



Mrs Delia Sheppard  
Headteacher

# Burchetts Green CE Infant School

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12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents

A very warm welcome back to you all and a warm welcome to our new families; we're so delighted you have joined us and we hope you'll feel at home very soon. You might like to know, after the various coming and goings at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, we now have 24 or less children in each class. I'm pleased to tell you that this means that all our classes have 20% less children than the average primary school!

***Our topic this term is...***

## Owls



### **Owl visit Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

To enhance the children's learning experience, on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018** we will be meeting some real owls! A local company, Feather and Furs, will be visiting the school. Each class will spend time with the owls and the falconer will talk to the children about the owls and their habits. Children will have the opportunity to be photographed with an owl and these photographs will be available to buy shortly afterwards.

### **Beyond the curriculum and topic learning**

During the summer break the staff and I got together to look at our topics for the coming year and to discuss ways we can bring these to life for the children. We have planned lots of fun packed special days that will take place at the beginning and during each topic which we will inform you about nearer the time.

We also had discussions about the many opportunities, over and above everyday learning, that are created at Burchetts Green. We wanted to think about aspects of childhood that create a sense of *'living life in all its fullness'* and within that, a sense of awe and wonder. We decided on many things that we think make childhood special during each school year at Burchetts Green. Eventually we agreed on 50 things for each child to experience during this school year. Across the school this will mean 150 challenges for the children to complete and will be part of our 150 years anniversary celebrations! A list of each class's challenges can be found on the school website under their class page and will be available to view by the end of the week. This will be such fun for the children to tick off as they progress through the year.

### **Morning drop off and after school collections**

This is my usual reminder to park with care outside the school. Please do not use the pavement for parking as the children walk to school along it. Please do not use the staff car park without express permission from Mrs Derrett. Please leave school in the mornings as quickly as you are able to so that other parents can use your parking spot. From 8.45am parents of children in KS1 may leave their children at the electronic gate so that they walk through the playground to their classrooms with their friends.

The school day starts promptly at 9.05am so please ensure that your child is always arrives before then.

Children should be picked up after school at the correct time. For EYFS this is 3.00pm and for KS1 this is 3.10pm. Please could I also remind you that the children should be holding an adults hand as they walk through the car park before and after school. For more details please see our Going home at the end of the school day policy on the school's website.

For health and safety reasons we request you do not bring dogs to the school, including the school car park. If you need to bring your dog to school either at home time or in the morning, we would kindly request that they stay in your car for the short period you are dropping off or picking up.

### **Attendance**

Our Term Time Absence policy can be found on our website. However I would remind you that the governors do not allow any term time absence other than for significant family or religious festivals (for example wedding/funeral/Eid). For further details please refer to the Attendance Policy on the website.

### **EYFS/Tawny Owls Parent Workshop**

Mrs Dale and Mrs Fennell will be running a workshop for our new Reception Parents and Carers. This will be next Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. A reminder will go out on the School App.

## KS1 Parent Workshops

Please keep an eye out for your class workshops which will be advertised soon. They include phonics for Y1 and maths for Y2.

## Swimming

It was a very positive start to swimming on Friday and I'm sure this will continue. Our swimmers progress extremely well over the years and often go on to their next school well above age related expectations. Please may I remind you that all children must be back in class by 10.00am to start their music and RE lessons. Please also remember that children with longer hair should wear swimming hats. This helps to keep hair dry which is useful as there is not always time to dry children's hair at the poolside.

## Walk to School Wednesdays starting September 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

Please remember our Walk to School Wednesdays and I would encourage everyone to take part. This term Walk to School Wednesday starts next week on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**; the walks will take place fortnightly thereafter.



Not only is this a healthy and enjoyable option for your child, it also means less traffic during our busy mornings.

We take a pretty and enjoyable stroll across the fields, along the public foot paths to school. You do not need to attend the walk with your child as we always have a number of parents/staff who stay and walk with us. Please meet at Stubbings Church car park ready for an 8.15am start.

For further information please talk to Mr Luke Beavan (Mabel and Aster's daddy) who is coordinating the walks.

## Welcome BBQ Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

On **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September** FOBGS are running our annual welcome BBQ. This is a lovely opportunity for you to come into school and meet other parents and of course to meet parents new to the school. Getting to know and support each other is part of what makes Burchetts Green a warm family environment so do try to get along.



## MacMillan Coffee Morning Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

On **Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> September** we will be taking part in the MacMillan coffee morning and we would like to invite parents to stop in at school after dropping off your child for coffee and pastries for breakfast! Apart from this being a lovely social occasion for parents all money raised will go towards cancer support. Please let us know if you are able to donate any cakes or pastries.



