



The Flying Start Federation

Newsletter 18th September 2018

Issue 18

(www.buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.)

Federation website for both schools

We are very pleased to welcome you all back to the new academic year and especially children and families who are starting in reception or preschool and those who have moved into the area. Starting school for the first time or moving school can be a stressful time especially for parents and carers, so please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher at the end of the day if you are anxious. Children will tell you all sorts of stories about school as they do us about home life, so please share those with us to find out what really goes on, as we do with you!

The Summer has been a busy time at both schools as you will have seen from the news items on the mobile APP (make sure you have downloaded from your APP store to keep up to date with all that is happening).

The new play area at Parkham is under construction after a group of amazing parents worked hard to clear the site, paint the boat and unload deliveries.

The contractors working at Buckland Brewer finished in time for the staff to set 3 classrooms up ready for the start of term and we are all very pleased with how it looks. Please do pop in at the end of the school day to have a look if you have not already done so. We have changed where children enter and exit the school- so Owls (Preschool, Reception and Y1) will enter and exit through the little wooden gate onto the outdoor area, Falcons will enter through the white door onto the playground opposite the back gate, and no change for Eagles. We do ask the parents say good bye to children at the door to encourage their independence. If you need to speak to the class teacher please try to do so at the end of the day or give messages through the office. We are still working out how parents can access the office in the morning as we would prefer them **not** to walk through what is now Eagles class cloakroom, but to walk around the outside path to the front of the school.

Connected Curriculum

The teachers have been working hard to review the curriculum so it enables children to learn new skills progressively in an engaging and inspiring way. Letters from each class come out each half term to explain the learning planned so that you can support your child at home.

Development plan.

The Staff and governors are very pleased with the last set of assessment results which show good progress being made by all children. An overview of our standards for last academic year can be found on our website. Each year the staff and governors undertake a comprehensive review of the success of each school and from that set strategic vision for the next- so that the schools continue to develop to offer the best possible education for all children. As a result of this review the governors have set the strategic vision for the next few years, and this year's school development plan will show how we are working towards this vision.

Effectiveness of Leadership and Management

- Leaders and Governors use performance management that leads to professional development to challenge and support all teaching staff improvement
- Broad and balanced curriculum inspires pupils to learn

Quality of Teaching and Learning and Assessment

- Teachers provide pupils with incisive feedback (Schools Assessment Policy) about what pupils can do to improve their knowledge, understanding and skills. Pupils use the feedback effectively.
- Teachers embed reading, writing and communication (and maths) exceptionally well across the curriculum, equipping all pupils with the necessary skills to make progress.
- Pupils love the challenge of learning and are resilient to failure. They are curious and interested learners, developing, consolidating and deepening their knowledge, understand and skills. Pupils thrive in lessons and take opportunities to learn through extra-curricular activities

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

- Pupils discuss and debate issues in a considered way showing respect for others.
- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development equips them to thoughtful, caring and active citizens in wider society

Outcomes for pupils

- All pupils will make substantial progress from their starting point

Attendance and Holidays.

Due to a rapid up rise in some parents taking unauthorised holidays the governors have had to review our policy to ensure all pupils have access to education as they are legally required to do. One of the outcomes of this is to look at the dates of the school holidays and how we can group our inset days, so here are the term dates and inset dates. **Autumn Term 2018-** 3rd September—21st December 2018 **Spring Term 2018-** 7th January—5th April 2018 **Summer Term 2018-** 23rd April—25th July 2018 **inset dates.. 3/9 19/10 7/1 22/7 23/7 24/7 25/7**

You will see that we have grouped days at the end of the Summer Term so that we finish a week earlier. Please use this to plan your holiday, as no request for family holidays will be authorized and there will be penalties issued. Children who miss chunks of school do fall behind and will not necessarily catch up learning missed and this causes anxiety for some children, so please think twice before planning your holidays during term time.

