

BEECH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter for Wednesday 23rd September 2015

Fair Funding petition – please come to school reception and sign it!

You will know only too well that school budgets are under pressure. The national budget for education is shared out on a basis that is lost in history and is manifestly unfair.

Gloucestershire schools and academies suffer as a consequence. The government has given a commitment to introduce fair funding but there is real urgency about making progress. The higher funded regions receive on average £6,300 per child, the lower funded regions (of which Gloucestershire is one) received on average £4,200 per child. We would like to be able to continue to provide your child with an education that is on par with any region in the country, but because of the present funding allocation it is becoming increasingly difficult. Please help us to provide the education that your children deserve by signing this petition to show that Gloucestershire is not going to sit back and let this situation continue - after all we all pay the same taxes wherever we live! The petition for you to sign will be left on the signing in desk in the main school reception - thank you.

EVENT - Information to Parents and Carers regarding changes to Beech Green's School Curriculum and Assessment Procedures in Years 1 to 6

On Monday we sent home a letter inviting you to a parent/carer sharing of information event in school which is on **Wednesday 7th October 2015**. Please return the slip at the bottom of that letter and also make a note if you will require childcare.

(Apologies that the original letter stated Wednesday 6th October - this was incorrect!)

Thank you



Many thanks to the parents/carers who called in for coffee and to complete the short Ofsted online survey. If you could not come in to school last Thursday or would prefer to complete the survey at home, then please log on to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

KS1 Golden Time Reminder

Following the letter we sent out last Friday, we would like to remind you about Golden Time stickers. We celebrate children who have kept all their Golden Time throughout the week by sending them home with a Golden Time sticker. We also understand that as parents, you are keen to know if your child has missed Golden Time during the week, for any reason, and in order to inform you of this we send out an alternative sticker showing how many minutes your child has missed. In order to avoid this sticker getting lost we will stick it in the back of your child's homework book. Many thanks for your continued support.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL

Please note that playground gates are opened in the morning at 8.40 a.m. to allow children and parents access. Please only enter the playground earlier if you have business with the school office or other members of staff. This is particularly important on a Wednesday morning when the cross country club are using the main playground. Thank you.

Please use the path around the car park on your way into school and out of it in order to avoid potential accidents when crossing the car park. We have had near misses in the past. Also, please do not allow your children to play on the play equipment outside of school hours. A member of staff must always be supervising the use of the equipment. Thank you for your co-operation.

CROSS COUNTRY CLUB on Wednesdays

Mr Higgs would like to remind parents of children in the cross country club that the club begins at 8.10 a.m. It is important that children arrive promptly for registration to avoid unnecessary interruptions and to ensure that all children are part of the pre-run warm up. Thank you.

Naming uniform

Please could all parents check that children's uniform is named clearly, including PE kit. If any children bring home clothes which contain another child's name please could the item be returned to the class teacher who can then return it to its owner. Thank you.

European Day of Languages Reminder

Tomorrow, Thursday 24th September, Beech Green School will be celebrating the European Day of Languages. On this day, your child's class will enjoy activities related to their chosen country, whilst learning some basic vocabulary in that country's language. To make the day even more fun, we are making this day a non-uniform day and ask that your child dresses in the colours of their country's flag.

Reception-France (red, white and blue)

Year 1 - Italy (red, white and green)

Year 2 - Germany (red, yellow and black)

Year 3 - Wales (red, white and green)

Year 4 - Italy (red, white and green)

Year 5 - Germany (red, yellow and black)

Year 6 - Switzerland (red and white)



Y6 Residential - Condover Hall 2016

The Y6 residential information letter will be coming home soon. The children are all very excited to find out the details, but we can confirm now that it is booked for Condover Hall Monday to Thursday 21st to 24th March 2016. (Friday 25th March is school holiday and Good Friday, so we will return on Thursday).

"Scrumptious School Dinners", Says Y6

The staff all agree that the new school dinner menu offers some really good tasty home cooking, although we understand that some of the children are reluctant to try dishes they are not familiar with. Please encourage your children to try something they have not had before; we are sure they will be pleasantly surprised with the taste and flavours.

We interviewed three Y6 pupils and this is what they had to say:-

Zainab Sambo - "I really enjoy the school meals and they are different to what I have had before. I like how we have a different variety to choose from and in particular I like and can recommend the veggie bangers and mashed potato, the battered fish with chips and the chick pea and vegetable hotpot that tasted delicious. The jacket potato choices are also lovely and filled with a variety of toppings. The puddings are lush!"

Edgars Kadnivkova - "My favourite meal has been the Mixed Bean Cassoulet with cous cous which Mrs Simmonds also thought was very tasty. Neither of us knew what it was, but we just tried it anyway and look forward to the next time it features on the menu. I also like that we have a large variety of puddings, though my favourite one was the amazing bread and butter pudding. I highly recommend the apple and cherry cobbler with custard, yum yum."

