



Ball Green Primary School

NEWSLETTER: Autumn 1 Newsletter 2019



HEADlines

Dear Children, Parents, Carers & Families,

Welcome back to school everyone. We hope that you have all had a fantastic summer filled with fun and laughter with your family and friends. The staff have all been extremely excited to see the children so that they can hear all about it.

2019-2020 is set to be yet another extremely busy year for the teachers and children alike. Our main school priority this year is the promotion of 'Reading for Pleasure' and we are excited to announce that we have a diary filled with opportunities to explore the wonder of stories, poems and factual information. With three 'Feed the Need to Read' weeks planned, Mr. Taylor has organized a number of book fayres, famous author visits and much, much more.

Every child in school has received a new Home/School Diary that we hope you will find much sturdier and more helpful than those from last year. Teachers will be asking children to have these in school every day and they will be checked by senior leaders to not only promote frequent reading at home but also to improve communications between school and home and vice-versa.

Communication is an area that we are always looking to improve and the need to do this has been reflected in the initial responses to the Parent Surveys [see link below]. In order to help build better links you may have noticed that we are regularly updating both our Twitter and Facebook pages [@BallGreenPri]. Both of these sites are linked to the front-page of the school website, www.ballgreenprimary.co.uk - so fingers-crossed, parents/carers should always be able to access up-to-date information. Of course, ClassDojo will continue to run and offer parents the opportunity to communicate with their child's class teacher directly.

The early-bird sessions that we started last year will continue throughout 2019-2020 so if you receive an invitation for your child to attend these 8:30-9:00 sessions, snap it up. After all, the purpose of the sessions are to ensure that your child fulfills their potential to be 'the best that they can be.'

I hope that you find the remainder of the Newsletter useful and informative. However, if you have any ideas about further developing our Newsletter please do speak to me and I will try to add your recommendations to the next issue.

If you would like to have your say to help us to further improve our school then please do complete the 10 question multiple choice survey and the 3 question comments survey below:

Ball Green Parent Survey – September 2019 [Part 1]

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/557HZ7K>

Ball Green Parent Survey – September 2019 [Part 2]

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/K8JNQRZ>

I look forward to working with you, your child and family over the next year and hopefully beyond.

Have a fantastic September.

Kindest Regards,

Mr. Hankey

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School Matters!



Following our celebration assembly every Wednesday, this space will be used to share information with you about the school's attendance, including a table of each class' attendance percentage.

Our school target for attendance is ideally 100% and realistically 98%.

We will work very closely with the School Council to discuss the reward for both the highest performing class and those 100% attenders.



Over the course of the summer holidays, we have received a number of complaints in relation to penalty notices [fines] that have been issued to families for child absences due to term-time holidays.

There is a huge amount of legislation surrounding 'term-time' absences requested for the purpose of a holiday. However, following a significant number of communications with the Local Authority in recent weeks it can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ The school **will not** authorize any requests for term-time absence for the purpose of a holiday;
- ✓ The school will inform the Local Authority of any term-time absences taken for the purpose of a holiday;
- ✓ The Local Authority will issue a penalty notice [fine] to the family.
- ✓ A penalty notice [fine] of £60 is issued to each parent for each child so, *if a mum and a dad take their two children out of school for a holiday, they will each be fined £60 for each child, or £120 per parent, or £240 per family.*
- ✓ Penalty notices [fines] are not paid to the school and the school does not benefit from the monies collected.



Please park safely and with consideration for families who are walking to school.

UNIVERSAL Free School Meals

Please be aware that ALL children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a UNIVERSAL Free School Meal.

This meal is automatically available for all children in these classes regardless of any benefits, etc. Please speak to your child's class teacher or the office for further advice.

Class Dojo Behaviour Awards

Following our celebration assembly, this space will be used to share information with you about the school's behavior and attitude to learning.



The class achieving the highest number of Green Dojos for positive behaviours and the highest percentage of Green Dojos for positive teamwork will be identified amongst a table of information about the rest of the school. This will keep you informed about the standard of behavior in school and the quality of learning.

