

The Bliss Charity School

Issue: 1

Wednesday 6th September

Term 1



Hello everybody,

I hope you all had a fantastic summer break. It was lovely seeing the children back at school yesterday and I really enjoyed listening to all the fun and interesting things they enjoyed over the past six weeks. Their attitude and behaviour on the first day of the new school year was brilliant. They have returned from the holidays refreshed, energised and very keen to learn and impress their new teachers. All the pupils look very smart too. Here's to a really successful year at The Bliss Charity School!

Mr. Carter

Dates for your diary ...

This is a list of events scheduled for Term 1. If your child is involved in any activities that require special arrangements (e.g. permission to leave the school site or participation beyond normal school hours), you will receive more information from their class teacher or the school office.

September - October			
5 th Sept.	School re-opens to pupils for Term 1	22 nd Sept.	<i>Summer Reading Challenge</i> assembly
5 th Sept.	Hotshots taster sessions for KS2	22 nd Sept.	School Council elections
7 th Sept.	Class 6 <i>Tesco</i> trip	25 th Sept.	New School Council announced in assembly
11 th Sept.	Reception children start – half days	25 th Sept.	Full Governing Body Meeting (6:30)
11 th Sept.	Class 4 curriculum meeting for parents (5:00)	26 th Sept.	<i>Northamptonshire Waste and Energy Education Team</i> assembly for 'Recycle Week 2017'
11 th Sept.	Year 6 House Captain application letters due in	26 th Sept.	Class 1 phonics meeting for parents (3:15)
12 th Sept.	Class 3 curriculum meeting for parents (3:15)	27 th Sept.	Felt-making Workshops
13 th Sept.	Class 2 curriculum meeting for parents (3:15)	28 th Sept.	Felt-making Workshops
14 th Sept.	Class 5 curriculum meeting for parents (3:15)	29 th Sept.	Harvest Festival: St. Peter and St. Paul's (10:00 – 11:00)
14 th Sept.	Class 6 curriculum meeting for parents (5:30)	5 th Oct.	Class 3 trip to the <i>National Sea Life Centre</i>
15 th Sept.	Class 1 curriculum meeting for parents (3:15)	6 th Oct.	KS1 Celebration Assembly
15 th Sept.	New Year 6 house captains announced in assembly	13 th Oct.	KS2 Celebration Assembly
18 th Sept.	Manifestos for the school council elections due in	16 th Oct.	Class 2 trip to the <i>Warwick Castle</i>
20 th Sept.	<i>Life Education Bus</i> in school all day	16 th Oct.	Parents' Evening (3:30 – 8:00)
20 th Sept.	Class 4 'Ukulele Project' begins	17 th Oct.	Parents' Evening (3:30 – 6:00)
21 st Sept.	<i>Life Education Bus</i> in school all day	20 th Oct.	Last day of Term 1 (school re-opens on Tuesday 31st October)

Please be aware that these dates are subject to change and other activities will be added into the diary throughout the term. A feature of good teaching is to respond to children's interests as a topic or a unit of work progresses, therefore not all events can be planned too far in advance. Also, some activities – such as sporting fixtures and musical opportunities – only become available a few weeks (or sometimes days) before they take place. There is a calendar on the school website that is kept up-to-date by Mrs. Howard and the school office will always try to give parents/carers as much notice as possible about upcoming events, additional activities or diary changes.

Independent



Metacognition

The Bliss Charity School's metacognition programme is a fantastic way of developing children's ability to learn. Whilst the pupils can achieve all ten skills and all ten attitudes at any time, we concentrate on one skill and one attitude per month as a whole-school. To begin the year, we will focus on *independent* attitudes and developing *self-management* skills.

Self Managing



Curriculum Meetings

In September, there will be a 'curriculum meeting' for every class. The aim of these events is to share class-specific information with parents/carers about the new school year, e.g. homework requirements, topic overviews, age-related expectations etc. The dates and times of the curriculum meetings are in 'Dates for your diary' section on page 1 (above). Class newsletters providing further information about the first topics of the new school year will be sent home at the end of this week.

Respect

Our school rules are based on respect ...

Respect – yourself, others, our school, our community and our world.

The focus for Term 1 will be on the first aspect of this motto: 'respect yourself.' Assemblies and some class work will be linked to this theme.



Games Mark

We are pleased to announce that Bliss was awarded the *School Games Silver Mark*! The *School Games Mark* is a government-led awards scheme that rewards schools for the physical activity they offer and the opportunities for sporting competition they provide. Congratulations to all those involved in the development of PE, school sport and healthy lifestyles at Bliss – this is a super achievement and the first time the school has received this award!



House Points

Following the introduction of our four houses before the summer break, a new system of house points was introduced to the children in yesterday's whole-school assembly. When the children demonstrate our RESPECT rules, they can be awarded a house point. Children can then add their house point tokens to their house's tube in their classroom. Each week the tokens will be counted by our Year 6 house captains (see below) and recorded on our brand new house points board in the hall. This collective, team-based incentive is not replacing the school's metacognition reward system. The children's individual achievements will still be recognised and rewarded in-line with the 10 attitudes and 10 skills of the metacognition programme as before. If any Year 6 pupils would like to apply to be a house captain they must submit a formal, written letter to Miss Thompson by Monday 11th September, outlining why they are a suitable candidate for this position of responsibility. There are eight house captain positions available – two for each of the four houses. The new house captains will be announced in assembly on Friday 15th September.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children – both in and out of school – has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

What is safeguarding?

