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## Newsletter – September 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,



### Welcome Back!

I would like to offer a warm welcome back to school from all the staff and governors at Bournmoor Primary. We especially welcome our new Reception pupils who join us. They had several opportunities to visit school in June/July and now is the official start of their journey into 'big school'. In order to help our newest pupils settle in we are introducing a 'Buddy' system where older children are given the role of supporting pupils and offering games/activities on the yard to promote excellent behaviour and kindness to others. We hope all our pupils, including our newest starters, will enjoy this initiative.



### New Staff in School

We also welcome the following new staff to our school, who have visited several times to learn the routines and meet some of the children:

Mrs Parks – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Middlemass – Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs Rothwell and Mrs Lowder our new Dinner Nannies.



### Changes over the Summer Holidays

Over the summer holidays lots of work has been going on in school and many changes have occurred. The area that was previously the library has been changed into a classroom for Year 4. This has the latest interactive whiteboard in it as well as colourful new furniture. In addition the Junior corridor area has had a big face-lift and now has new cupboards, sinks and tables in it. It is now a bright and welcoming area for children to work in and enjoy.



### Yellow Team Winners

Last term the team who were awarded the most stars for excellent work and positive attitude was Yellow Team. This meant they could come to school on the last day in non-uniform, which was the treat suggested by School Council. Congratulations go to Yellow Team but it is worth noting it was very close and this goes to show the hard working attitude of all our pupils in school. Keep it up teams!



### Questionnaires

Many thanks for returning the Parent Questionnaires sent out in July. We received 52 replies. All the results have been compiled. The vast majority were in the 'agree or strongly agree' column and several had very positive comments. Any suggestions have been carefully noted and we will try to address these to ensure we continue to provide the best service possible.



### Attendance

Congratulations to the many children who were awarded their own mini version of 'Barney Bear' to take home and keep at the end of last term. This was a reward for achieving 100% attendance for the full year. It was wonderful to see the pupil's faces when they received their prize and began deciding on a name for it!

In addition Year 4 won the 'Best Overall Year Group' attendance prize as they achieved an impressive 98.74% attendance, the highest of all the year groups in the school. Their treat was a trip to Adventure Valley in Durham. Overall our attendance was 96.68% which is an improvement on last year. Well done to all our pupils for this and also to parents who continue to support us by not requesting holidays in term time.



### New National Curriculum 2014

From September 2014 schools are required to follow the new National Curriculum. Staff have been working very hard over the past year to develop an exciting and relevant curriculum for pupils to ensure they continue to enjoy coming to school, have a love of learning and achieve their very best. In order to allow parents to continue to offer such valued support to their children, we have published the new Curriculum Grids on our website so you can see what your child will be learning about in the year ahead. If you cannot access them at [www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk](http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk) then please ask your child's teacher for a paper copy.



### 40<sup>th</sup> Celebrations on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014

As our school turns 40 on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014 we plan to have a day of fun and celebration for our pupils. This will include a picnic lunch for pupils, a non-uniform day and games/activities. In addition we have been invited to join the Chester-le-Street Allotment Society Vegetable Competition where pupils can make an imaginative character from vegetables. It is a little like our Easter Egg competition but with vegetables! We hope you will send in entries. We will end our 40<sup>th</sup> year with a performance that parents/carers will be invited to looking back on the 40 year history of our school. This will be in the summer term.



### SEND Website Section

You may have noticed a new section on our website called 'SEND'. This stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. A new code of practice for SEND pupils has been introduced by the government from September 2014 and our website aims to give as much information as possible about how we support pupils with special needs. If you would like any more information about the new Code of Practice, and how we support pupils and their families (our Local Offer), then please contact school.



### Dates for your Diary

Just for your information the Year 1 Phonics test will be week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Also Year 6 SAT tests will be week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Further information regarding this, and information on how to continue helping your child at home, will be sent out in due course.

### **Holiday date reminder for Autumn Term:**

We close on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October for half term and re-open on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. In addition this term we have a Staff Training Day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November when school will be closed. A full list of our school holidays are on our website or available from the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L A Snowdon (Headteacher)