



BENSON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Providing a rich,
stimulating & enjoyable
environment, where
children can begin their
learning journey &
prepare for adult life*



Message from Mrs Crolla



Mrs Crolla
Head Teacher

Value for Term 1: Co-operation

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I trust that you all enjoyed a relaxing summer. The children look very pleased to be back and have all settled well into their new classes. I would like to thank the whole staff team for their hard work, preparing classrooms, cleaning and setting up the administration for the new academic year. I would like to welcome our new teachers: Miss Scragg (Elm), Miss Stovold (Maple) and Mrs Stokes (Sycamore). The year promises to be busy, with a few new opportunities for the children. Please do keep an eye on the diary so that you are informed. Dates are listed within the fortnightly Newsletters and on the school website.

School Money Electronic Payment System

I am pleased to share that our new electronic payment system is now operational and easy to use. You will have all received an email with your log in details. Please do see Rachel or Suzy if you have missed this or are having difficulties logging on. We aim to phase this in, concentrating on billing for lunch money and some additional trips/visits. The system will send weekly reminders, hopefully making it easier for you to avoid large amounts building up and to ensure that payments are on time.

School Lunches

Children within Elm, Oak and Chestnut are entitled to Government funded School dinners. Your child may also be entitled to additional free school meals, if you meet certain criteria. Please do look for the information under the Office Tab on the website. For Maple, Ash, Sycamore and Hawthorn Classes, school lunches are chargeable and the school holds the right to withdraw hot meals for overdue lunch invoices. This will occur after two reminders. Please do see Mrs Sheldon our Finance Officer if there are any difficulties with payment and arrangements can be made to support you.

Uniform

It is super to see children looking so smart in their uniform and proudly showing off their new shoes etc. Please could I ask for your co-operation with ensuring that your child has the correct summer uniform, consisting of; summer red dress with white socks, white shirts (airtex or cotton with collar), grey pinafore, shorts, trousers or skirts and a burgundy sweatshirt displaying the school logo. The latter can be purchased from Michael Hope. Shoes should be black and flat. This is much appreciated, especially if it is all named.

Mrs Helen Crolla, Headteacher





Key Dates

- **12-14/09/16** - Year 5 Trip to Longridge Residential Centre
- **12-16/09/16** - Year 6 Trip to Osmington Bay
- **13/09/16** - Parent Information Meeting Years 1 and 2 @ 8.45am
- **16/09/16** - Swimming commences for Year 3
- **16/09/16** - Sycamore Class Care & Share Assembly @ 2.45pm
- **20/09/16** - Parent Information Meeting Years 5 and 6 @ 8.45am
- **21/09/16** - Parent Information Meetings Year 3 and 4 @ 8.45am
- **21/09/16** - Individual and Family Group Photos
- **23/09/16** - Hawthorn Class Care & Share Assembly @ 2.45pm
- **28/09/16** - Reading Volunteer Training @ 8.50am
- **30/09/16** - Yr6 PE Morning at Wallingford School
- **05/10/16** - Open Morning
- **21/10/16** - End of Term 1



Important News

Attendance and Punctuality

Many of you are aware that there is a clear link between poor attendance/punctuality with children's achievement and progress. The Governing Body have reviewed the procedure for pupil absence so please look out for a letter next week detailing the form to use if you would like to request pupil absence from school.

Punctuality is also vital due to literacy being taught in the mornings in addition to early work. The letter will detail the procedure followed by the school, to support you.

Summer Reading Challenge

If your child took part in the Library Summer Reading Challenge, please bring in their certificate and medals to school for an assembly on Monday 3rd October. These can be left in the office.

Need help with your child's maths homework? Want to know what the 4 calculation strategies are and how they link to the changes in the New Curriculum?

Please find our school's 4 policies with clear diagrams and models on the progression for teaching and learning how to add, subtract, divide and multiply. Visit the school website Prospectus tab and click on Maths.

<http://www.bensoncofeprimary.org.uk/prospectus.php>

Would you like to become a reading volunteer at Benson School?

A quick explanation of what to expect and how to best support children in their reading will be offered on Wednesday 28th September 2016 at 8:50am in the school hall. You can then sign up to a session(s) that suits you.

If you have previously been to this 'training', please do let the office know / class teacher know that you are available and which days of the week, also if you can listen to readers at 8:50am or you prefer the end of the school day. I can then collate a useful timetable and spread the volunteers out amongst the younger readers.

We do appreciate our reading volunteers - such a vital part of learning.





Learning at Home

Benson Reading Reward Scheme

Just a friendly reminder about our reading reward scheme in school. In Elm and Willow, please see the attached table for information.

3 Parents Comments	1 stamp in book
3 stamps in book	1 gold star
10 gold stars	Book prize

In all other classes, when children have completed 30 books, signed by an adult, the class teacher checks and signs off for a school book prize. There are a selection of Infants, Y3/4 and Y5/6 book prizes. For every 30 books completed your child sees either Mrs Mottram or Mrs Crolla and selects their own book prize. An initial photograph is taken and added to the reading star display in the foyer AND on our school website gallery. Although we do encourage school colour banded books to be read and count towards the reward scheme, we do appreciate that children may want to include special books from home too. In fact, across KS2 we actively encourage wider reading from personal books, local library books, newspapers, magazines and so forth to be included in the school reading record book entries as part of reading across the genres. However, we must emphasise the importance of also continually maintaining a school reading scheme book, as these are colour banded to their reading ability.

