



The Flying Start Federation Newsletter 24th April 2017 Issue 14

[www.buckland-brewer-
primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Website: Please look at the federation website for the latest news from each class and dates.

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope you have all enjoyed the sunshine we have seen over the past few weeks. Now is the time to remember to apply sun cream before coming to school, to make sure your child has a bottle of water at school to drink throughout the day and also bring sunhats.

Parent Forum: You said that you would like communication to improve so that you know what is going on. So what have we done? We publish key dates on the website, send home a newsletter every fortnight, and we have purchased a notice board for each school to put out on the playground with reminders. Teachers are going to try to communicate with you more at the end of the day with positive comments about your child, as well as those occasional times when something has gone wrong. **To help with that can parents at Buckland Brewer please collect children from the classroom door rather than wait by the exit gate.** We will be launching an app for your mobile which links to our website so you can access alerts, key updates, and dates on your phone. Let us know how all these things has helped improve communication.

Class structure for next year:

The governors and I are just finalising the Federation budget and staffing structure from September. As you may have heard in the news, many schools are facing significant reductions in their budgets and subsequent loss of staff. Although our budget remains very tight, at this moment we are hoping not to make any significant changes to the structure of the classes and the levels of staffing. I will however not been able to confirm until half term.

Roles and responsibilities- The role of the teaching assistant.

During my long time as a teacher the role of the teaching assistant has changed enormously- no longer are they people who like helping children who sharpen pencils and wash up the paint pots. Nowadays they are often very qualified and motivated individuals who are very much part of the teaching team. We are lucky enough to have well qualified and trained TAs in both schools who contribute to the assessment and planning for all children, who enable learning to be differentiated to meet the wide range of learning needs within each class as well as deliver a range of additional interventions to help children who find some aspects of learning tricky to catch up. We are also lucky enough to have a TA in each school who works at a higher level so that they can cover for the teacher when on planning and preparation time and occasionally when we can't secure a supply teacher to cover when a teacher is away. Using these TAs in this way have helped us manage an incredibly tight budget. Without our TAs we would not be able to offer the level of support that we do.

Concerns or complaints:

If you have a concern about your child or even a complaint about the school we aim to resolve these as quickly as possible. You will find a complaints procedure on the Federation website, but normally most issues can be sorted out through discussion with the class teacher. If not the Senior Teachers Mrs Debbie Brookes or Mrs Hinchliffe/Mrs Dorrell will be glad to help. If your concern remains unresolved it is important to speak to me as soon as possible. There is then a process of taking any complaints further to the Governing Board. Using social media to discuss any school issue is not helpful, and is often very damaging to the reputation of the school and can contravene the confidentiality and safeguarding of children and staff and it totally unnecessary when we offer an open door, and total commitment to do our best for your children.

Please note change of email address: Buckland Brewer = bbadmin@flyingstartfed.org.uk



Dates

OFFICE HOURS:

Parkham: Mon—Thurs 8.45—3.45pm
(please note there is no one in the office on Fridays)

Buckland Brewer: Tues 8.45— 12.45pm

Mon, Wed—Fri 8.45—3.15pm- please avoid making requests when office is not manned.

If you need to telephone the school urgently and the office is not manned, please ring the partner school as hopefully they can get a message through.

Buckland TEL: 01237 451315

Parkham TEL: 01237 451334

Term Dates

Summer Term: Tues 18 April—Wed 26 July

Half Term: Fri 26 May—Fri 2 June

Just a reminder that children should not be coming onto the school grounds outside of school hours.

Headlice: please continue to weekly wet comb your child's hair to prevent the spread of head lice.

Milly Lane: School Caterer 07340710693 If it is necessary to make a change to a meal request please text between 7.30-9.30am. For general queries please telephone or text between 2-5.30pm

Parkham

Tues 25 April: RNLI assembly 11am

Wed 26 April: Yrs 1 & 2 swimming starts for 12 weeks

Mon 1 May: Bank Holiday

Mon 8 May: Yr 6 SATs

Tues 23 May: Open morning & school council fundraising event

Fri 26 May: Non-pupil day

Mon 29 May: Half term

Thurs 15 June: New Parents mtg 2pm

Fri 16 June: Yr 6 Junior Life Skills

Buckland Brewer

Tues 25 April RNLI assembly 9.30am

Wed 26 April: Yrs 1 & 2 swimming starts for 12 weeks

Mon 1 May: Bank Holiday

Mon 8 May: Yr 6 SATs

Thurs 25 May: Open morning & school council fundraising event

Fri 26 May: Non-pupil day

Mon 29 May: Half term

Wed 14 June: New Parents mtg 2.30pm

Fri 16 June: Yr 6 Junior Life Skills

Mon 19 & 29 June: induction afternoon for new children 1.30pm

Attendance: Target 97% Whole school: Buckland: 97.4% Parkham: 97.05% Jets: 97.3% Ladybirds: 97.07% Rockets: 97.0% Dragonflies: 96.80% Fireflies: 97.20%



Vicky Teague- School Nurse
School Nursing team
Torrington children's Centre
Borough Road
Torrington
EX38 7NU



Links to class webpages: please keep up to date with what is going on in your child's class by clicking the links below:

Ladybirds: <http://www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk/welcome-to-our-schools/parkham/ladybirds>

Dragonflies: <http://www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk/welcome-to-our-schools/parkham/dragonflies>

Fireflies: <http://www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk/welcome-to-our-schools/parkham/fireflies>

Jets: <http://www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk/welcome-to-our-schools/buckland-brewer/jets-class-1>

Rockets: <http://www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk/welcome-to-our-schools/buckland-brewer/rockets-class-class-2>