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March 13th 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Congratulations to last weeks’ stars of the week from each class. The class teacher chooses one child each week who has demonstrated one or more of our core values. Last week’s winners were:

Little Owl Savannah

Kestrel Tobias

Sparrowhawk Jayden

Buzzard Leo and Derin

**South Downs Photo**

Due to the high winds, the 100 photo has been postponed until next week at the earliest.

**Strike Day**

You may have seen in the news that both Welsh and Scottish governments have made offers to teaching unions which has resulted in the proposed strikes being paused. This is not the case in England, so as it stands, Sparrowhawk Class will be closed on Thursday as previously communicated. If anything changes you will be informed via our usual communication channels.

**Visitors**

Last week Sparrowhawks had a visit from local historian, Chris Hare helping them to learn more about their recent history work. On Wednesday Miss Willett kindly agreed to host a visiting teacher who was keen to learn from an experienced Yr3/4 teacher.

Two weeks ago we were visited by guests from the local authority (LA) as part of a small schools project. The LA are keen to learn more about small schools which is definitely a good thing considering there are over 50 of us in West Sussex. We were visited by the curriculum lead for West Sussex, Duncan Edwards and the Head of Standards and Effectiveness, Yasmin Maskatiya. They were very positive about their experience here and shared the following key points:

* The development of a coherent strategy on very tight resources
* Building on existing strengths and advantages and making them successful educational approaches eg Bury Rangers
* Unequivocal focus on the curriculum and sustained, deep learning
* Writing development and your approaches to writing across the curriculum
* Development and involvement of the Bury team
* Careful and judicious use of research to foster progress

Today we are being visited by the Assistant Diocesan Director of Education, Ruth Cumming in the second of three visits over the year where I have asked her to look at different subjects each time – today’s subject focus is maths where Ruth will cast an outside look on what we are doing and suggest possible areas to further improve.

**Grounds Maintenance Day and Red Nose Day – Friday 17th March**

Don’t forget to donate your £1 or whatever you can afford on Friday via the official [Just Giving Link](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rednoseday2023) and come to school wearing anything red\*.

The children will be litter picking different areas of the school grounds as part of the day. If any family has ‘litter grabbers’ that they are happy for their child to use, please send them in with your child on Friday.

Message from FOBS:

“We are looking forward to joining with the school in helping with some general grounds maintenance this Friday. We have a number of parents joining us. You can volunteer all day (some of us will be starting at drop off) or you can join for when you are available. We will finish and tidy up before pick up. Please check in at reception and then come and find Jess on the grounds when you arrive.

Please bring a water bottle (thirsty work!) and lunch/snacks if you’re staying for the day. We will provide tea and coffee and some light snacks. Please wear clothes and shoes which you don’t mind getting muddy/wet. It would be great if you could bring your own gardening gloves but don’t worry if you haven’t got any. You will need to sign a disclaimer when you start if you wish to use our provided secateurs. We will provide some basic gardening tools for use on site but if you have anything handy such as a hand trowel, rake or brush please feel free to bring these.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to showing you some before and after photos soon!

Thanks, FOBs Team”

\*This does not need to be your child’s entire outfit, any item with a hint of red in it will do, or of course, you can go head-to-toe in red if you can mange it!

**Fr Peter**

As many of you will be aware, Fr Peter is retiring in a couple of months. We will be having a special final assembly for him on Wednesday 26th April. Knowing that many parents will also want to wish him well and that we will be unable to fit everyone in the hall, we will be holding a secret (from Fr Peter) bonus tea and cake event after school on the same day. Please collect your children as normal at the end of the day and then make your way to the outdoor classroom where cake and a drink will be served.

If you are able to provide cake etc for the event, please contact [fobs@bury.school](mailto:fobs@bury.school). If you would like to give a donation to Fr Peter’s leaving gift, please send money to the office in an envelope marked ‘Fr Peter – gift’.

**Covid Guidance**

Most Covid guidance has now been withdrawn. The exception can be found on the NHS website[**here**](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/)**.**

**PE and Bury Rangers from September 2022**

Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies or outdoor boots that can be worn just for the Bury Rangers session – they will need another pair of shoes for the rest of the day.

