

Dear Parents and Carers,



Summer is upon us and, although relatively early on in the term, I know conversations at this time of year tend to start focusing on new classes and such. I expect that this is particularly the case this year as some of you will have noticed that two of our class teachers, Mrs Bremeyer and Mrs Houghton, are expecting babies. A number of the children have certainly been speculating, with a handful having been brave enough to ask!

Firstly, I am sure you will join me in congratulating them and wishing them all the best. Secondly, I would like to reassure parents that, as I have known for some time, good quality teachers have already been appointed to cover their absence for the next academic year. They will commence in September, at the start of the autumn term, when Mrs Houghton and Mrs Bremeyer are due to commence maternity leave.

Whilst on the matter of staffing, it makes sense to advise you that Mrs Dines will also be leaving us at the end of the summer term, having earned a very well deserved promotion to a Deputy Headteacher post at another Essex School. Whilst she will be a real loss to our team and we will miss her immensely, I am sure you will add your congratulations to mine and wish her success in her new appointment. Again, we have already interviewed and appointed a very experienced teacher to this senior post. Further details about new teaching staff will be given closer to changeover day.

As you know, Sarah Rixson, our school cook, left before the Easter holidays. We would like to congratulate Kath August who has taken over the role and we are absolutely delighted with the quality of food she is providing and I hope your children are enjoying our new summer menu too. We have also had a big increase in the uptake of school meals and have appointed two additional members of staff to help ensure the service we provide is of the highest standard. We welcome both Aynsley Webb and Helen Schofield to the team. Please remember that school dinners remain great value at only £2:00 per day so do encourage your child to try one if they haven't done so for a while!

And a final note on staffing...we would like to congratulate two of our Learning Support Assistants, Jackie Hatch and Wendy Whybrow, on achieving their Higher Level Teaching Assistant qualification. They worked hard to achieve this, with rigorous assessments conducted by external assessors last term. We have also appointed a new Learning Support Assistant who joined us this term; we welcome Wendy Wray to our team.

As usual, we have already been very busy since the start of term, with lots more planned between now and July. Please read on to find out what we have been up to and what events we have planned for the rest of the summer term.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Ronnie Branch
Headteacher



In the News....

Year 6 Ancient Greece Day

On Wednesday 15th April, Year 6 went back to Ancient Greece through a portal to the past! Everyone made a fantastic effort with their costumes and they all certainly looked the part! Year 6 had lots of fun learning about Ancient Greek history by:

- Taking part in a role play
- Partaking in a quiz
- Playing an Ancient game
- Working out a puzzle with over 500 different possibilities
- Looking at battle armour and weapons
- Understanding the meaning of democracy
- Taking part in some Olympic style sporting events

Please do take a look on the Year 6 class website pages for photos of this very exciting day.

Musical Soiree

Our very own Sunnymede Musical Soiree followed the recent Billericay Schools' Music Festival. The evening was such a success and it was wonderful to see over fifty of our children performing on the evening for their parents and grandparents. It was a truly magnificent night and the children involved demonstrated their musical talent with aplomb. They were truly professional and a credit to the school and their music teachers. As well as the choir and rock band performing, we had children playing the cello, drums, flute, guitar, recorder, ukulele and violin. Mrs Pye and Mrs Whybrow also did a duet and Mrs Oliver sang a solo. Mrs Branch even managed to overcome her nerves and play a few simple tunes on the piano! Thank you to Mrs Pye for making this event possible and all the music teachers and staff who supported the pupils. Thank you also to members of the audience who were also really supportive of the children and helped to raise over £200. As a result, we have been able to buy a class set of ocarinas to add a new dimension to our music lessons. It was also lovely to see that the children were really proud of being part of this event and enjoyed themselves immensely, particularly when they all sang along and performed the actions to YMCA ! If you haven't already, please do take a look at a selection of the photos that have been uploaded to the gallery section of the school website.

Water Fountains

You may have noticed that two outdoor water fountains have been newly installed in the school playground. We hope this will help to ensure that children keep well hydrated during playtimes, particularly as the weather starts to get warmer and for those children who are very active during the lunch break.