Sidney Hurcombe - "Thursdays of Week 3 is my favourite meal because there is red pepper frittata with new potatoes (in case you don't know what a frittata is, it's a bit like an omelette). Try it and find out. My other favourite is sweet and sour Quorn with noodles, a great veggie option. I like to be very experimental and one day I tried cucumber from the salad bar with custard as a pudding - it was fab!"

Basically these Y6 pupils were very enthusiastic about most of the dishes on offer and would encourage others to try it.

There is a special menu on **Thursday 1st October (Cowboy Special Day)**, and we would like everyone in school to have a meal then, please. It's School Census day and this is when our funding for meals is calculated on how many children take a school dinner in KS1. Basically if not enough children take a school dinner on that day we will have to make up any shortfall to the actual cost of our catering contract from other monies that could be used for resources. The meals are universally free to everyone in KS1 so please have one on 1st October at least, when the



menu will be:-

Hot Dogs served with optional onions

Homemade Spicy Vegetable Burger served with optional onions

Jacket Wedges, Baked Beans and Sweetcorn

Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble served with custard

School Trips... how to pay... it's a new way!

Important changes – please read below

Back in June we notified parents via the school newsletter that we intend to change the way we take payments for school trips, as we are working towards becoming a cashless school office.

This academic year we will not be taking cheque or cash payments for school trips via the school office. Payments will instead be made online via ParentPay the same as for dinner money.

To pay for trips parents/carers will need to logon to their child's ParentPay account (if you cannot remember your username or password then please come and ask us in the school office). You will then need to select the correct item to pay against, e.g. Y3 Stone Age Trip or Y4 Rainforest Trip. It is essential that parents/carers select the correct item to pay for at this stage, make sure you don't accidentally pick up and put the money into school dinners by mistake! You can of course select to top up your school dinner fund as well at the same time and add that to your basket as well.

Having selected the correct item, e.g. Y3 Stone Age Trip, you will be asked to pay online, like any other online shop or payment facility. It's really easy.

If you need to pay by cash at PayPoint, then you will need to come to collect a separate bar coded letter. The one you already have is for dinners only and each item will have a bar code specific to it. Again, if you use the bar code you might already have then that money would go to your child's dinner money account and not the trip, by mistake!

Any problems during this transition period, then please pop in to the office and we will gladly help you.

Y3 and Y4 parents are the first to use this new facility with their school trips coming up, so good luck to them and thank you all for your support. It's going well.

Kitchen Vacancy

Caterlink (our meal contractors) have a staff vacancy for someone to work in the school kitchen, Monday to Friday between 12 and 1. The hourly rate of pay is £6.55. Contact Caterlink on 01452 346796 for details on how to apply.

School Diary Dates

We have added some more details - see attached in bold.

<i>Did you get your post this week?</i>	
KS1	KS2
	Year 4 – term information
	Year 4 – football club
	Year 4 – The Living Rainforest trip
	Year 6 – term topic information
Information to Parents/Carers regarding changes to School Curriculum and Assessment Procedures Y1-Y6	Information to Parents/Carers regarding changes to School Curriculum and Assessment Procedures Y1-Y6
Golden Time sticker explanation	

