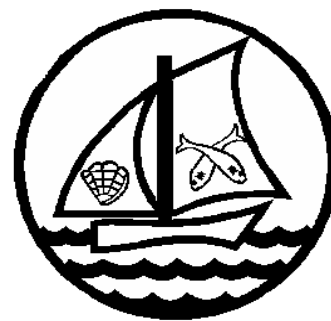


Brightlingsea Infant & Junior Schools  
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## **NEWSLETTER 3 – February 2018**

### **DIARY DATES**

23 <sup>rd</sup> February	PTA Spring Disco
1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day – Non Uniform Day - Dress as a Book Character.
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	PTA Cake Sale – Year Two
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Two Trip to Colchester Castle
w/b 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair this week – Junior School
w/b 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair this week – Infant School
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Three Trip to Layer Marney Tower
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Joint Parent Consultations/Learning Conferences (3.30 -5.30)
14 <sup>th</sup> March	PR Class Assembly – 9.10 please join us
15 <sup>th</sup> March	TR Class Assembly – 9.10 please join us
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Joint Parent Consultations/Learning Conferences (5.00 – 8.00)
21 <sup>st</sup> March	CR Class Assembly – 9.10 please join us
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Joint Parent Consultations/Learning Conferences (3.30 -5.30)
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	ZR Class Assembly – 9.10 please join us
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year Five Show (2.00)
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year Five Show (5.30)
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	PTA Cake Sale – Year One
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year One Show 1M and 1P (9.30)
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year One Show 1W and 1C (9.30)
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year One Show 1M and 1P (2.00)
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Year One Show 1W and 1C (2.00)
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March –</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Year Six Residential Trip to Kingswood
26 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA Cake Sale – Year Three
14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year Six SATS
w/b 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year One Phonics Check Week

Wow this term is speeding by and we are over half way through the year! We spent some time over the past few months spending time in classes observing children learning. We have very much enjoyed observing lessons and talking to children about their learning across both schools. In particular we have been impressed with children's increased confidence and enthusiasm to write using our newly introduced 'Write Stuff' strategy. Looking at books you can clearly see the progress children are making and you are in for a real treat when you see children's books during our consultation sessions this term.

## NURSERY EXPANSION

We are delighted to let you know that we have been awarded over £85,000 to expand our nursery provision. This has come from the Local Authority Section 106 funding that has been received as a result of the Hopkins Homes development at Robinson Road. It was always the long term plan of the nursery to take children in the term after they are two, however we wanted to secure funding to achieve quality two year old provision.

The next step will be to apply for planning permission with a view to building in the summer term and opening our new two year old provision in September. The provision will include full wrap care from 7.30 – 5.30 during term time and 8.00 – 5.30 during the holiday periods. We will also be offering some free 2 year old 15 hours places to children who are entitled through the Government Scheme.

## CONSULTATION ON CHANGE TO THE SCHOOL DAY

Governors have met to discuss making a minor change to the school day. However, as it impacts on the start time, we are required to consult with parents about the proposed change.

We want to make the following changes to lunch times:

Year One	11.45 – 12.45	Change of time. Reduction of 10 minutes – children will go to lunch first before playtime
Reception	12.10 – 1.20	Change of time.
Year Two	12.45 – 1.45	Change of time. Reduction of 10 minutes – children will go to lunch first before playtime
Years Three and Four	11.45 – 12.45	Change of time. Increase of 15 minutes
Years Five and Six	12.45 – 1.45	Change of time. Increase of 15 minutes

We want to make this change so that:

- At Key Stage Two children are able to eat and drink at a reasonable pace. In our experience, children rush their food, or do not finish eating so that they can go out to lunch-time play. Increasing lunch times from 45 minutes to 1 hour will support this.
- When the 'bulge' four form entry year groups progress through Key Stage Two there will be enough time to ensure that all children are allocated sufficient time to sit down and eat their food.
- It unifies practice across both key stages so it is equal for children and staff.
- It supports the recruitment of MDAs as contracts will be for more hours.

As a result of our lunch time proposed changes, we are required to make a change to the day of Key Stage Two children to gain an additional 15 minutes that has been allocated for the increased lunch time. **We therefore propose to start learning for children at Key Stage 2 at 8.45.** The gates will open a little before 8.45 and children will go straight into their classroom. Children in Reception and Key Stage One will continue to have a 'rolling start' from 8.45 with registration at 9.00.

We will be consulting on the proposal **from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018**. You are invited to express your views on the proposal. Please email or send your responses to [Julia.hunt@brightlingsea-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:Julia.hunt@brightlingsea-inf.essex.sch.uk) These will be presented to Governors at our next Governing Body meeting.