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The governors are the strategic leaders of a school. They have a vision for the school with the purpose of ensuring that 'Every child' at Ball Green Primary School is given 'Every chance,' 'Every day.'

The vision and values of of Governing Body can be found at <http://www.ballgreenprimary.co.uk/governors/>

The governors at Ball Green Primary School are:

- Mrs. Chris Burrow [Chair/Co-opted]
- Mr. Michael Childs [Co-Vice Chair/Co-opted]
- Mrs. Tracey Brock [Co-Vice Chair/Co-opted]
- Mr. Neil Dawson [Local Authority/Co-opted]
- Mr. Trevor Bennett [Co-opted]
- Mrs. Christina Kerr [Parent/Co-opted]
- Mrs. Rebecca Winwood [Co-opted]
- Mr. Jamie Frost [Co-opted]
- Mrs. Emma Wickham [Co-opted]
- Mrs. Natasha Porter [Staff]
- Miss. Kat James [Associate]
- Mrs. Jayne Baddeley [Associate]
- Mr. Jonathan Hankey [Headteacher]

Lunch Money & Uniform



Lunch money [currently £2.20] should be paid daily and sent to school in an envelope or container clearly marked with your child's name. Please bring the correct money when buying breakfast items from the kitchen as they do not keep a float and so don't have change.

An example of our school uniform is displayed in the Main Reception of the school or can be visited on <http://www.ballgreenprimary.co.uk/school-uniform/>. This includes:

Girls	Boys
White Shirt	White Shirt
Grey Skirt/Pinafore/ Dress	Grey Trousers/Shorts
Grey Cardigan/Jumper	Grey Jumper
Green/Grey Tie	Green/Grey Tie
Black Blazer [Y6]	Black Blazer [Y6]
Black Shoes	Black Shoes

Uniform will be available from: Motif Marketing (Mr Motif), 11 Millrise Road, Milton, ST2 7BN (The Old Baptist Church, situated opposite the Co-op). Tel: 01782 534849 Website: www.motifmarketing.co.uk

PE Kit

Black shorts, White T-shirts, pumps or trainers [track suit top and track suit bottoms in cold weather] should be in school every day.



Please label ALL items of uniform in order to avoid loss or errors following PE.



The Ball Green PTFA was successfully set up last year to raise much needed funds for our school. As I'm sure many of you are aware, the schools funding crisis is far from over, - <https://schoolcuts.org.uk/schools/?chosenSchool=8612100> – and so the work of the PTFA has never been so important.

If you would like to find out how you can help, please get in touch with Mrs. Riley [Y4] or Miss Smith [Y3] for information about their next meeting.

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MathsWhizz is a fantastic eLearning platform, purchased at significant expense, for every child in school.

MathsWhizz is an intuitive program that automatically makes questions harder if your child is getting everything correct, and makes everything easier if your child is making lots of mistakes.

Using MathsWhizz for 40 minutes each week will help your child to secure 3 objectives from their Maths curriculum.

The more time spent on MathsWhizz the greater the progress made. Last year, a Year 4 child made more than 3 years progress by using MathsWhizz for 1hr 35mins per week.

Your child has been provided with new login details today.



Times Tables Rock Stars is another exciting on-line program purchased for your child to help them enjoy the learning of their times tables.

Remember, ALL Year 4 children will sit a 'Times Tables' SATs paper in 2020.

Bug Club Reading



Reading is the single most important skill that we can ALL help your child with.

Not only does it provide your child with the opportunity to expand their imagination and creativity but it also reinforces letter sounds, spellings, vocabulary, punctuation, sentence construction and grammatical rules, and writing for an audience and purpose.

Ball Green Primary School's choice of independent reading scheme is Pearson's 'Bug Club.'

This reading scheme provides children with both a hard copy of a book and an e-version, if they prefer to read using a tablet.

The on-line version of Bug Club also has a series of comprehension based questions that children must answer before their book is changed.

