

20.7.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this final newsletter reflecting back on what has been a year of great change. Buckfastleigh has had new teachers, new ways of working and new challenges but through it all the constant has been the hard work and enthusiasm of the children and the support we get from all of you. The school has made significant steps of improvement this year and I feel we are in a fantastic position in September to continue developing what we are doing to ensure that your children get the best possible education and opportunities. I'm sure many of you will have seen how our environment has improved. That is just one facet of what has been going on and I can confidently say that the children's behaviour and learning on a daily basis has been brilliant and this can be seen in the progress they are making and how well they get on with each other.

I would like to say a big thank you to all my staff for their total commitment to the school over the last 12 months. Alongside them are a bank of valuable volunteers. These range from family members who come in to read with the children to those parents who have helped out on school trips or with swimming. In the background are our school governors. Malcolm Cowper and the team put in a great deal of time behind the scenes and they have continued to support me throughout the pandemic. Last but not least are the FOBS team. While we haven't been able to put on any events this year, they have still been in communication regularly trying to work out ways to support the children and raise money for the school. Thank you all for everything you do.

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

On Tuesday 20th July, we said goodbye to our Year 6 children. They have been amazing over many years and we will miss them all. This week, they went on a trip to Mothecombe beach for a BBQ. It was a pleasure to spend the day with them and it shows how special our children are that so many members of the public commented on how wonderful they were. All the staff that went were very proud of them.

As part of a leavers gift, they received a Leaver's Year Book, £15 Waterstones vouchers and 'Dare to be You' by Matthew Syed. Part of this was funded by the Buckfastleigh and Ashburton Rotary club and we would like to thank them for their support.

Nature Grant

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Local School Nature Grant of £500, thanks to players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Our pupils will be benefitting from a den building and loose parts kit which will be used to enhance the learning in Reception and Year 1. In addition, staff will receive training to help children learn outdoors. Pupils played an important role in applying for the grant and selected equipment that they felt would benefit their peers.

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Sustainability

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COVID Case

You may have heard about a possible COVID case at Buckfastleigh this week as we had to close the Year 1 bubble. I would like to confirm that the PCR test came back negative so none of our children or staff have to self-isolate at the start of the holiday due to a case in school. We felt that closing the bubble was the correct precaution to take at the time after advice from the Trust and are pleased that no one is unwell or was put at risk.

Term Dates and the Return to School

I would like to confirm that the children return to school on Wednesday 8th September. The top gate will be opened at 8:35am as normal.

I will send out a reminder in the week beginning 6th September which will include any COVID updates should there be any after the holiday.

In addition, there is an extra bank holiday for everyone in the country on Friday 3rd June, 2022 due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration. As this falls in the half term holiday, all schools across the country will get a one day reduction to their yearly dates. WeST have decided to take this day on Friday 17th December 2021. This means we will be breaking up for Christmas on Thursday 16th December.

MTA Vacancy

Due to a change of role for one of our staff members, we will be looking for a Mealtime Assistant to join our team as soon as possible in September. The role is 1.25hrs per day during the week. You will be working with the same class each day so will get to know a group of children really well. If you are interested in the position, please write an email to our admin team and we will be in touch towards the end of the holiday with some more details. Email admin@buckfastleigh.devon.sch.uk with your name and contact details.

Football Fun

Recently, I heard about one of our pupils and their passion for football and friendship. Finn in Year 2 was disappointed that he wasn't able to come along to football club as it was limited to KS2 this term. Rather than sitting at home, he was empowered to organise a group of friends to meet outside of school to play football and have some fun. We were all very impressed when we heard about it. Well done, Finn!

Hopefully, next term we will be able to offer football and other after school clubs more widely so look out for news about this in one of the September newsletters.

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Buckfastleigh Library Summer Reading Challenge

Visit the local library this summer to take part in the Wild World Heroes Summer Reading Challenge. This year 'The Reading Agency' has partnered with WWF to create an exciting challenge which will inspire children to take action for nature and the environment. Join the Wild World Heroes for an exciting adventure in the fictional town of 'Wilderville'.

School Lunches

Don't forget to order your school lunches for the start of the school year on Parent Pay. Orders for the first week back must be on Parent pay by Thursday 2nd September.

Artwork in the School Grounds

There has been some wonderful creative work done this term and we hope you have enjoyed some of it in the school garden. In addition to those seen outside, the Year 6 children have made some incredible pottery with Jenny Nash and designed a piece of legacy artwork which will go on the side of the school hall over the summer for you all to see in September. Check out the pictures below for some examples...



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Hope you all have a wonderful holiday with your families,

Best wishes and take care from,

Eddie Brown and the whole team at Buckfastleigh Primary School

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