



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Here we are in the final term of another School year and getting ready to wish our Year 6 pupils well as they move up to secondary school! It all comes around so quickly and I am always amazed at how much the staff and children achieve in the time they have.

Governors have been visiting the classes and talking to children and staff about progress. Where we may focus on literacy and maths, it is always lovely to see how much creative work the children do and how the teachers are able to always deliver a wide and varied curriculum.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who completed the recent questionnaire, your comments have helped to develop some changes:

Online safety- it was useful to discover what concerns you have and as a result, the school will continue with regular updates and keeping parents informed.

There will be information about parental controls added to the online safety section of the website

Website- it was great to see that many of you use the website regularly and find the weekly information useful.

There will be a new section added under the Parent's area, describing how the regular events, such as sharing assembly, work and details of these will be included in the New Parents Pack.

Reading- this is always a key area and has been a focus of school improvement for the past two years, with the development of reading journals for Keystage 2 and peer reading across the school. As a result of the questionnaire, the school will endeavour to direct parents to the relevant sources of information and review how reading is logged and feedback given.

Whereas the children are given regular opportunity to read in school and their progress monitored they benefit hugely from reading as part of their regular routine at home.

Reading Journals

This year, in Year 5 and 6 the children have been using reading journals to enrich and record their reading experiences. The children have enjoyed combining art and reading when choosing how they will present their responses to their books. They may jot down personal reactions to the text or questions they would like to ask the characters. Sometimes they draw character maps to record how people in the book know each other. Children have also read between the lines and often added interpretations of the text by writing letters they feel characters may have received or invitations that would have been given prior to a party in the story. Reading journals have helped the Owls children with their understanding when reading longer and more sustained texts. Currently, the year 5s and 6s are sharing their reading journals with the year 4s so they can make a start on their own over the summer holidays.

Online Safety

All social networking sites and apps have age restrictions - children should be age 13+ to use Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube. Further information about age restrictions and risks on popular sites can be found at www.net-aware.org.uk. We would urge all parents to be aware of the age restrictions and the activities their children engage in on all apps.

Specifically, we advise:

- Children should NOT accept friend or follower requests from anyone they do not know on any app or site
- Children should always use the internet / apps in living areas where parents are around to supervise or support
- Children should be encouraged to share with you what they are doing on the internet and to speak up if inappropriate comments or language are used

Please talk to your children about internet safety and help them to manage their internet accounts, ensuring their use is appropriate given their age, that any posts are private and any 'friends' or 'followers'



they interact with (including online games) are known friends or family members.

Parental Control

Parental controls are the names for a group of settings that put you in control of what content your child can see. Combined with privacy settings these can help you protect your children from the things they shouldn't see or experience online.

Advice on setting parental controls, along with lots of other useful advice, can be found at <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

If you have any concerns, please ask a member of staff in school.

Transition

Opportunities for being introduced and familiarised with a new class or for year 6 their new school is really important in supporting children to manage their feelings about change. Children have taken part in a range of activities to support this. In September there will be an Open Classroom session on **Tuesday 11th September at 3.30pm** where you can meet your child's teacher and find out about class routines.

24th – 28th of September are Open Mornings for children in year 5 and 6 next year.

Use of Mobile Phones in School

As of September we are asking parents not to bring out their mobile phones in school when dropping or collecting their children.

Photographing of your child on your phone/camera is permitted for school events. A reminder please to parents not to post photographs that include any other children on social media.

Term Dates 2018/2019

Autumn Term

First day of term - 5th September 2018

Half Term - 22nd - 26th October 2018

Monday 29th October - Non Pupil Day

Last day of term - 20th December 2018

Spring Term

First day of term - 8th January 2019

Half Term - 18th - 22nd February 2019

Last day of term – 5th April 2019

Summer Term

First day of term – 23rd April 2019

Half Term - 27th - 31st May 2019

Last day of term – 23rd July 2019

PTA

The PTA have been amazing in organising events and raising money which has contributed towards the Devon Wildlife Trust workshops, new playground equipment, the school trip to the Devon County Show, leavers' hoodies and new classroom tables. Thank you to all the PTA committee and helpers who have made this possible.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the staff, parents and children for making Beaford a happy place to be!

Wishing you all and long, enjoyable Summer!

With best wishes from

Alison Bennett and the Board of Governors