

# Newsletter Summer Term 1

## April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone – I don't know about you, but the sunshine last week was a welcome relief from the cold wet weather we had during our Easter break.

Last term seems a long time ago – but maybe our “wordle” at the end of the newsletter might remind you of some of the great times we had as a school last term.

Just wanted to say Thank You to those parents who came to meet the O2 Guru who spoke about Online Safety during the parent consultation meetings. We hope the information was useful, but for those who could not attend if you do have any concerns about your child's on line usage, please contact the school. Mrs Avery has recently been trained as a Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Ambassador and is happy to help with any concerns you may have.

Alternatively the NSPCC have a website, <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> and a free downloadable app with regular updated information regarding popular apps, games and social networking sites which is very useful.

### **Congratulations to:**

- The Sixth Form Centre who have been awarded the 5 start Hygiene Award. If you have not visited our café yet – please try to. It is amazing, the students prepare and serve members of the public. Café @The Brook is based on Holmecross Road and open 09.30 – 2.30pm;
- Year 11 pupils who all had very successful work experience placements last term;
- Alistair and his family for winning the very large Easter Egg and Chick – we drew the prize at our Easter service. We raised £265 from this fundraiser – Thank You for your support.
- Miss Jess Taylor who after a huge amount of hard work qualified as a Teacher on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – we are all very proud of you.

### **Goodbye and Hello**

At the end of last term we said good bye to Martin Clarke, our parent support worker. Martin had worked for me for nearly 10 years, but always wanted to return to residential work. He has been appointed as the manager of Arnold House, a children's home locally and I have no doubt he will really enjoy his new challenges. I know many of you would have liked to have said “Goodbye”, so we will be inviting Martin back before the end of the school year to an event, so you can meet up then. In the meantime, If you have any parent support questions, please contact your child's Head of Department, who will help out whilst we appoint a replacement.

We also have said goodbye to our Occupational Therapist (OT), Jenny Clark, who has returned to working with brain injured adults. We hope to recruit by September, however as there are a lack of OT's nationally we might not be able to recruit, so we will be relying on the health authority to provide access to OT.

One of our Speech and Language Therapists (SaLT) Alannah Muldownie left us to go travelling and then to take up a promoted post in Buckinghamshire. We have a temporary SaLT starting next week and I hope to appoint a permanent replacement for September.

We welcome to our staff Mrs Hamblin who is working across the Primary and Secondary department as a full time Teacher and next week we welcome 7 new Teaching Assistants.

### What's Happening In The School This Term?

- The residential experiences have already started with the Year 10 secondary pupils completing their overnight Duke of Edinburgh expedition, with a second one planned in the future (May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> ) I was very pleased to hear how well they had done – very few moans about the walking and cycling and good behaviour when sleeping in the tents and in dormitories. I also believe that a significant number of pupils fell asleep after tea very quickly, as they had worked so hard. Thank you to Mr Tebbutt for doing the “waking night” duty (yes that really does mean being awake through the night in case of emergencies) and to all those staff who went on the expedition.
- Other residential experiences planned this term are: Kingswood (May 14th); Grendon (May 21st); D of E – Year 13 (15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> May) and The Thomas Centre (June 11th) If your child is involved in the residential experiences you will already have the details from the lead staff, but do feel free to ask any questions.
- Two events have taken place since the start of term– Celebrating Autism Awareness with a visit from John Simpson, who shared his own experiences as a person with autism, both to a parent group and the whole staff. It was fascinating listening to him as well as very informative. Our thanks to 2SHPo who prepared the lovely tea for the parents and to all the pupils within the department for the lovely display of work.
-  We have also fund raised for Cats Protection League – with the baking of Cat Cookies (for human consumption) – being a cat lover myself, I thoroughly enjoyed supporting this fundraiser. Thank You for your donations.
- We will be holding a Makaton Workshop for parents and families. This will take place on Tuesday May 15th at 9.30am. 

My Name

-  The Royal Wedding - As you have no doubt noticed there is going to be a royal wedding on May 19th. The School Council have asked if we can celebrate – so we will be holding a special event on Friday 18th May – which also happens to be a parent “drop in” day as well. We shall send more information out when all our plans are finalised.
- Safety Outside School - We have been informed that Northampton Borough Council, despite our objections, will be putting yellow lines outside of the school. I am unsure when this will take place, but you are likely to have to park your cars further away and walk into school, rather than parking immediately outside. 



## General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Have you heard about this? On May 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 all the rules around data protection have changed. The school has been preparing for this for some time, by attending training, updating policies and reviewing all our data that we hold on children.

This is happening nationally.

There are lots of reasons why schools collect data, but it is important that you know what information we hold. I shall be sending you a pamphlet about the information we hold at school on your child and how that is shared before the end of this term. As always if you have any questions, then please get in touch.

The first thing we are doing is changing all our forms to comply with the legislation and to help us update our records. You will be shortly receiving a new pupil information form, and we ask that you complete it and return to school as soon as possible. Thank You.

## Attendance

I seem to raise an issue about attendance in nearly every letter. This time I want to explain “exceptional circumstances”.

The law is quite clear that authorised absence should only be for an “exceptional circumstance”. This does not include going on holiday; taking advantage of special offers, because (as we all know) it is much cheaper to go away in term time; visiting relatives; leaving school early; attending weddings. It was pointed out to me that our absence forms do not ask you (the parent) to explain why you consider the absence an “exceptional circumstance”? When completing the form in “Reasons for Request” box, please add why you think it is an exceptional circumstance. When we update the form I shall include that specific question.

I find this one of my more unpleasant parts of the job, as I do fully understand why you would like to take your child out of school, however, I am sure you appreciate that I am bound by the law and have to implement the school policy consistently.

## Fundraising

We have an exciting fundraiser on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018. Laura and Paul Hough parents of one of our pupils along with the ASD department are taking part in a 5k Inflatable run. Please help them raise money for us by donating at:

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/billingbrookinflatableinrun>

If you are not able to donate on line, please send your donations to school in a sealed envelope. Thank You.

Good Luck to everyone taking part.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our many events this term.

Kind regards,



C.M. Grant  
Headteacher





## Billing Brook School Dates Summer Term 1 & 2 2018

The timings of the school day are:	Drop off: 08:35am – 08:45am and Pick Up:3:05pm – 3:15pm lessons
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 10 D of E second expedition
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Time 2 talk – parent Session 1000 - 1100
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Kingswood Residential
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 13 D of E first expedition Parent Makaton Workshop at 9.30am
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Celebrating The Royal Wedding & Parent Drop In
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Grendon Residential
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 13 D of E second expedition
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Non Uniform Day - £1 donation towards paying for future Discos.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May – 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Half Term
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Paul and Laura Hough and members of the ASD department Fundraiser – please sponsor
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Science week in School
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent Drop In 1.30 – 2.45
Monday June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Centre Residential Year 11 Work experience
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day & Sponsored “wobble”
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Leavers Awards Assembly 1.45pm (Separate Letter will be sent) and Leavers Disco (evening) to be confirmed
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 11 & 13 Leave
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Parent Consultation Meetings Week Pupils change classes.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Parent Drop In – come and see your child’s new class if you can 1.30
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Time 2 Talk parent Session 10.00 – 11.00
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Week – new pupils visiting the school
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	School Fayre 12.00 – 2.00pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School Picnic 12.00
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Winning House “Treat”
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Awards Afternoon ASD & Primary 1.15pm – 2.45pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Awards Afternoon Secondary & Sixth Form 1.15 – 2.45pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of term

**School closed until Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