## Harvest Festival Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Our family Harvest Festival service will take place on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018** at Stubbings Church and this year we are supporting The



Great African Welly Walk, a sponsored walk which aims to help African farmers to 'give hunger the boot'.

We will also be supporting '**Open Kitchen**' which is a charity providing **food** and help for people in **Maidenhead** who cannot afford to feed themselves. During the week of Harvest Festival our School Value will be Compassion and we hope supporting these charities will help the children understand the needs of those less fortunate than themselves, locally and across the world, and recognise that there are simple ways in which they can help others.

On the morning of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 you will need to take your child to Stubbings church (St James the Less) rather than school. Please be at church between 8.45am and 9.00am and hand your child to their teacher, who will be there to greet them, before taking your seat; the service will start at 9.05am.

You will not need to take your child to school after the service as we will be taking a sponsored walk back through the fields in our wellies.

So that each child has wellies to wear for the walk and shoes to change into when they get back to school we will send your child home in their wellies on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> October and they will leave their shoes at school. This way, on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, they will have wellies at home to wear in the morning and shoes at school to change into after the walk!

During the service a collection will be taken to 'sponsor' the walk. Children are also asked to bring a food item from the list which will be displayed on the school notice board in the playground and on each class door. This item will be given to the Open Kitchen in Maidenhead.

The service will involve contributions from all classes and will be led by the Snowy Owls and we hope very much that you will be able to stay and support your child.

### **Parking**

Parking during school drop off and pick up time is always difficult but I am extremely grateful to the continued considerate parking that parents use at these times. Please remember not to mount the pavement as children use this.



Please do not make a three point turn in the road. If you need to turn your car round you can do this either at the triangle at Honey Lane or at the triangle outside The Crown.

We would also ask that you support our rule that children must hold on to an adult and walk when in the car park. In the past we have had a couple of light knocks and near misses as children have run between reversing cars and we want to avoid accidents at all costs.

We do have a few places in the staff car park for families with new born babies and those who help congestion through shared school runs. If you fit this category please could you let Mrs Derrett know and she will take your licence plate details. If you do not fall into these categories but feel you have another valid reason for using the staff car park do please talk with Mrs Derrett and we will do all we can to make this possible. *If you have not spoken with Mrs Derrett please do*

*not use the car park.* If you have used the car park in the past you will need to update your details/reason with her again this year, thank you.

### **Head bumps and other little mishaps**

If your child has a head bump at school we will let you know at the end of the day or if it seems appropriate, we will call you to explain the injury. We will also contact you if we are concerned about any other injury your child might have. However if your child has a bump such as a grazed knee or other little mishap we will administer basic first aid such as cold packs and plasters and encourage your child to explain their injury to you. If you have concerns about an injury or would like further explanations please talk to your child's class teacher. All injuries are recorded and records of head injuries are kept for the required period.

### **Fireworks Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

May I remind that after half term we will be holding our amazing **fireworks night on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018.** This is a major fund raising event for FOBGS and money raised will go towards our outdoor learning space. It is always a spectacular evening and I would encourage you to attend – you won't be disappointed!



### **Parent consultation appointments:**

**Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup> (3.30pm – 5.30pm) and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November (5.00pm – 7.00pm) 2018**

We have two dates for parent consultations. One is earlier for those who want to chat straight after school and one is in the evening for those who prefer to leave children with a baby sitter. Governors always try to attend these evenings and it is an informal opportunity for you to meet them and ask any questions you might have.

You will soon receive a booking form from Mrs Derrett which we would ask you to fill in and post in the school parent post box. When these have been received your appointment date/time will be arranged and Mrs Derrett will inform you of this.

### **Help needed!**



We are in need of help in a number of areas such as photography and graphic design; building and odd maintenance jobs; working with the children; gardening and building our website. If you think you might have skills in any of the areas above or in other areas that you think might benefit the school, please come in and see us. Many thanks in advance.



### **Dates for next term**

It seems far too early to talk about Christmas and the Nativity, however I want to give you as much notice for the Nativity performance as I can as this year we will be moving from tradition and having our production on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018**. More nativity information and general information about Christmas activities and events will follow in term two. Meanwhile please refer to the calendar on the school app as many Christmas dates are there already including our Christingle service which is on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2018 5pm**.

I look forward to seeing you at these, and the other events in school, during the following two terms.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Sheppard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Mrs D Sheppard