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY VISIT**

As part of the amalgamation process, both of our schools are allocated a significant amount of advisory time to support our schools on the journey to becoming a primary school. We have requested a review from the Local Authority to establish a baseline for our new primary school - what is going well, what we need to think about next and priorities for the future. Next week we will have several visitors in school undertaking this review. Just before spotted goes crazy, this is not Ofsted!

We are looking forward to showing them the progress that has been made so far in addition to sharing our priorities for the future.

### **NO DOGS ON SITE**

Following a discussion at our Joint Governing Body meeting it has been agreed to ban dogs from our school site. We will be following the Essex County Council Health and Safety advice and this will bring our schools in line with other schools.

For many years we have considered, at intervals, revising our policy, and it has been debated at length. However, the decision has been taken to safeguard children on our site from exposure to dogs' mess and potential injury from dogs that may arise through their unpredictable behaviour.

Please note that this policy will come into immediate effect. Please do not bring dogs onto the school site or tie them up on school fences. Thank you for your support.

### **PTA DONATION**

The PTA are making a significant donation towards the purchase of new interactive boards throughout our schools. We have replaced every interactive board over the holiday period at a cost of over £50k. This is a significant investment to make with the intention of ensuring that every teacher has the tools they need to ensure that they are able to teach effectively and children achieve improved outcomes. We would like to thank you for all your support in attending events, contributing to donations and volunteering. We could not do it without you!

### **CROSSING PATROL**

We have received communication from Essex County Council that they have had no applications for this important role. I am concerned that unless it is filled we will lose this important provision.

'Are you looking to represent your community? Essex County Council are currently recruiting for a School Crossing Patrol Officer on Ladysmith Avenue, Brightlingsea to ensure the safety of children and others waiting to cross the road. If you think you could help or know someone who may be interested, please call the School Crossing

Patrol Service on 03330 139788 or email your details to [school.crossingpatrol@essex.gov.uk](mailto:school.crossingpatrol@essex.gov.uk).

## **INTERNET SAFETY**



Tendring Community Safety Partnership has organised 3 E-Safety Events for parents of children in years 6/7/8/9 in the Tendring District. This event is FREE.

Tickets can be booked using the following link:

<https://princestheatre.ticketsolve.com/shows/873586044/events>

We have also scheduled a whole day in the Summer Term for our children and parents to find out more about internet safety. This is Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> – Save the date!

## **MOBILE PHONES**

We have an increasing amount of children bringing their mobile phones to school, to the point that the drawer is overflowing! Please be aware that mobile phones can only be brought to school in exceptional circumstances and only with the prior permission of the headteacher. Parents who require their children to bring in a mobile phone during school hours must express these reasons (i.e weekend sleepover) in their request, in writing, to the headteacher. Such requests will be considered on an individual basis.

If permission is granted mobile phones must be handed in to the school office upon arrival and collected at the end of the school day. They should never be left in trays or coats or used during school hours. All phones handed into the office must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

If any child needs to contact a parent during or at the end of the school day they are welcome to make a call from the school office.

## **MEDICINES**

Please be aware that our policy on giving medicines has been revised to bring both schools' policies together. **Staff are only permitted to give to children medication that has a pharmacy label on the box or if there is supporting paperwork from a medical practitioner.** This is the recommended practice outlined within the Government 'Managing medicines in schools and early years settings' document. Increasingly we have a store of children's pain medication e.g. Calpol and Ibuprofen kept in school without a prescription label. We will be writing to the parents concerned to collect this medication. Thank you.

## **PARKING**

Unfortunately we have had several complaints from our neighbours resulting from our parents parking across driveways. Additionally, please be aware car access to the school site is only permitted for staff and visitors. Parking for authorised vehicles is at a premium and we want to prevent movement on our site at busy periods to protect children. Please also be aware that parking is not permitted for picking and dropping off children for Kids Club and Nursery during the term time.

Please can I remind parents:

- Parking on the school site is restricted to school staff and authorised visitors only. Please do not use the grass verge at the Eastern Road entrance to park. Parking in the layby in the school grounds at the Western Road entrance is allocated for school taxis only.
- Parking within the turning area next to our school gates at Western Road is not permitted. Parking in this area creates a bottle neck within the road which causes cars to use the school entrance as a turning circle.
- Please use the Town Council car park which is free to use during drop-off and collection times. Using this car park prevents heavy use of our side roads and keeps our neighbours happy.
- Please note that the ziz-zag lines at Western Road and Lower Park Road have now been legalised so parking on these lines can result in a fine. Regardless of the legal status, parking on these lines is dangerous and can reduce visibility on key crossings which may endanger children's lives.

Julia Hunt