Sporting news

We have taken part in some exciting matches in the past month. Our Year 3/4, 5 and 6 basketball teams played in the Championship play offs and all played extremely well against some difficult teams. However, despite our best efforts, we did not progress to the next stage but we have some rising stars emerging in Years 3 and 4 so we are hopeful for next year. A special mention needs to

go to some of the Year 4 players who bravely volunteered to play in a Year 6 match! Well done!

This half term, class 3S were lucky enough to be invited to the Billericay High school to attend a dance festival. They learnt and performed a dance routine, along with two other schools, to the song 'Uptown Funk'. They had a wonderful time and were very enthusiastic! They were also brilliantly behaved and listened to the students from the high school very carefully when they were instructing them what to. What a credit to our school, well done 3S!

Promoting British Values

Recently, some of our assemblies have been focussed on promoting British values, including the importance of democracy. Pupils have been learning about its importance, process and purpose. To promote democracy further, Miss Kneller has created a polling station where pupils will have the opportunity to vote for various things throughout the year. This half term they will be voting for what theme they would like the new library to be; either 'Under the Sea' or 'Jungle'. This display has already engaged pupils and Miss Kneller has had many questions about it, with eager pupils wanting to know when they can vote.

In class, as election fever gripped the country, we have been learning about politics, from learning about how election day works, to the importance of laws. This initiated some interesting conversations and it has been delightful to hear pupils discussing the general election in class and on the playground. The pupils have been really enthused about their learning and interested in politics. A group of Year 6 pupils even asked to stay in at lunchtime to find out the final result of last week's election!

VE Day (Victory in Europe Day)

On Friday 8th May, we held an afternoon assembly to mark the 70th anniversary of VE day. Building on our focus on Remembrance Day in the autumn term, pupils were told about WW2 and how significant this was for Britain. Pupils then participated in a two minutes' silence in respect for all those who fought for our country to ensure freedom for future generations.

Ghana Update

Thank you to all the pupils who participated in the hero/heroine homework. We had a vast range of heroes and heroines, from world leaders and athletes to siblings and parents! Miss Kneller was really impressed with the response and has sent them to Asamang Roman Catholic School in Ghana. We have already received their hero and heroine drawings – these can be found in a booklet on the Ghana display outside Year 3 classes.

Coming up....

Open evening and Art Gallery Event

This will take place on Thursday 9th July and is an evening that we really look forward to here at Sunnymede. Children are encouraged to come along and show you the work they have been doing, see their new class and meet their new teacher in an informal and relaxed environment. As you know, this is a joint event with the infant school and this year we have worked together with them to set up our very own 'Art Gallery' event. Over the coming weeks, every child in both schools will produce a piece of art work that will be framed and displayed in the gallery on 9th July. You will be invited to come along and view the work of all pupils and will also have the opportunity to purchase your own child's work of art to take home and treasure. We will send you further details nearer the time.

Tag Rugby and Football Tournaments

Some of our Year 3 and 4 children are very excited as we have entered the tag rugby tournament to be held on the 20th May. It will be their first taste of playing a match against another school so we wish them much luck!

As well as this, Year 4, 5 and 6 footballers will be attending the annual Police Rally on the 16th May. Our Year 6 team won last year, so fingers crossed that we may be able to achieve success again this year! Go on boys!

Sports Day

A reminder that this will take place on Thursday 25th June. A letter will be sent out shortly. However, please be reminded that you are encouraged to bring along a picnic lunch and blanket so that you can eat with your child on this relaxed and fun day. Please note that your child will need to wear a t-shirt in their 'house' colour (Chantry – Green, Pilgrim – Yellow, Mayflower – Red, Martin – Blue). Your child should know their house colour but please check with the class teacher if you need to. The reserve day is Wednesday 1st July.

Please see the diary dates below for other forthcoming events.

Some gentle reminders...



Summertime!

It is lovely to have a bit of sun at last. In anticipation of more of the same, please may we ask that you take time to apply sun cream to your child before they come to school, particularly their face and arms. It is important that children also bring a plain and sensible cap to school to protect their head from the sun. Thank you in advance.

Dinner Money Payments

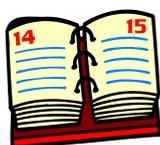
Thank you to the vast majority of parents who keep up to date with dinner money payments. This is very much appreciated. However, I would like to remind all parents that it is essential that meals are paid for in advance and that accounts should not be in arrears. If you are unsure if you owe money,

please email or phone the school office to check. We would not like to be in a position where we can longer agree to provide your child with a school meal due to continuous lack of payment. Thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation in this matter. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please come and speak to a member of the office team in confidence or apply on line at www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Pupil-Parent-Support.

