

Whole School News

Car Park problems – message from the Head Master

Please can I once again ask parents to drive with extreme care and caution around the school car park. Earlier this week a parent and child, walking across one of the designated crossings, narrowly avoided being hit by a car. I realise that the car park is a busy place but I am becoming increasingly concerned by the lack of care being shown by some drivers. The safety of the children is of paramount importance and to that end I would like to make you aware of the following points:

- As soon as you drive in to school please be aware that the speed limit is 5mph. My observations are that this is not being adhered to and I have asked that additional signage be put up to reinforce the 5mph limit.
- Please stop at pedestrian crossings when children and parents are trying to cross.
- Please park your car in a parking space and be particularly vigilant when reversing out.
- Please do not stop in the middle of the road to drop children or talk to a friend.
- Please do not use the dropping zones as a parking space.

I intend to be more vigilant during morning drop off and at afternoon pick up times and I would ask for your support in keeping the car park as safe a place as it can be.

Grandparents' Morning Monday, 30th January

We are very much looking forward to welcoming lots of grandparents on Monday. If there are grandparents who are planning to attend and have not yet informed us, could we urge you to let us know as soon as you are able to by emailing prep@blundells.org

Half Term

Half Term commences on Friday, 10th February at 3.40 pm in the Pre-Prep and 4.30 pm in the Prep School. There are no clubs on this evening but there will be Owls in the Pre-Prep for those unable to be collected at 3.40 pm and Prep for those children in the Prep School unable to be collected at 4.30 pm. Please note that the minibuses do not run on this evening.

Review

A copy of the Autumn Review should be arriving home shortly via your child. It is a wonderful record of all that took place last term and our thanks go to the staff and to Mr Moore for all of their contributions.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are starting our annual collection of Sainsbury's Vouchers. We would welcome any you receive into the school office. These will be available until early May.

New School Coat

With the children spending ever more time outside and our on-going move towards integrating outdoor learning opportunities in to the curriculum, we have decided to include a black school coat as part of the uniform for children in the Prep School. The coat chosen is waterproof and warm, and will be available after half term from the school uniform shop. Samples will be available in the Nearly New Shop to help find the correct size. This will become a compulsory item of school uniform from September 2017. Those children wearing Purple Coats may continue to wear them.

Dog Walking Group

A group of parents has started to meet every Tuesday morning at 8.30am and Wednesday morning at 8.15am for a local dog walk. The walks last between 45 minutes and an hour. Everyone is welcome, with or without a dog. For details of where we are meeting each week please see the notice board by the Prep School on Monday mornings or contact Sarah Southgate.

Events

We have attached information on two events, which are taking place at our Senior School: The Parents' Fair and an invitation to Ladies Lunch. We have also attached information about cricket coaching at half term.

Saturday morning Tennis lessons Summer Term 2017

We are again offering tennis lessons on a Saturday morning in the Summer Term. These will take place on the Astro between 10.00 am and 11.00 am for children in Years 2 – 6. The cost will be £50 for ten weeks - this includes the half term weekends. The children will be split into ability groups and the lessons will be taken by two tennis coaches, Mr Flamson (senior school tennis teacher) and Mr Swain (Head of Boys' Games at the Prep School). Tennis rackets are provided but children can bring their own. Cheques should be made payable to Blundell's Prep School. The first session will be on Saturday 22nd April.

All bookings and questions please contact Mr Swain ss@blundells.org

Prep News

Gate Duty in the Morning

Please could we remind parents not to leave messages with the person who is on early morning gate duty. They are responsible for registering the children to ensure that we know who has entered school and for their safety on the playground. If you do have a message, the ladies in the school office would be delighted to see you. If you wish to catch up with the member of staff on gate duty again the ladies in the office would be delighted to help arrange this.

Senior House Matches

These are taking place on Monday, 30th January at 3.10 pm for Years 5 and 6. All parents are welcome to join us.

Year 5 Outdoor Learning Afternoon, Tuesday, 31st January

Please can the children arrive in their school uniform but bring in old and warm home clothes to change into before they head to the woods. They will also require Wellington Boots, a warm waterproof jacket, hat and gloves.

Creative Arts Week

Thank you to all the parents who have offered to help during Creative Arts Week. Mrs Aldridge will be emailing you later next week with days and times.

Prep

English and Maths Prep will be set during Creative Arts Week and this will need to be completed on the night as set out in the Prep Planner. There will also be specific Creative Arts related Prep for the other nights which will be directed via the Form Teacher. If your child is asked to do some research on the computer at home please be aware that Internet searches have the potential to contain images you would not wish your child to see. Steps are in place at school to protect the children and we would ask that you are vigilant when they are completing their research.

Year 4 Drama production

Our Year 4 Play in a Day is taking place on Wednesday, 8th February. Parents are welcome to attend the performance at 4.00 pm. The children are acting in a pirate play and we would be delighted if they could wear a striped or brightly coloured t-shirt and black trousers or jeans. If they have any eye patches, head scarfs or pirate hats please bring them in but we are not expecting these to be purchased especially.

House Music Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning assembly on Friday, 10th February will be featuring a selection of House Music from the previous afternoon's competition. All parents are welcome to join us

Effort and Attainment Grades, Friday, 10th February

Effort and Attainment grades (EAGS) will be ready to view on the Portal on Friday, 10th February. If anyone has a query on grades or a problem with viewing them, then please do pop into the school office and the ladies will help put you in contact with the appropriate member of staff.

Pre-Prep News

Musicians

Could the children who are members of recorder and violin club please remember to bring their instruments into school on Monday as they will need them for assembly.

Celebration Assembly Friday, 3rd February

We would like to welcome our Pre-Prep parents to our Pre-Prep coffee morning and Celebration Assembly on Friday, 3rd February at 8.15 am.

Number Day Friday, 3rd February

On Friday 3rd February all the children in the Pre-Prep will be taking part in Number Day. Working in groups with children from the Nursery classes to Year 2, the children will take part in a number of mathematical investigations and challenges.

As these activities will be outdoors, your child will not need to wear their school uniform. Instead, please send them to school in their outdoor learning clothes – warm trousers, jumpers, wellington boots and waterproof trousers if you have them. The children's purple school coats would be perfect for the activities as these keep them warm and dry. If the weather continues to be cold they will need named hats, gloves and scarves.

Outdoor Learning Wednesday, 8th February

We would be extremely grateful if all the children in the Pre-Prep could come in wearing warm old clothes. They will also need to have with them Wellington Boots, a warm waterproof coat, hat and gloves. They will stay in these clothes for the day.

Year 2 Drama production

Our Year 2 Play in a Day is taking place on Tuesday, 9th February. The children will be basing their play on "Voices in the Park" by Anthony Browne. Parents are invited to attend the performance at 3.00 pm. The school will be providing any costumes that the children may require.

New pupil

We are delighted to welcome Sachin to Year 2 this week. He has settled into the year group very well and the other children have made him feel most welcome.