

## Key Dates

27<sup>th</sup> Mar – 2K Class Assembly  
3<sup>rd</sup> Apr – Year 3 and 4  
production to Parents  
5<sup>th</sup> Apr – Mad Hair Tag Day  
24<sup>th</sup> Apr – Year 6 Class  
photos  
30<sup>th</sup> Apr – 1/2S Class  
Assembly  
8<sup>th</sup> May – 1F Class Assembly

## Term Dates 18/19

**Term 4**  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
until  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Term 5**  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
until  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Term 6**  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June  
until  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

## Term Dates 19/20

**Term 1**  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
until  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

**Term 2**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November  
until  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

**Term 3**  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
until  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

## Headline

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a vital part of every child's life. During this time they build skills and foundations that support them for their future education. The development a child makes from birth to five is phenomenal but fluid, with children developing at their own pace through age ranges that overlap e.g. 30-50 months, 40-60 months.

By the end of reception the children are assessed against 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs). These ELGs are in developmental areas known as –

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Communication and Language (CL)
- Physical Development (PD)
- Literacy (L)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding the World (UtW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

The importance of these developmental areas are equal. However there is an emphasis on PSED, CL and PD in the nursery years of a child's development. Skills taught in these areas build exploration, active learners, discussion, creativity, critical thinkers and independence.

The EYFS focuses on every child as an individual. It is based on building strong, positive relationships and providing an environment which is rich with open ended resources to allow the children to apply the skills taught through play.

Staff, parents and children here at Byron are very aware of the importance of the EYFS. However, many others don't acknowledge the importance of

the early years to shape and build respectable future adults. I have lost count of the amount of people who have said the children are 'just playing'. Therefore, I wanted to end with part of a poem to show just how much the children do here at Byron everyday!

### Just Playing

*By Anita Wadley*

When I'm building in the block room, please  
don't say I'm "just playing"

For you see, I'm learning as I play, about  
balance and shapes.

Who knows? I may be an architect someday.

When you see me sitting in a chair "reading"  
to an imaginary audience.

Please do not laugh and think I'm "just  
playing". For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I may be a teacher someday.

When you see me combing the bushes for  
bugs, or packing my pockets with choice  
things I find, don't pass it off as "just playing".

For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I may be a scientist someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or  
some "plaything" at school.

Please don't feel the time is wasted in "play".  
For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to solve problems and to  
concentrate.

I may be in business someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run  
and move my body, please don't say I'm "just

## Uniform

A navy blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan. Navy, black or grey trousers, tailored shorts, skirt or dress/navy and white checked dress. A white or blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse. Flat plain black shoes or trainers (no heels or open toes). [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

## Key Staff

**Mr Carthy** *Headteacher*

**Mrs Langthorne** *Deputy Head*

**Mr Chantler** *Deputy Head*

**Ms Gould** *Chair of Governors*

**Mrs Hill & Miss Knight** *SENCO*

**Miss Masters** *FS Leader*

**Miss Scudder** *KS1 Leader*

**Mr Chantler** *LKS2 Leader*

**Mr Atkins** *UKS2 Leader*

**Mrs Vella** *Family Liason Officer*

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination.

We operate a very clear whistleblowing policy for staff.

playing". For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning how my body works.  
I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete  
someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school  
today, and I say, "I just played"  
Please don't misunderstand me. For you  
see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in  
my work. I'm preparing for tomorrow.  
Today, I am a child and my work is play.

## News

### Children's Books

Each year we archive the children's work as evidence for moderation and assessment. This has been very useful for transition into the next year and during our inspection. As the children progress our archive is replenished with their most recent completed books. Now we are over halfway through the current school year we are able to send your child's Maths, Literacy and Topic books home for last year, so that they can share them with you and discuss their work. So look out for them on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March when the children will be bringing them home.

### Parking

In recent weeks there has been an increase in inconsiderate and dangerous parking at the end of the school day. Two serious incidents have only just been narrowly avoided in the past week alone. If you are arriving by car to collect at the end of the school day, please do not park on the double yellow lines, the zig zag lines or the pavement. We have reported these issues to Medway Council and requested their regular presence between 3:15pm and 3:45pm.

### Comic Relief

A huge thanks to you all for helping the school raise a whopping £1,219 for Comic Relief last week.

## In The Community

### Money Savings – Drop in Session

Come along to a drop in session to find out how to save money on your bills and living costs. Drop in sessions are held at Strood Children and Family Hub, Clifton Close, Strood, ME2 2HG on the first Thursday of the month between 10:00 and 12:00.

### Places of Welcome

Places of Welcome are run by local community groups who want to make sure everyone in your area has a place to go for conversation and a cup of tea if and when they need it. Your local Place of Welcome is at St Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue, Gillingham. It is open on Wednesdays from 9am – 11am. For more information please visit [www.placesofwelcome.org.uk](http://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk)

## Pat On The Back

The class with the best attendance for the week beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 was 6S with an amazing 99.7%! 1D and 6C had only 3 late pupils each during this week, and a fantastic 98.1% of children arrived on time.

## Also Coming Home

- Year 1 and 2 Trip Letter
- Pre Booking Forms for After School Club