Annual Calendar Dates 2015-2016

TERM	DATE	EVENT
1	September 1	School Closed – INSET - Start of Term 1
	September 2	School Closed – INSET
	September 7 – October 31	Online Secondary 2016 application facility open
	September 12	The grammar school entrance test day (Saturday)
	September 15	Y4 Swimming starts for 6 weeks
	September 23 - 9.10 a.m.	Reception parents - Jolly Phonics meeting
	September 24	European Day
	October 5	School photographer in for portraits and families
	October 7 – 3.30 p.m.	Information to Parents and Carers regarding changes to School Curriculum and Assessment Procedures in Years 1 to 6 – Event in the hall
	October 6 – 6.00 p.m.	Early Years/Foundation Stage Parent Meeting in the hall
	By October 12	Grammar school test results sent to parents
	October 12	Operation Christmas Child Cake Sale
	October 13 and 14 at 3.30 – 6.20 p.m.	Parents Evening Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6
	October 15 -9.00 or 10.30 a.m.	Prospective Reception 2016 Open Morning
	October 16 th overnight	Y6 WWII Day and Evacuee Sleepover – children to be picked up 8.30 a.m. on Saturday 17 th October.
	October 19	Harvest Assembly by Gloucester Foodbank
	October 19 p.m.	Inter-House Cross Country
October 21	End of Term 1	
October 31	Secondary transfer closing date for all applications	
2	Beginning of November	Reception 2016 letters should have been received by this date explaining how to apply for a school place
	November 1 – January 15	Online Primary 2016 application facility open
	November 2	Start of Term 2
	November 4 – 1.30 p.m.	Prospective Reception 2016 Open Afternoon
	November 11	British Values and WW1 Day
	November 12 – 9.00 or 10.30 a.m.	Prospective Reception 2016 Open Morning
	November 13	PTFA Bingo Night
	November 16 and 17 at 3.30 – 6.30 p.m.	Parents Evening Rec (FS)
	November 27	Last day to pre-order Christmas Dinner
	December 1 - a.m.	KS2 Theatre trip – Cinderella - at The Everyman
	December 2 - a.m.	KS1 Theatre trip – Cinderella - at The Everyman
	December 2 – 6.30 p.m.	Y3/4 Carols – dress rehearsal at 9.15 a.m.
	December 4	PTFA School Disco
	December 8 - 9.30	KS1 (Y1/Y2) Play dress rehearsal
	December 8 – 1-3 p.m.	Nursery Christmas Party in new building
	December 9 – 9.30	KS1 (Y1/2) Play
	December 9	School Christmas Dinner (to be pre-ordered by 27 th November)
	December 14 – 9.30 a.m.	Foundation Stage Dress Rehearsal
	December 15 – 9.30 a.m.	Foundation Stage Performance
	December 16 p.m.	Y1 Christmas Party in the studio
	December 17 p.m.	Y3 Christmas Party in the studio
	December 18 a.m.	Y4 Christmas Party in the studio
	December 18 a.m.	Y5/Y6 Christmas Party in the hall
	December 18 p.m.	Y2 Christmas Party in the hall
	December 18 p.m.	Reception Christmas Party in the studio
	December 18	End of Term 2
	3	January 4
January 5		Children return for start of Term 3
January 5		Y3 Swimming starts for 6 weeks
January 15		Reception 2016 – deadline for returning applications
January 25 for week		Arts week
January 29		PTFA Quiz Night
February 9 and 10 3.30 – 6.30 p.m.		Parents Evening Y1 -Y6

	February 12	End of Term 3
4	February 22	Children return for Term 4
	February 23	Meeting for all children, plus at least 1 of their parents. – Condover Hall 2016
	February 29 w/c	Y6 Cycling Proficiency
	March 1	Y6 national secondary school place allocation day
	March 3	World Book Day
	TBA	Life Education Bus
	March 11	PTFA School Disco
	March 15	Y6 closing date to return reply form accepting the secondary school place allocated or requesting reconsideration
	March 15 and 16 at 3.30 – 6.30 p.m.	Parents Evening Rec (FS)
	March 21 – 24 (4 days)	Y6 Residential Visit to Condover Hall – Shropshire
	March 22 a.m.	Y5 Easter Play – dress rehearsal
	March 23 6 p.m.	Y5 Easter Play
	March 24	End of Term 4
	After March 29	Letters sent out advising outcome of reconsideration
5	April 11	Start of Term 5
	April 12	Closing date for return of reconsideration secondary reply forms
	April 18	Reception 2016 – National Offer Day
	April 29	Reception 2016 – Closing date for return of reply forms accepting the school place or requesting reconsideration
	May 2	School closed – Bank Holiday
	W/c May 9	KS2 SATs week
	After May 13	Reception 2016 – outcome of reconsideration
	May 17	Y6 leavers, class and group photos will be taken today
	May 18	Inter-house athletics – Y3/Y4 a.m. – Y5/Y6 p.m.
	May – July	Secondary Transfer 2016 - Appeals
	May 23 - 6.00 p.m.	Reception 2016 – meeting for parents (sorry no children)
	May 27	End of Term 5
	May 27	Reception 2016 – Closing date for return of reconsideration forms
6	June-July 2016	Reception 2016 - Appeals
	June 6	School Closed – INSET
	June 7	Children return for start of Term 6
	June 9 – 1.30 p.m.	Beech Green Race for Life event
	w/c June 13	Y1 Phonics
	June 21	Sports Day (<i>reserve date June 28</i>)
	June 24	PTFA School Disco
	June 27	Nursery visits to Reception – please avoid booking holidays during this time
	June 28	Reserve sports day date if required
	July 6 – 9.30 a.m.	Y6 Performance Dress Rehearsal
	July 6 – 6.00 p.m.	Y6 Performance to parents
	July 8	School Reports due out
	July 12 – 9.30 a.m.	Foundation Stage Sports Day
	July 21– 9.30 a.m.	Leavers’ assembly
	July 21 -2.45 for 3.00 p.m.	Balloon launch take-off
	July 21	Children finish for the Summer holiday – End of Term 6
	July 22	School Closed – INSET