

Dear parents and carers,

As the end of the first term draws to a close, I thought it would be a good opportunity to **share some of the wonderful learning experiences** the children have enjoyed so far and to provide you with some useful information in this, the October edition of our newsletter.

Thank you for all the ideas and thoughts some of you have shared with me over the last few weeks regarding what makes this school great and for all your other comments and suggestions. It has really helped me to understand what is important for parents at our school.

Term 1 ends on Friday. School re-opens for children, after the staff training day, on **Tuesday 31 October**. We look forward to welcoming them all back to school then. I hope you enjoy the holiday.



Simon Morley
Headteacher

School improvement

We have been working hard on our identified **school improvement priorities** for the year so that we can continue to provide a world-class education for the children who attend our school. This year, we will be working on the following priorities. We will:

- ensure that the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school remains consistently high in all classes
- continue to develop our exciting school curriculum

As well as this, we have decided to focus on our teaching of spelling and maths as well as enhancing our approach to how we assess children's work.

Big autumn tidy up

A lovely autumn October morning saw many willing volunteers, staff, children and parents enjoying being out in our school grounds clearing, tidying and making sure we are ready for the winter months. Many hands working hard as a team ensured we got our allotment planters cleared, our gardens tidied after the summer, bulbs planted for spring and our crops harvested. **Thank you to all who popped along to lend a hand.**



Forthcoming key dates

October 2017

- 19 Year 2 "knight school"
- 20 Year 5 volcano day
Last day of term 1
- 30 Staff training day
- 31 Term 2 begins

November 2017

- 3 Individual photos taken
- 14 Farm Kitchen taster
- 17 Children in Need: non-uniform day
- 21/23 School tours for parents of children starting school in September 18
- 30 Christmas market in school

December 2017

- 1 Last day of school clubs
- 6 Foundation stage nativity performance – afternoon & evening
- 11 Year 1 nativity performance – afternoon & evening
- 13 Key stage 2 visit to pantomime
Year 2 nativity performance – afternoon & evening
- 14 Christmas meal and parties in school
- 18 FS/KS1 achievement assembly
School discos
- 19 KS2 achievement assembly
Term 2 ends

Please visit the school website regularly for more upcoming dates. These can be found at the bottom of the homepage. By clicking on specific events, you can download the relevant letter which will provide more information about the event.

Foundation stage news

Children in foundation stage have been reading the book 'Handa's Surprise' and doing some role play based on this. They were interested in some of the fruit mentioned in the story and so had the opportunity to explore this using their senses, including tasting! The fruits were then used to print some fantastic artwork and compare their weights using a balance (see picture). Last week they enjoyed an autumn walk in our fantastic grounds, seeing if they could collect lots of different coloured leaves. It was lots of fun and promoted lots of discussion.

Key stage 1 news

The children in year 1 invited their parents and carers to a wonderful 'Autumn Celebration' at which they sang some autumn songs then shared pumpkin soup, fresh bread and stewed fruit; harvested from our school garden. They also made autumn wands and hats to wear for the occasion.

Year 2 went on an amazing trip to Lincoln Castle, where they went on a wall walk and found out about the history and features of the castle. The children undertook some knight's training: dressing a knight, trying on some real armour and learning how to use a bow and arrow. They also took part in a real banquet and made their own shields.

Key stage 2 news

Year 3 have enjoyed investigating magnetism and friction. The children have written poetry inspired by Roald Dahl's "James and the Giant Peach" and showcased their fantastic dances to parents.

Year 4 have planned, made and evaluated canopic jars and shadufs relating to their Egypt topic. Last week, Mr Egypt came to visit and answered all their questions so they are now ancient Egypt experts too.

Year 5 have made model volcanos and have investigated irreversible changes to create the most effective explosion. They are looking forward to sharing their learning with parents on volcano day.

Year 6 enjoyed finding out what it was like to be a child during the Blitz where they experienced a virtual London underground shelter. They have also created silhouettes of a Blitz skyline.

Starting school in September 2018?

We would like to invite anyone whose child is due to start in reception in September 2018 to join us for a **guided tour of the school**. Tours will take place on: **Tuesday 21 November 2017** at 10 am and 1 pm and **Thursday 23 November 2017** at 6pm. If you have friends who may be interested, please encourage them to come along too. Please contact school to book your place.



Dogs around the school grounds

As we have some children in school who are nervous around dogs, we would like to remind you about **our policy regarding dogs around the school grounds**. We are happy for parents to bring their dogs onto the waiting area at the front of school when dropping off or collecting their child/ren, providing the following guidance is followed: Parents who bring their dog into the school grounds, while walking their children to or from school should **keep their dog on a lead at all times**. The adult must always have control of the dog; children must never be left alone with or in charge of the dog. Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately. Aggressive dogs, or those with a history of aggression, must not be brought into school grounds. Parents should keep their dog away from other dogs within the grounds as it is not always possible to gauge how dogs can react towards each other. Thank you for your support.

An opportunity to taste some delicious food

The Farm Kitchen, our school meal provider, is holding a **taster session for parents** after school on **Tuesday 14 November**. It will be held in the **foundation stage base** (possibly under the shelter but this will depend on the weather) and all parents are welcome to pop in for a taster. Entrance will be through the foundation stage side gate once all the children have safely exited.

How to contact us

School office hours are 8:30am - 4:30pm (4pm on Fridays). To contact school out of hours, please email us: info@bwacademy.co.uk.

Great attendance!

Our attendance for term 1 is 97%. This is great news as it puts us above the national average. Keep up the good work!