Free School Meals-Important Information

There are changes in Free School Meals Legislation – one of the biggest changes is the introduction of Universal Credit as a qualifying benefit. It is anticipated that the roll out of this benefit and the phasing out of existing qualifying benefits should be completed by March 2022.

Parents who are currently receiving Free School Meals will need **to re-apply** online through the <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals> **Citizen Portal** to confirm eligibility and **continue** to receive Free School Meals. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision, you will need to show this confirmation to the School. **This will need to be done by 11th May.**

We would like to encourage parents who are not currently in receipt of free schools meals to apply online through the same link, <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals> **Citizen Portal.**

Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 to obtain a paper application form.

It is **important** that any parent who think they might qualify apply as it means that your child can continue to receive free school meals and that the school receive top up funding which is incredibly important to the functioning of the School.

Any questions, please contact Bridget Urquhart at Buckland Brewer School.



Dates

OFFICE HOURS:

Parkham: Mon—Thurs 8.45—3.45pm
(please note there is no one in the office on Fridays)

Buckland Brewer: Mon—Fri 8.45—12.15pm— please avoid making requests when office is not manned.

If you need to telephone the school urgently and the office is not manned, please ring the partner school as hopefully they can get a message through.

Buckland TEL:01237 451315

Parkham TEL: 01237 451334

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2018- 3rd September—21st December 2018

Spring Term 2018- 7th January—5th April 2018

Summer Term 2018- 23rd April—25th July 2018

Non-pupil days

3rd Sept 2018, 19th Oct 2018, 7th January 2019, 22nd & 23rd July 2019

Occasional days

24th and 25th July 2019



Vicky Teague -
School Nurse

School Nursing
team

Torrington
children's Cen-
tre



Parkham

4/9 Back to school
20/9 GTS open eve 6pm
w/c 24/9 GTS open mornings 9am—10.30am
12/10 Big Bang @ GTS Y5 and Y6 all day
15/16 Oct Potheridge trip Y3/4/5
19/10 non-pupil day

Fruit Snack

The government provides free fruit snacks for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 however, if your child is not in these year groups we welcome you to provide a fruit snack for them to bring in.

Absence

Please can you ensure if your child is absent from school that you notify the office either in person or by phone before 9am. This information is very important and needs to be recorded correctly.

Parent Pay

Thank you to all that have registered and started to use Parent Pay. If you have not yet registered please do as going forward this will eventually be the only payment method for meals, trip, uniform etc

The transition and set up of parent pay system has gone very well, but with some teething issues which we are sorting out. One of the main issues is to make sure that all food orders are made by the **time specified**- otherwise the system locks you out- this is because our food ordering list is made up from that date. **We understand that like any new routine it takes time to establish so for this month only we will sort out food orders if you have missed the deadline, but after that if food has not been ordered on time, you will not be able to get meals from that menu. We really do ask that you bear with this system for payment as it really will help to reduce our administration time, and we really do want to see a continue of the good uptake of school meals.** Your meal service relies on a good uptake to ensure its sustainability so please continue to order meals. We have already responded to one suggestion to make sure a paper copy of the menu available in reception and on the notice board so that you can discuss choices with your children. Other suggestions are always welcome, there is a suggestion box in each office for your ideas, as well as a parent forum each term.

Taxi

If your child/ren travel in the taxi to and from school, please can you ensure any changes to travel arrangements are passed onto the office so that we are aware. Many thanks

Buckland Brewer

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Positions

We are looking for a **Clerk to Governors for 190 hrs p/a**. If you are highly organised and can touch type please get in touch with the Head teacher. Info is on the website.

We are also looking for **governors**: if you have an interest/background in education please contact Wendy for further info.

wain-
scough@flyingstart.org.uk

Head Lice Advice

REMEMBER TO BEAT THE BUGS by wet combing your child's hair with a nit comb at least once a week.

Clubs: letters have gone out last week with a very positive response from Buckland but with numbers are almost too small at Parkham to run the clubs- so please send in your form and make the most of these opportunities.