



Newsletter

10th September 2021

www.bewdleyprimary.co.uk



Welcome Back!

The first week has gone really well and we have been very impressed by how quickly the children have settled into their classes. It has been lovely to do assemblies again and it really feels like the school is back together! Hopefully, we can continue with this for the foreseeable future.

As you have noticed there has been increased traffic both outside the school and with the number of parents/carers arriving to bring and collect their child. It is great to see so many of you again but the roads outside are becoming very busy. If you feel your child can be dropped in the layby and come into school themselves or with an older sibling, this may prevent you from having to park and the roads to become suggested. Alternatively, if it is at all possible to walk to school, this would definitely help.

Next week, many of the Year 6 pupils are off to Wales on their residential trip which is very exciting. Several other events are being planned at the moment and we hope to tell you about these soon.

Parents/Carers' Information Evenings

We will be holding two Parents/ Carers' Information Evenings in two weeks' time. The purpose is to share some key general information about the school and how you can support your child and to go to your child's classroom and find out a little about their curriculum, learning and routines.

The first evening Wednesday 22nd September for Parents/Carers of children in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2). There will be a whole group session in the hall from 6:00pm to 6:30pm where Mrs. Woakes will talk to you about some of the latest developments and you can meet all the teaching staff and find out who is responsible for what. This will be followed by a visit to the class and talk by the class teachers from 6:30pm to 7:00pm. At 7:00pm, if you have another child in another year group you can go to that class and the teachers will repeat their talk.

The second evening is Thursday 23rd September for Parents/Carers of pupils in Years 3 – 6 (Key Stage 2). The format will be the same so if you have a child in Reception or key stage 1 you can turn up at 6:30pm to just do the class visits.

We would ask that only 1 parent/carer comes along (so that we can ensure there is enough space). The rooms will be ventilated and you are welcome to wear a face covering if you wish. Please do not come to school if you have any Covid symptoms.

We look forward to seeing you.

Water in School

It has been very hot this week and we know it is important that children remain hydrated throughout the day. Please ensure that they come to school with a water bottle and we will encourage them to drink regularly during the day. The water bottle can be refilled as many times as they need. The school Policy states that only water should be brought in to drink during the day. Other than lunchtime, when children are allowed flavoured water or juice with their meal, they will only be allowed water during the rest of the day. If they do not bring in a water bottle, we will make water readily available to them. This is to promote a healthy lifestyle and to ensure the school adheres to the School Food Standards. We understand that some children do not 'like' water but there is very little to like or dislike about it and, whilst they may prefer squash, this is not what we want to encourage.

The reasons we encourage only water during the school day (other than lunch) is probably best explained by the following NHS advice:

How much should children drink?

Children/young people are encouraged to drink around 1.5 litres of water each day. This is approximately 6 to 8, 200ml glasses. Adults should aim to drink around 2 litres of water each day. This is approximately 6 to 8, 250ml glasses. Plenty of additional fluid should be drunk during warm weather and/or when exercising. Children/young people spend at least half their waking hours in school. During this time, they should be drinking at least half their daily requirement, spread regularly throughout the day (3-4 glasses/7.5 litres). This amount should be matched at home.

Why not diluted fruit juice/squash?

Water is the most effective fluid to prevent dehydration. The main reason for not advocating other drinks as fluid replacement is the additional risks to health and teeth. Other drinks can be high in sugar and/or contain acid. Foods and drinks containing high sugar form the smallest food group of the Eatwell Plate which depicts a balanced diet. To keep our teeth healthy it is recommended to restrict the number of times we expose them to sugar/acid attacks to 4 per day. The best way to reduce attacks is to only consume such foods and drinks at meal times. Other drinks that contain caffeine such as tea, coffee, coca cola and energy drinks can have a diuretic effect (increasing the rate of urine) causing dehydration.

Schools must follow nutritional and non-lunch standards by law which restrict the provision of food and drink in schools.

Thank you for supporting us with this.



Parent Pay, Lunches and Toast

Please remember to order your child's lunch via Parent Pay at least 24 hours in advance.

Activation letters will be going home soon to new parents. When you receive it please activate your Parent Pay account. Parent Pay is not just for ordering meals it also allows you to pay for other items including Rascals and school activities, trips etc. The weekly school newsletter is also sent out every Friday via Parent Pay email.