We would also like to remind you that although your children may read fluently, as teachers we assess their reading comprehension skills as part of their reading ability and from level 2 onwards, we do assess written responses as part of our overall judgements. This may appear to slow down your child's progression on to the next colour band, but it is all part of the evidence for assessment. We do ask for your support with making reading an enjoyable experience and valuing 'book talk' in the home.

Reading scheme – colour banded books

We would like to remind you that although your children may read fluently, as teachers we assess their reading comprehension skills as part of their reading ability and from level 2 onwards (around the start of year 2), we do assess written responses as part of our overall judgements. This may appear to slow down your child's progression on to the next colour band, but it is all part of the evidence for assessment. Besides listening to your children read regularly and reading to them, the other most important contribution is that of discussing reading. Questions may range from; why did you enjoy this book, which character was your favourite, where does it tell you that e.g. the weather was cold, what do you think might happen next, what was puzzling, what other books / films does this remind you of, how is this book different to the last book you read by the same author, how can we work out what this word means etc. We do ask for your support with making reading an enjoyable experience and valuing 'book talk' in the home.

Thank you for your ongoing support with reading,

Mrs Mottram





Sports News

Welcome back to what will hopefully be an exciting and challenging year of school sport!

PE Kit

Please make sure that your child has a full PE kit in school at all times (PE shirt, navy shorts, trainers, plus school hoody/joggers or plain black joggers for colder weather outdoors). We do occasionally need PE kit on other days not timetabled so it's best to avoid taking it home before the end of term if possible.

After School Clubs

Please provide adequate and suitable sports clothes for clubs, bearing in mind the sport and weather eg. outdoor sports require warm clothing and a waterproof layer. PE kit should not be worn for clubs, to avoid it getting dirty and having to remember to bring it back the next day.

Terms 1 and 2

This is a relatively quiet time for tournaments but we can look forward to the Yr6 PE morning at Wallingford School, Play Leader Training, Girls Football, Yr5/6 Netball, Yr5/6 Boys Football, Yr5/6 Hockey and Yr5/6 Swimming Gala!

Oxford Half Marathon

We have an amazing 28 children signed up for this event on Sunday 9th October. If you would like to recognise the challenge faced by the children (and staff) entering this event, we would welcome donations at the office to be put towards the Macmillan Cancer Charity, a cause currently close to the heart of some of the school community.

Looking Ahead!

Over the next few months, we have a full calendar of tournaments to participate in using the skills gained at our After School Clubs, plus our second 5K 'Race for Life' event next summer.

Ryan Pierre Visit, June 2016

I am awaiting delivery of the sponsorship rewards following the exciting visit from Ryan, (4 x 200m Olympic Athlete), and these will be given out as soon as they arrive.

Collection from After School Clubs

Please continue to collect the children at the front of school when clubs finish and make sure you sign your child out on the register. Prompt collection at 4.30pm (most clubs) is very much appreciated.

Tania Hadfield





FoBS News

Welcome back to the new term from all of the FoBS team.

We have a new total to share from the Summer Fayre. We are sure everyone will be as delighted as we are to know our final net total was a record breaking £4,900. Thank you again to everyone who gave their time, together we can achieve great things and raise huge sums of money for the children.

Our AGM will be held on **Wednesday 21st September** from 7.30pm in the ICT Suite at school. Come along to review the year and decide on our activities for the year ahead. Everyone is welcome.

If you missed it at the end of the summer term, we launched our own handbook... call it an all you need to know guide. You can access this handbook through the FoBS page on the school website or by clicking on the link

<http://www.bensoncofeprimary.org.uk/perch/resources/fobs-welcome-booklet-final-june-2016-2.pdf>

Please keep donating your grown out of uniform to the office.

We are still collecting printer cartridges for recycling and cash back.

If you are doing any on-line shopping, consider clicking through The Giving Machine, FoBS can earn good money at no cost to you. For more information please click: <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk>

Jo Whittaker



DOES YOUR CHILD ENJOY SINGING?

ST HELEN'S JUNIOR CHOIR

Fridays 5.00 – 5.45 p.m. in St Helen's Church, Benson in term times
Free!

An excellent grounding in vocal and musical skills
Opportunities to perform
Opportunity to progress through Voice for Life scheme

A typical rehearsal starts with a vocal warm-up. As they sing, the children develop musical skills such as rhythm and pitch. They learn what the signs in the music mean, building useful links for those who also learn instruments. We discuss the meaning of the words we sing and how to express them. We sing pieces in different styles, from different times in history and sometimes in different languages.

Those who wish to can sing with the senior choir in the family services on the third Sunday of each month. There are also weddings, carol services and concerts. Here's a selection of junior choir events from the last few years:

Marie Curie Cancer Care Sing Out
Summer Sunday Busking in Dorchester Abbey
Concert with Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir
Royal School of Church Music singing days in Henley and Sonning Common
Tours to Sweden and France

For more information, contact Judith Ward judithanneward@aol.com or just come along and have a go!