



Bridestowe Primary School

Telephone: 01837 861361

Email: admin@bridestoweprimary.org.uk

Website: www.bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk

Bridestowe Primary School – With Respect and Ambition We Flourish Together

13/01/2022

Spring is on its way

It has been delightful to return to school this week and enjoy the signs of Spring in the Forest School. Buds, new growth, and bright sunshine have greeted us.

As we move into the Spring, the children will have great learning opportunities in and out of the classroom as we return to swimming, Forest School and external visits. We can't wait to enjoy our learning!

Welcome (again) to Ms Dewsbery

We are pleased to announce that Ms Dewsbery, who has been volunteering at the school for a number of years and also working here as a mealtime assistant, has been appointed as a full time teaching assistant within the school. We are so pleased to make best use of Ms Dewsbery's skills and rapport with our children.

We have also welcomed Miss Mason as a volunteer TA on Wednesdays and Thursdays in Snowy Owls. Finally, Miss Davies has joined us on Thursdays and Fridays in Owlets for a work experience placement from Okehampton College.

Forest School

This week we welcomed back Ranger Rob for the first of our Forest School sessions. We will have a total of 8 sessions this term. The Owlets will attend every session with all other children attending 4.

Wednesday 12th January – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls

Wednesday 26th January – Owlets and Barn Owls

Wednesday 9th February – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls

Wednesday 16th February - Owlets and Barn Owls

Wednesday 2nd March – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls

Wednesday 16th March - Owlets and Barn Owls

Wednesday 23rd March – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls

Wednesday 6th April - Owlets and Barn Owls

Ranger Rob, in collaboration with Miss Bryant, is working hard to develop our Forest School area. This term the children will be making beech hurdles to surround the shelter, wood chipping the filled-in pond and, once the tree is milled, constructing a work bench.



School Lunch Raffle

On Thursday 20th January every child who takes a school meal will receive a raffle ticket to be entered into a Prize Draw to win a Mystery Activity Pack. There will be 3 winners, 1 each from EYFS, KS1 and KS2. Please book via School Gateway. Good Luck!

Music Lessons

Teachers have been bringing daily singing to school with the Voices Foundation. In addition, Mrs Jolliffe is visiting the school on Fridays to deliver music sessions to all children. The children have loved the increased music and singing in school, as have the adults!



Swimming

Today is our first swimming session which I am certain the children will have enjoyed. Bridestowe offer a comprehensive swimming approach which is well above and beyond what is required by the national curriculum. We feel it is essentially important children learn this vital life skill – a skill that could save their life.

Voluntary money contribution – why and what?

We ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards swimming, and I would like to explain why and how it is spent.

As mentioned, our swimming offer for every child, every year, is well above what is required. This is an expensive annual event. The hire of the pool and lessons cost £1260. This is paid for using the school's PE and Curriculum budgets. The cost of transport to the pool and back, this year, is £2028. This is a cost exacerbated by our rural location – many town and city schools walk to swimming lessons.

It is with these transport costs that we ask for support. We considered what a reasonable parental contribution may be and decided upon £20 per child for 6 weeks. We anticipate 72 payments of £20, generating £1440. FoBS generously donated £340.70. Finally, £247.30 is budgeted from our Pupil Premium grant to subsidise the voluntary request from our most vulnerable families.

The contribution of £20 per child is entirely voluntary and there is no obligation for families to pay this. Individual children will not miss out or receive any lesser offer.

If we receive less than the 72 payments we expect, shortfall will be paid from the curriculum budget. If we were to receive a significantly lower number of payments, we would have to consider the viability of the lessons for all and may need to reduce to Year 6 only. Thankfully, this situation has never arisen because of your generous support.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding swimming or the voluntary contribution, please do not hesitate to ask.

Covid Risk Assessments

The Covid risk assessment has been updated on our website this week in line with new government guidance on isolation and testing.

In brief:

- Positive LFTs for those without symptoms DO NOT need a confirmatory PCR test.
- Those in contact with a positive case need to LFT test daily for 7 days.
- The isolation period for a positive test has been reduced (from Monday 17th Jan) to 5 full days dependent upon 2 negative LFTs on day 5 and 6. For example, if a negative result is returned on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, a return to education or childcare settings can occur immediately on day 6.

We continue to ensure the safety of our children at staff with the following measures:

- Ventilation in all classrooms
- Enhanced cleaning, especially of high touch services
- Face coverings for adults in communal spaces.

Respect, Ambition and Flourish Awards:

Ethan – Being Respectful and following class rules

Grayson – Showing Ambition with excellent learning behaviours

Joey – Always working hard and Respecting others

Felix J – Showing great Ambition to produce wonderful writing



Parent Governor Vacancy

Parents – Your school needs YOU!

There is a vacancy for one Parent governor to join the Local Stakeholder Board with the Moorland Hub schools. Local governors are a vital part of the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust's connection with schools and community, and Parents are an important voice within the governance structure.

To qualify as a Parent governor, you must have at least one child on the roll at any school within the Moorland Hub, and must be eligible under the national governing body rules.

Nominations are now open, until close of business on Friday 27th January 2022. All nominations will then be put forward to a parent vote, which will take place electronically.

The nomination form must be completed in full, and can be obtained by emailing the Clerk to Governors:

j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk

For an informal chat about the role of parent governor and the responsibilities of the local stakeholder board, please contact the Chair Bridget Down: bdown@dmatschools.org.uk or the Clerk to Governors:

j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk

Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your applications

Catering Assistant Vacancy – Lydford Primary

Lydford Primary is currently seeking to recruit a Catering Assistant on a permanent part-time basis, working 8.75 hours per week. The position requires collection and transport of school meals from Bridestowe to Lydford, serving lunches and cleaning up afterwards. Further details and how to apply are attached to this newsletter.

Dates

January 2022

12th Forest School – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls

14th – KS2 Swimming

21st – KS2 Swimming

26th Forest school – Owlets and Barn Owls

28th – KS2 Swimming

February 2022

4th – KS2 Swimming

9th Forest School – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls

11th – KS2 Swimming

16th Forest School - Owlets and Barn Owls

18th – KS2 Swimming

WB 21st – Half term

March 2022

2nd Forest School – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls

16th Forest School - Owlets and Barn Owls

23rd Forest School – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls

April 2022

6th Forest School - Owlets and Barn Owls

WB 11th – Easter break

Mr A. Hill – Principal

ahill@dmatschools.org.uk

01837 861361

Whole School Attendance

95.5%



Snowy Owls using actions to learn an extract from a text