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Friday 10th January 2014

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year. It is really lovely to be back at school for another exciting term. I am sure this year is going to be a fantastic year full of really exciting learning opportunities, school events and chances to celebrate success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for helping make the start of the academic year such a success and look forward to working with you all during 2014.

Visioning Day

Our INSET day on Monday 6th January focused on developing the Vision for Barcombe School. Thank you to everyone who completed the parent questionnaires and gave feedback to parent representatives about the school. This information was used to help develop a clearer understanding of what different stakeholders felt the school was doing well and how it could improve in the future. The day was well attended by all school governors and staff. I will be sharing more information with you about this shortly.

Our Learning Journeys

This year the children will begin with two really interesting and exciting learning journeys! The children in Key Stage Two will be immersing themselves in 'The Terrible Tudors!', whilst the children in Key Stage One will be exploring and investigating 'Old Fashioned and Modern Toys'. If you have any artefacts, interesting books or other resources at home that would help bring either of these learning journeys to life please speak to the teachers or let your children bring them into school to share with their classes!

Our Values

This term the children will be thinking about and reflecting on the value of 'Hope'. The children will be listening to stories, talking with visiting speakers and exploring their own views on how hope can comfort, motivate, inspire and help us dream for something better.

After School Clubs

After school clubs are just being finalised, information regarding after school clubs will be sent out early next week. Most clubs will commence week beginning 20th January.

New Sports Kit

I am very excited to inform you the school now has a new football kit! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicky Thomas of Holman's Bridge Farm and Charlotte Hatchard for making this possible.

School Security

If you are visiting the school site between 9.00am and 3.00pm it is important that you access the site via the School Office; the security of our school community is of paramount importance to us.

Parent Volunteers

The school is looking for any parents who have a small amount of free time in their busy schedules to help with listening to children read. If you are able to spare some time please speak to the school office so we can arrange when and where you can help.

Working Together To Be Better

The school values the importance of working together to help ensure all children at school feel safe,

feel valued and feel supported. During Term 3 and 4 the school will be running parent workshops focusing on how the children learn important skills and how parents can help children develop their knowledge of phonics, calculations and story writing at home.

Dates for these workshops are:

Progression in Phonics – Wednesday 22nd January 4.30 – 5.30pm.

Progression in learning calculations – Wednesday 5th February 4.30 -5.30pm.

Developing sentence construction and writing stories – Wednesday 5th March 4.30 -5.30pm.

Please come along, enjoy some light refreshments and see how the children are shown how to develop these skills in school.

School Council Competition

The School Council is proud to launch an Anti-Bullying Poster Competition. All children have been informed about this exciting contest in assembly today. We have asked pupils to create a poster that promotes an anti-bullying culture. Entries should be on A4 paper and can use any medium e.g. pen, pencil, ICT. The message must be clear, focusing on the positive rather than the negative e.g. 'Be Kind' rather than 'Don't Bully'. The deadline for entries is Friday 24th January. There will be one winner from each class and an overall winner. Please make sure that your child's name and class is on the back.

Attendance

Please remember that there is no entitlement for parents to remove their children from school for the purpose of a holiday. As a school we are working really hard to improve our overall attendance. When a child is not in school they are missing out on important learning opportunities.

I look forward to speaking with you all very soon,
Best Wishes for a fantastic term.

Mr S James
Head Teacher

Initial Dates For Term 3 – These are not all important dates as some activities are still being confirmed

6.1.14 – INSET DAY – Visioning Day for Barcombe School

10.1.14 - Rec. Screening - School nurse

13.1.14 – Owls Class Video Conferencing Ecole Costes Bellonte, St.Vallery en Caux

14.1.14 – Curriculum letters to parents

16.1.14 – 2.15 trumpet recital to Owls/Foxes

20.1.14 – 9-9.20 Owls Curriculum meeting, Fox Class Video Conferencing Ecole Costes Bellonte, St.Vallery en Caux

21.1.14 – 9-9.20 Foxes Class Curriculum Meeting

22.1.14– 9-9.20 Badgers Class Curriculum Meeting, Yr 5 /6 Hockey Comp., Parents Phonic Workshop 4.30 – 5.30pm

23.1.14 - 9-9.20 Squirrels Class Curriculum Meeting, Yr 3 /4 Indoor Athletics Chailey

24.1.14 - 9-9.20 Hedgehogs Class Curriculum Meeting, Parent Representatives Meeting 2.30pm

27.1.14 – Owls Class Video Conferencing Ecole Costes Bellonte, St.Vallery en Caux

28.1.14 –David Fuller, Children's Author visiting School - KS2

3.2.14 – Fox Class Video Conferencing Ecole Costes Bellonte, St.Vallery en Caux

5.2.14 –Parents Maths Workshop 4.30 -5.30pm

10.2.14 - Yr 6 Video Conferencing Ecole Costes Bellonte, St.Vallery en Caux

14.2.14 – END OF TERM