



### Head Teacher's Welcome



Welcome back and I hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday.

*Richard Culham*

### Term Time Holidays

We are getting several requests for term time absences - mostly for holidays - at the moment. As you know, though, I am not allowed to authorise them *except in exceptional circumstances* and the criteria for that is very slim. Unfortunately, therefore, if the holiday is taken and we become aware of it – even if it is sometime afterwards – then we have no option but to report it and it may well lead to you receiving a fine.

I do understand the reasons why some families choose to take term time holidays but ultimately if our school attendance data falls below certain Government targets then we can also be investigated.

All of the evidence shows that absence from school can have strongly negative impact on children's attainment – please don't book term time holidays!

### School Uniform

At this time of year we see an increase in the number of items of clothing appearing in our lost property! Often this is because **clothing isn't named!** Please help my staff, and Kieran in Year 6, to return any "lost" clothing by ensuring that it is all clearly named – please!

### We're in the News!

You may have seen in the Gazette 2 weeks ago a lovely page about our school. It highlighted the "Sleep booklet" that Year 5 has produced (hopefully you have received your copy!) and the Italy trip that we recently took with 6 Year 5 children. Both of these were very well received and were a credit to our school and thoroughly deserved to be given the press coverage that they did.

### SAT's

It's that time of year again where Y2 and Y6 children have their SATs. Y2 sit theirs throughout May; Y6 have theirs next week.

This can be a very difficult time for some children so please help them to be successful by ensuring that they get plenty of sleep and come to school on time and prepared to give their all!

### Fundraising



Our recent school FOBs Easter Bingo event raised a wonderful £650. A big 'thank you' to Mrs Parker as our 'caller', to our wonderful FOBs members and to all who supported this event.

## Safeguarding Audit

I recently arranged for the County Safeguarding lead to carry out an audit of our safeguarding policy and procedures. I felt that, whilst our systems seemed sound and effective, Safeguarding is too important and I wanted “an external eye”. I haven’t had the written report yet but verbally we were told that our policy and procedures are good and that children at Birchfield are very well looked after and are safe. I will give you an update when I receive the final report.

## Fortnite: Battle Royals

We have just received an alert from the County ICT team about this game. It is a very popular game across the world and has a bright, friendly visual style that does not depict bloody violence – it is rated a 12 though. We have been given 2 specific pieces of advice. Firstly, it is very addictive – children have been known to get up in the middle of the night to play. Secondly, they can chat online and the danger there is that they can end up talking to people that they don’t know.

Potentially, although they are too young, it could be a fun adult / child game to play but please be aware of the potential dangers.

There is a leaflet that has just been produced that we will send home to children in Year 5 and 6. If parents of any other year group would like a copy then please let the office know.

## Erasmus Project



The next stage of our involvement in this exciting project is an educational visit to Sweden. Over the half term week Miss Walker, Mrs White and myself will be spending time in a Swedish school finding about their school systems. We are particularly interested to see their youngest classes as formal education doesn’t start until a child is 7 years old. I am also interested, therefore, to see whether the children then reach the same standards as ours by 11 years of age. It should be fascinating!

## Well Being Classes

We are very happy for our school premises to be used by the local community and one of our bookings is for Pilate’s classes which are held on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening from 6 pm – 7 pm. For more details about this class please contact Cordelia Worsley on 01935 412104 or [cordelia.worsley@gmail.com](mailto:cordelia.worsley@gmail.com) or visit her website on [www.cordeliasclasses.com](http://www.cordeliasclasses.com)

On a Thursday evening our hall is also booked by Slimming World from 5.30 pm – 8.30 pm.

## Dates for your Diary

**Mon 14 – Thur 17 May:** Y6 SAT's

**Tue 22 May:** New September Reception parents meeting 6.30 pm

**Wed 23 May:** Y1 Garden Centre (further information to follow)

Class Photographs all day – if wet they will be held on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning due to school events going on

**Thurs 24 May:** Y5 Inventors afternoon  
Birchfield Tournament (further information to follow)

**Fri 25 May:** INSET (Pre-School 'open' as their INSET day has been changed)

**Mon 28 May – Fri 1 June:** Half Term Holiday

**Mon 4 June:** School re-opens

**Wed 6 – Fri 8 June:** Y5 residential trip

**Fri 8 June:** Height and Weight for YR and Y6

**Sat 16 June:** Country Dance Festival @ Wells

**Mon 25 June:** New Reception parents and children visit – Group 1: 2 pm – 3 pm

**Tue 26 June:** Y4 trip to Stonehenge  
Gryphon School Induction Day for Y6

**Wed 27 June:** New Reception parents and children visit – Group 2: 2 pm – 3 pm

**Thurs 28 June:** Swimming Gala @ Goldenstones

**Sat 30 June:** School Fete from 12 noon – 2.30 pm

**Mon 2 July:** New Reception children visit –  
Group 1: 2 pm – 3 pm

**Wed 4 July:** Pre-School INSET  
Y6 Transition Day for Yeovil schools  
KS1 Sports morning from 9.30 am

New Reception children visit – Group 2: 2 – 3 pm

**Thurs 5 July:** Y4 Stone Age Day

**Fri 6 July:** KS2 Sports morning from 9.30 am  
School Disco – further details to follow

**Wed 11 July:** Y6 production (evening) – further details to follow

**Thurs 12 July:** Y5 trip to Taunton Museum

**Fri 13 July:** Y6 production (evening)

School Reports to be sent home

**Wed 18 July:** 'Reserve' KS1 Sports morning from 9.30 am

Y6 swimming (last one)

**Fri 20 July:** 'Reserve' KS2 Sports morning from 9.30 am

**Mon 23 July:** Y6 trip to Crealy

Y4 Stone Age Activity Day

**Tues 24 July:** Last day of term

Y6 leavers assembly – 11 am

Y6 leavers BBQ – time to be confirmed

**Mon 3 Sept:** INSET

**Tues 4 Sept:** School re-opens after summer hols