Home Dinners

If your child has been booked to go home with you for dinner, please note that they must be collected from the school reception by their parent and signed out by a member of the office staff. They must also be accompanied to the main reception on their return so they can be signed back in. Thank you.

Diary dates



Below are the dates of key events in the school calendar. New or amended dates since the last newsletter are in bold type. **Please check newsletters, Parentmail updates or ask at the school office if you are unsure**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thurs 14 th May	All Day	Y5 Trip to Tropical Wings
Fri 15 th May	6.30pm	PTA School Disco
Sat 16th May	All Day	Basildon Police Football Rally
Weds 20th May	PM	Tag Rugby Tournament
Weds 20th May	1:45 PM	Y6: Meeting for parents re. Relationship and Sex Education lessons in Y6
Thurs 21st May	3:15 pm	PTA Film Club – ‘Tangled’
Thurs 21 st May	All Day	Y3 SMSC trip to Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
Fri 22 nd May	10:30 am	Class 6L’s Parents invited to our Celebration Assembly
W/C 25 th May		HALF TERM
Mon 1 st June		Staff training day – school closed to pupils
Thurs 4th June	PM	5K – Science workshop (in collaboration with Billericay School Science Dept.)
Thurs 4th June		Ghana Link Celebration Day for Y6
Fri 5 th June	All Day	Ghana Link Celebration Day for Y3,4,5
Fri 5th June	All Day	AMENDED DATE Y6 – ‘Inspiration Day’ – visit to Royal Opera House Bridge (re-scheduled from 26 th June)
Tues 9 th June	AM	Class photographs
Thurs 11th June	PM	5D – Science workshop (in collaboration with Billericay School Science Dept.)
Thurs 11 th June	All Day	Y3 trip to Colchester Castle
Fri 12 th June	All day	Y4 -‘Walk Like an Egyptian’ Day – Portals from the Past visit / children to dress as Ancient Egyptians
Mon 15 th June	All Day	Art Day for Years 3,5,6 (Y4 on 10 th June)
Tues 16 th June (and 18 th , 19 th , 23 rd)	1:00 pm	Y6 Bikeability
Thurs 18th June	3:15 PM	PTA Film Club
Thurs 18th June	All Day	PTA Father’s Day Present selling
Fri 19th June	All Day	PTA non-uniform day for summer fete tombola
Fri 19 th June	10:30 am	Class 4H’s Parents invited to our Celebration

		Assembly	
Sat 20 th June	1-5 pm	PTA Summer Fete	
Tues 23 rd June		Student Voice representatives to visit Buttsbury School	
Weds 24th June	2:45 PM	Y4 Drumming Assembly	
Thurs 25th June	9:30 am	Sports Day	
Fri 26th June	10:35 pm	5D Celebration assembly *Re-scheduled from 10th July	
Fri 26th June	All Day	Y6 transition day for pupils going to The Mayflower School	
Mon 29th June	9:00 AM	Parent in Partnership Meeting (Invite only)	
Tues 30 th June	PM	Maths Times Table Practical Workshop for parents (at The Billericay School)	
Weds 1st July	9:30AM	Sports Day reserve date	
Thurs 2nd July	1.15 pm	Peer support workshops for Y6 pupils (delivered by Billericay School)	
Mon 6 th July	All Day	Alice in Wonderland Day (including Mad Hatter's Tea Party - deadline date for optional homework project (Mad hats for the tea party)	
Tues 7th July	All Day	Y6 transition day for pupils going to The Billericay School	
Tues 7th July	AM	Transition day Y2,3,4,5 pupils- meet new teachers	
Thurs 9th July	6-8 pm	Open Evening (to include Art Gallery of children's work)	
Fri 10 th July	6:30-8:00	PTA Disco	
Mon 13 th July	PM	Y6 Governor Awards	
Tues 14th July	PM	Y6 Reward afternoon, BBQ after school	
Thurs 16 th July	1:30pm	Y6 Leavers' show for parents	
Mon 20th July	6:30 PM	Information Meeting for parents of new Y6 pupils Going on the Kingswood Residential	
Tues 21 st July	3:15pm	Last day of term for pupils	