

# Begbrook News

## Happy New Year

Welcome back to a brand new term at Begbrook Primary Academy. As always, we have had a busy and exciting start to the new year.

Our first day back was interrupted by the discovery in Y2 of an alien spaceship that had crash landed in our Studio! After a bit of investigating, the children discovered that her name was Beegu and they have taken her back to the classroom to look after her. Y2 will be asking lots of questions to find out more about Beegu during the term – we look forward to an update.

In Y3, the children were set a homework challenge to create their own volcanoes! We clearly have some very creative children in the year group as they look fantastic – well done.

Y4 have already held a cake sale in order to fundraise money to go towards their trip to 'We are the Curious' later this term. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the cake sale.

In Reception, it has been lovely to see so many parents and carers staying and reading with the children in the morning. This is a time that the children really enjoy and we hope that you do too.

Finally, the school has recently purchased year group sets of reading books for the children to use during whole class reading sessions. These have now arrived in school and will mean that every child has a personal copy of the book to use during their learning time. This is a great resource to have available and we are excited to see them being used in classes.

*Mr Munro*

## Lunch times

At the start of term, we introduced a variety of activities that are now available to the children during lunch time. The reason for this change is to make more use of the wonderful outdoor space we have here at Begbrook as well as providing more opportunities for the children during unstructured times. They will be given the opportunity to try out different sports, play different games and learn new skills. All of this will promote skills of teamwork and friendship and will result in improved behaviour. It also means the children go into class in the afternoon 'ready to learn'.

The new changes are as follows:

- Craze of the week – there will be two outside 'crazes' that will change on a weekly basis. So far we have had: Hula hoops, Paper Aeroplanes, Skipping and Yoyos
- Sports coaches – we have employed two new sports coaches (Scenario and Ben) who will be leading different sports each week. The MUGA is now in use every day and so far the children have been practising skills and playing the following games: football, basketball and quick cricket. We also make use of the main playground to deliver tennis and netball.
- Safe House – this remains the place that children are asked to go to if they need to reflect on the two lunch time rules (Be Safe and Show Respect)
- Play House – due to the popularity of children wanting to be inside, we have opened up the After School Club room every lunch time. The donations we have received, as well as some brand new purchases by the school, are all available for the children. These include puzzles, dressing up costumes, board games, cards and cars. We would love some more Lego so if you would like to donate, we would really appreciate it! We also have an inside 'Craze of the week' – so far we have had puzzles and speed stacking cups.
- Library – this remains open for a different year group on certain days throughout the week. We have also introduced story time 4 times per week where the children can go and listen to a teacher read a book. At the moment, the choices are 'The Witches' or 'The London Eye Mysteries'.
- Own choice – there is now even more space for the children to play and the children do not have to join in with the activities if they do not wish to.

We have had some extremely positive feedback from the children and parents and we are really pleased with the excitement we now see at lunch time. If you have any suggestions for 'Crazes of the Week', please speak to a member of staff so we can try and include it in the future.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs - A first for Begbrook

Never before has Begbrook been able to offer such a wide variety of free Extra Curricular Clubs for children from Reception to Year 6. All the clubs have had a fantastic start with children buzzing to learn something new, or share and develop an existing interest. In terms 3 and 4 we have provided over 250 free extra-curricular club places and this would not have been possible without our dedicated staff taking on this additional responsibility in their own time.

To support with the collection of children at the end of clubs, please consider parking at the Begbrook Community Centre and walking the short distance to and from school. The roads were very congested last week. Thank you in advance for your help in keeping the children safe.

### School dinners

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, there will be a change to the usual menu. The option will now be 'All day breakfast'. Thank you.

### Attendance

Congratulations to 6MT for 100% attendance from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January – what an impressive start to the term. Enjoy your Attendance Party!

## Parent Forum

Last Friday, we held our second Parent Forum. This is an opportunity for you to meet with the Principal Team to discuss key topics of school life. So far we have discussed the following topics: communication and behaviour for learning.

At the recent forum, we shared the school's approach to developing learning behaviours through the Gem Powers project. We explained the purpose behind each of the gems and gave examples of how the children can earn them. The feedback we received about the Gem Powers was extremely positive – we are particularly pleased to hear how many of the children are referring to them at home. If you would like more information about the Gems, please look on the website under the 'Letters' section to find the recent information sheet. Our next Parent Forum will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February from 6-7pm – main agenda item to be confirmed soon.



Diary Dates



ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan and 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bristol Flyers to work with Y5 children for Basketball – please ensure PE kits are in school	Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	World Book Day
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Y4 poetry performance to parents 9-9:30am in the Studio	Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Y6 Life skills trip
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> (Half Term)	Atlas Holiday Camp	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Whole school class photo day

### Term Dates 2017/2018

Term 3: Wednesday 3 Jan - Friday 9 Feb 2018  
 Term 4: Monday 19 Feb - Friday 23 March 2018  
 Term 5: Tuesday 10 April - Friday 25 May 2018  
 Term 6: Monday 4 June - Tuesday 24 July 2018

### Inset Days 2017/2018

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April  
 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July

### Term Dates 2018/19

Term 1: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018  
 Term 2: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2018  
 Term 3: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019  
 Term 4: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Apr 2019  
 Term 5: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
 Term 6: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

(Inset days will be available as soon as we have confirmation.)