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring children are cared for and grow up in safety.
- Taking action to enable children to have the best outcomes.

At The Bliss Charity School we have a Safeguarding Team, with six trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Mr. Carter, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Caller, Mrs. Adey, Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Simpson.

If parents/carers have safeguarding concerns regarding any of our pupils (either while they're at school or in the wider community) they can disclose information to one of our DSLs directly or via any member of our staff.

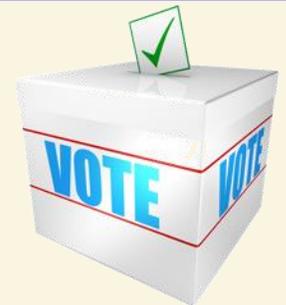
Alternatively, parents/carers can contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 126 1000 or the NSPCC on 0800 800 5000. All emergency concerns should go straight to 999.

Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of ensuring the welfare and safety of children. No-one should assume that someone else will pass on information which they think may be critical to keeping a child safe.



School Council

Over the coming weeks we will be forming our School Council for 2017-2018! Our School Council occupies a central role at The Bliss Charity School in developing the learning experience for our pupils. Last year, the School Council focused on the establishment of a 'Lunchtime Charter' for good playground behaviour and they interviewed an MP to find out about life in the Houses of Parliament. They also established the very popular *Snack Attack*, where their work included tasting samples and ensuring the items were nutritious and healthy, ordering products and monitoring stock and setting prices and calculating profits. This year, we are looking for two representatives from Classes 1-6 to form our new student body. Children who are interested in representing their class need to complete a manifesto and return it to their teacher by Monday 18th September ready to present to their classmates before the elections. Class ballots will be held on Friday 22nd September. The results of each class vote will be announced in assembly on Monday 25th September. The new School Council will then begin working with Mrs. Heard on a range of exciting new projects. Candidates need to be committed to the role and willing to give up some of their lunchtime for regular meetings.



Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) has been fantastic, with lots of children from Bliss participating in the nationwide challenge entitled 'Animal Agents'. For those who couldn't make it to the library, many other pupils have taken part in our school version of the Summer Reading Challenge and read six books during the holidays. Both 'Animal Agents' and our school version of the SRC finish on Saturday 16th September. Once the Challenge is over, we would like to invite all of the finishers to bring their medals/certificates or bookmarks into school on Friday 22nd September so we can congratulate them all in a special celebration assembly. All those who finish the SRC will be entered into our prize draw too!



Reading at Home

READ
EVERY
DAY!

READ
EVERY
DAY!

READ
EVERY
DAY!

With the introduction of the new National Curriculum in 2014, the expectation of pupil attainment at primary school was raised considerably and this has been seen in the much more challenging SATs at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. These higher expectations are particularly challenging in reading. It is expected that every child becomes a very confident, rapid and fluent reader, with refined comprehension skills at a young age. Pupils are expected to be able to digest a wide range of texts at an age-appropriate level quickly and with good understanding. And, at the end of Year 6, they are expected to be able to communicate this understanding in writing under exam conditions with very limited time. Making 'every child a reader' is something that can only be achieved by children completing their daily reading homework and reading in their own time as much as possible. By reading together at home, adults can set a really good example and encourage a life-long love of reading. If children read at home every day with an adult, they will improve their accuracy and fluency, as well as developing their comprehension. Moreover, the acquisition of these core reading skills are the basis of high achievement in most other subjects: there is a clear link between reading widely and becoming a good writer; being a confident reader makes other literary-based subjects, such as history and geography, easier to access; and fluent readers find contextual-based problem solving in maths much easier too. By reading at home with your child as much as possible you will be supporting the work of the teachers and teaching assistants in school and giving your youngster the very best opportunity to succeed. Please have a look at the leaflet produced by *Springboard Literacy* (sent as a separate attachment) entitled 'A Parents Little Guide to Helping Children Read'. It contains lots of really good advice on how to develop your child's reading ability. Thank you for your support.

Classroom Lofts

Over the summer break, we had two classroom lofts installed: one in Class R and the other one in Class 1. The lofts offer a bit of extra space in these classrooms as well as providing an additional learning environment where the children can be absorbed in their own imaginative play or enjoy a good book! As well as the new loft, the Reception classroom has had a substantial makeover during the holidays, with lots of new furniture and resources purchased for the new school year.



Playground Equipment

Last year, the School Council worked with Mrs. Heard to select new playground equipment and, over the summer holidays, this was installed. The Council chose a tractor and a snake-shaped bench to enhance the children's experience at break times and lunchtimes. This new equipment was paid for by money raised by *The Friends of Bliss*. Thank you to *The Friends* for this kind and generous donation!

