



# 'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

*'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'*

## **Friday 23rd June**

Last Friday we welcomed over fifty dads for Father's Day lunch. Everyone enjoyed the All Day Breakfast and thank you to the kitchen team for their hard work. Dads were also treated to a Father's Day gift ( I hope the flapjacks made it home to you!), thank you to the PTA for organising them.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

Parents are welcome to join us in our Friday assembly each week at 2.50pm when we celebrate the achievements of the children.

On Monday this week we took 33 children to carver Barracks for District Athletics. On a very hot day I was so impressed with children's sensible behaviour and positive attitude. We were delighted with the number of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places achieved by children across the different events – long jump, high jump, javelin, 'howler' and track events. The Year 5 boys came first in their category and the Year 4 boys came second. Well done to everyone who took part.

## **Summer Fair and Children's Fun run – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

The PTA are busy organising this years Summer Fair, thank you for all your offers of help and contributions. Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June is non-uniform day as we ask for donations of tombola prizes.

## **Sports Day**

Sports Day this year will be on Friday 7th July from 10.30am. The day will start at 10.30am with children taking part in competitive races on the track. After lunch children will work in their house groups taking part in 'Fun Sports' events around the field.

Parents are invited to come along for the whole day or just join us for part of the day. Parents are welcome to bring a picnic and children having school dinner that day will be provided with a picnic lunch.

## **Leave of Absence**

May I remind parents that the current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term-time. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence to a pupil where there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. In most cases, a family holiday or travelling abroad is not considered to be an exceptional reason. The recent court case in the Isle of Wight upheld this law and parents are strongly urged to book family holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays. If children are taken out of school, the absence will not be authorised and the Education Welfare Service may issue a penalty notice.

### **Instrument lessons**

Last week a letter was sent home about music lessons next term. We are pleased to work with Essex Music services to be able to offer tuition in a range of instruments from guitar and keyboard to orchestral instruments such as violin, brass and woodwind . Response so far has been quite limited – please complete the form and return it by Monday if you are interested in this.

### **Coffee Afternoon for parents of children with learning needs – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 2.15pm**

Last term we held an informal meet-up for parents of children with learning difficulties and Special Educational Needs. This was a successful afternoon with parents getting together over coffee to share ideas and experiences and we would like to make this a termly event. We know parents have a wealth of knowledge and information to share, or sometimes it's just good to meet like-minded parents who are facing similar issues. All parents are welcome, whether your child has a diagnosed special need or you are just concerned about difficulties they are having with learning.

Mrs Cook and Mrs Coop will be available to welcome parents (and put the kettle on!) but this is intended to be an informal parent led coffee afternoon. The meeting is not for parents to discuss individual issues with school staff– if you have concerns about your child's learning then please make an appointment to see your child's teacher or Mrs Cook, our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

### **Play equipment**

We have regular safety checks done on all our play and PE equipment and unfortunately we have been advised that the two small 'play houses' and the small boat need to be removed. They are now roped off so children don't play on them until they can be dismantled. We hope to replace them soon.

### **Homework club**

On Mondays, Mrs Casey is running a homework help session during lunchtime. This is for pupils in Key stage 2 who have had a go at their homework at home but need a bit more help to complete it.

### **Diary Dates**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – PTA Summer Fair and Children's Fun Run

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – School Sports Day

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July – KS2 performance at 1.30pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – KS2 performance at 6.30pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers Service in church at 2.15pm

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Leavers Assembly in school time tbc

### **Term Dates**

Term dates for the rest of this academic year and for 2017-18 are on the school website under Letters and News.

**INSET days for 2017-18**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 will be non-pupil INSET days. Two further INSET days will be set in due course.

Have a lovely weekend

Helen Coop