have added sections of the report below:

***There is a vision and commitment to the development of the whole child including life skills and life-long learning as well as academic skills. The vision is shared by everyone and everyone articulates the vision.***

***Early Years is very well-led. The leadership of EYFS is a particular strength. The EYFS leader works closely with the headteacher. They are very reflective and constantly evaluating the impact of the provision.***

***In Nursery there is a focus on the prime areas through experiences and specifically designed tasks and activities to develop the children's language, learning behaviours/COEL. All the children are happy, settled, engaged in their learning, confident and well-mannered.***

***A great deal of work goes into making sure the assessments are secure and robust through regular internal and external moderation meetings. Pupils outcomes are tracked and analysis carried out to inform planning and next steps to be addressed.***

***The environment allows for the children to develop skills through interests and experiences, thereby developing creativity, independence, well-being and involvement, sustaining concentration and the characteristics of effective learning.***

***Governors are well informed about the provision and practice and the achievements made by the children. They are aware of the strengths and next steps to improve the practice further. They most certainly appreciate the way the school is very forward looking 'we never stand still at all' and can see the impact of this in Early Years.***

***The school is very outward looking. Leaders constantly seek external validation through regular reviews and monitoring visits. They share good practice with staff from other schools and undertake professional development together.***

Well done to the whole team and especially Mrs Webb who leads the team and also co-ordinated all of the work towards this inspection. Our two areas for development link to transition into Year 1 and also supporting new members of staff into EYs.

### Sport and the Arts

**Sports** – We have 'BCM Games' taking place this half term for our Y4s between Blackwell, Charford and Millfields.

**Arts** – South Bromsgrove High School drama teacher, Mr Sugars, will be working with some of our children this half term.

The Y2 children have enjoyed a super day of arts between Blackwell, Charford and Millfields this week leading to artwork, dance and music based on Russia.



### TERM DATES- Summer Term 2018

18.6 PFTA AGM- 7.30pm school

19.6 Whole school photo

20.6 Year 1 drama day- South Bromsgrove High School

21.6 Storyclub- new YR

**22.6.18 – NON UNIFORM bring a bottle for PFTA**

**Barnt Green Chuggers Fun Run will take place on Sunday 24 June at 12.30pm starting from Millennium Park.**

27.6 Red Class assembly

28.6 Storyclub- new YR

28.6/5.7 Bellboating

30.6 SUMMER FAIR

5.7 Storyclub – new YR

11.7 Bellboating regatta

**12.7 Storyclub – new YR and new NURSERY**

12.7 Year 4 BCM sport's day (Blackwell, Charford, Millfields)

18.7 Piano concert for Mrs Grew's children- 3.30pm

**19.7 Storyclub – new YR and new NURSERY**

19.7 Purple Class assembly

20.7 Piano Concert for Mrs Moss's children – 8.45am

20.7 Piano Concert for Mrs Cutler's children – 2.30pm

20.7 Yellow Class cake sale after school

20.7 Reports home/ new class letters

23.7 New class visits

23.7 Settling in – Nursery 12.40-1.30pm

17.7 Nursery Induction meeting (home visits will have taken place)– 1.15pm

23.7 YR induction meeting – 6pm

24.7 Leaver's breakfast

24.7 End of term

SUMMER HOLIDAY

HOLIDAY CLUB- 25-27 July AND 28.8-31.8

School opens – 3.9.18 – 2 TEDs (children requiring additional transition support will be invited during these days)

School opens for children – 5.9.18

(For Storyclub sessions for Reception, if your child attends Nursery on these days, they will automatically attend and you do not need to come along).

We are so very sorry that Jenny Price is stepping down as the Chair of PFTA, but she has done an exceptional job in raising funds along with all of the excellent support from the PFTA and wider members. We thank Jenny so much for the thousands of pounds which have been spent on the children in school as a result of her work and hope that she has fond memories of this busy time!

Mrs Anna Moss, Head teacher