Children are placed on a 'Book Band Colour' following their completion of a Reading Age test. In the event that the book is considered inappropriate for the reader a further assessment using Bug Club tests will determine whether the book band needs to be changed.

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Ball Green Primary School is collecting the Kit for Schools stamps currently available when spending £30 or more from Aldi.

Please help to support our school by sending any stamps in to Mr. Colclough [Year 3/PE Leader].
Many Thanks.



Ofsted Parent View is Ofsted's on-line questionnaire that allows parents & carers to give their views on their child's school at any time of the year.

The 12 questions were carefully chosen to ensure that they cover a range of issues which are important to parents.

You can complete the questionnaire by logging onto <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>



Do you have any old children's books that you would like to donate?

Ball Green Primary School are looking to create reading activity hubs in the hall during 'Breakfast Club.'

If you have any old children's books that you would like to donate they will be gratefully received and regularly used.

Many Thanks.

One of the children in our Reception class has got an extremely severe peanut allergy and for this reason please can you be aware that peanuts are not allowed in school.



This includes any chocolate that may contains peanuts and peanut butter.

Please be mindful when packing lunches and sending in snacks.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

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04/09 – School opens for children [First day of the academic year]

13/09 – Copy of Autumn Term plan to be sent home, including planned trips for the term

16/09 - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS START

16/09 – Year 6 ‘Safe & Sound’ event at Hanley Fire Station 12:30-3:00

19/09 – School Nurse Drop-In 2:30pm-4:00pm

04/10 – Year 5 enrichment visit to Warner Bros Studios

08/10 – Y6 Class Assembly

09/10 – 11/10 – Year 6 Educational Residential to ‘Outback to Basics’

09/10 – 15:30-18:00 PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING

15/10 – Y5T Class Assembly

16/10 – 15:30-18:00 YEAR 6 PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING

22/10 – Y5M Class Assembly

23/10 – PTFA ‘Spooky Disco’ – TBC with PTFA

28/10 – 01/11 HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

04/11 – School reopens for Autumn Term 2

05/11 – Y4J Class Assembly

11/11 - Visit to the Cenotaph [10:15 IN THE HALL]

12/11 – Academy Photos – Individual, groups and family photos

12/11 – Y4B Class Assembly

w/c/ 18/11 - FEED THE NEED TO READ WEEK

19/11 – Rob Lloyd Jones Assembly

21/11 – Lawrence Prestige [Author Visit] workshop with Year 3 & Year 4

LAST WEEK OF AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

26/11 – Y3W Class Assembly

29/11 – Key Stage 1 Panto at Mitchell Memorial 10:00-2:30

02/12 – Y3C Class Assembly

04/12 – Christmas Fayre

05/12 – Key Stage 2 Panto at Mitchell Memorial

10/12 - EYFS NATIVITY – 9:15 start

11/12 – EYFS NATIVITY – 9:15 start

11/12 – KS1 Nativity – 2:00 start

11/12 – Carols by Candlelight - 5:30 start

12/12 - KS1 Nativity – 9:15 start

18/12 – Autumn Term reports to be sent home

18/12 – Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

19/12 – FS2 Visit to the Panto [Sleeping Beauty at The Regent]

23/12 – 03/01 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

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AUTUMN TERM 2019

Inset Day

Monday 2nd September

Inset Day

Tuesday 3rd September

School Opens

Wednesday 4th September

Half Term

Monday 28th October to
Friday 1st November (inclusive)

School Closes

Friday 20th December

SPRING TERM 2020

School Opens

Monday 6th January

Half Term

Monday 17th February to
Friday 21st February (inclusive)

School Closes

Thursday 2nd April

Inset Day

Friday 3rd April

SUMMER TERM 2020

School Opens

Monday 20th April

May Day

Monday 4th May

Half Term

Monday 25th May to
Friday 29th May (inclusive)

Inset Day

Friday 19th June

School Closes

Friday 17th July

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