TOAST

Children are now able to order a piece of toast for morning break. Orders can be made via Parentpay and must be made for a complete half term.

You can now order on Parentpay for the remaining 6 weeks of this half term (13th September to 22nd October) at a cost of £9 (£1.50 per week). Orders will be accepted until 3pm on Friday 17th September. **No orders will be accepted after this date.**

Orders for after the October half term for the period 1st November to 17th December can be made from 18th October and the payment item will be posted on Parentpay.

If you require any further information please contact the school office.



After School Autumn Term Clubs

After school clubs will be running this term for children in Year 1 to Year 6, a letter will be coming home early next week with full details of what is available.



Have your Contact details changed?

It is really important that the school office have up to date contact details, telephone numbers, addresses, emergency contacts and medical information.

If your details have changed and need updating please follow the link

<https://www.bewdleyprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Change+of+Contact+Details&pid=30>

completing and return the form to the school office.



The Healthy Start Scheme

Healthy Start is a Government Scheme that provides weekly vouchers to eligible parents and can help parent/carers who are pregnant or have a young child under four.

These vouchers can be spent on milk, fruit and vegetables and infant formula milk at local shops and supermarkets, as well as offering coupons for free vitamins too.

For more information about the scheme, visit Healthy Start website -

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Qualifying criteria for the Healthy Start programme

Parent/carers will qualify for the Healthy Start scheme if you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or if

you have at least one child that's under 4. In addition, you must be receiving one of the following:

- Child Tax Credit (only if the family's annual income is £16,190 or less)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension Credit (which includes the child addition)
- Universal Credit (only if the family's take-home pay is £408 or less per month from employment)

Additional criteria for Healthy Start:

- If the parent/carer is under 18 and pregnant, even if they are not claiming any benefits
- If the parent/carer claims income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and are over 10 weeks pregnant
- If they or their partner get Working Tax Credit run-on only. (Working Tax Credit run-on is the

Working Tax Credit they receive in the 4 weeks immediately after they have stopped working for 16 hours or more per week)

School Applications

If your child is due to start school in Reception during the school year 2022/23, the closing date for applications is 15th January 2022.

If your child is due to move to secondary school in September 2022, the closing date for applications is 31st October 2021.

To apply visit [www.worcestershie.gov.uk/school admissions](http://www.worcestershie.gov.uk/school%20admissions)

Drop off and Parking



To alleviate parking congestion in the local area please wherever possible use the school layby to drop off your child in the morning.



Please remember to park legally and responsibly around the local area of school. **DO NOT** block driveways, double park, park illegally or block footpaths.



Illness and absence

If your child is ill, as long as there is no cough, temperature, loss of/or change in smell and taste – treat this as you would normally do and your child can return to school when they are well enough to do so.

However, if they do have one of the coronavirus symptoms (as above), even if it is possibly caused by a cold, please do not send your child into school and arrange for a PCR test at a local testing centre.

If your child has diarrhoea or sickness please do not send them to school until they are clear of symptoms for 48 hours.

Please call the school office before 10am to report a child's absence. If you are leaving a message regarding sickness, would you please clearly state the symptoms and let us know if you are taking your child for a test.



Wyre Forest Green Alliance's Community Art project has recently been launched with the aim of raising awareness of climate change and COP26, the climate emergency summit that the UK is hosting in November 2021.

They are inviting everyone to take part in their 'Climate Change' art exhibition, Art 4 Planet Earth, which will be both a virtual online and a 'real' Art exhibition taking place this October.

As a school, BPS has created a huge piece of artwork using all the bottle tops you collected. However, individuals are also welcome to enter and we would love to have lots of BPS children's work featured in the exhibition! It is a chance for you to get creative and to show how much you care about climate change and its effect on our planet!

If you need more information on Climate Change to help you create your piece of art, this website has lots of useful information: <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>
It's not just paintings, your entry could be a poem, drawing, a photograph, or a poster. You could do an A3 size piece or A4, A5 or even smaller!

Please give any entries to Mrs Woodward by Friday 24th September and she will enter them into the exhibition for you.