A reminder of what children should be wearing for PE Kit:

**PE Kit:**

Green Bury T-shirt, black shorts (tracksuits may be worn for outside lessons), plimsolls or trainers. Plus shin pads and mouth-guards for Sparrowhawks and Buzzards

Children to attend school in PE kit or Bury Rangers clothes for the relevant days. Those days are as follows\*:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Bury Rangers** | **PE** |
| **Monday** |  | Buzzards  Sparrowhawks |
| **Tuesday** | Kestrels |  |
| **Wednesday** | Sparrowhawks | Little Owls |
| **Thursday** | Little Owls | Kestrels |
| **Friday** | Buzzards |  |

\*There will of course be times when these days need to change and we will give as much notice as possible

Diary Dates

I will try to give you as much notice as possible about forthcoming events at school. We will try not to change dates and times, but sometimes we do need to due to circumstances beyond our control.

Please keep checking these dates and times as I will update them every week.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Wednesday 15th March | SPLASH Assembly – parents welcome |
| Thursday 16th March | School closed to Sparrowhawk Class due to strikes |
| Friday 17th March | Own clothes for £1 for Red Nose Day |
| Tuesday 21st March | Full Governing Body meeting |
| Monday 27th March | Lambing Live At Bignor – More to follow |
| Thursday 30th March | Sparrowhawks’ Easter Production 9:30 and 14:00 |
| Week beginning 17th April | Buzzard Class Bikeability |
| Wednesday 26th April | Fr Peter – final assembly |
| Week beginning 8th May | Yr 6 SATs week |
| Monday 8th May | Additional Bank Holiday for King’s coronation |
| Wednesday 10th May | SPLASH Assembly |
| Monday 22nd May | Sports’ Morning |
| Monday 5th June | School Photos |
| Wednesday 7th June | Sparrowhawks at Weald and Downland |
| Week beginning 12th June | Phonics Check week for children in Yrs 1 and 2 |
| Friday 16th June | Sussex Day |
| Monday 26th June | Yr 6 Leavers’ Service at Chichester |
| Tuesday 4th July | Full Governing Body meeting |
| Wednesday 5th July | Transition Day (Yr 6 to new schools) |
| Tuesday 11th July | Buzzard Class production 14:00 and 18:00 |
| Thursday 13th July | Diversity Awareness Day |
| Friday 21st July | Leavers’ Assembly – Y6 families invited |
| Monday 20th November | Artist working with whole school |
| Tuesday 21st November | Artist working with Buzzards |

**Birthdays**

Children can wear their own clothes for the day (or a day either side of the holiday) when it is their birthday. Please do not send the children in with cakes or sweets to share. In its place, we thought that instead of sweets it would be a good idea to buy a book for the school/class. The children then present the book to the school in assembly before placing it in our school library (although most ask for it to be shared in their class first). Please do inscribe a message in the book so that it keeps reminding the child of their birthday every time either they, or a friend, borrow the book. The link below is an Amazon wish list where the staff and children have selected some books that they would like for school.

[Birthday Book wish list](https://amzn.eu/gJFiCVu)

Please do not feel constrained by the list, nor feel you have to get them through Amazon – locally we have great bookshops in Arundel and Petworth both of which have a very good selection of children’s books. It is also great to receive a book chosen by your child because it is something they are particularly interested in.

Please do add your views to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. It is incredibly helpful to us for you to share the positives of what is going on at Bury CE Primary; if you have the time and would like to share the good work we are doing then please do add your feedback.

Excerpt below taken from ParentView website.

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child’s school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time; you don’t have to wait until the school is being inspected.

We will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect and when.

Click ‘Give your views’ to register and complete a survey to help your child’s school improve.

It is parents’ responsibility to inform the school of any changes to consent to administer medicine.

It is parents’ responsibility to keep us informed of changes to your personal data and where the school process personal data solely on the basis that you have consented to the processing, you have the right to withdraw that consent.

Thank you for your continued support.

Thomas Moore,

Headteacher