

Babraham Church of England (VC) County Primary

Newsletter Autumn term 2007 No.1

Dear Parents

I would like to wish the Babraham school family a very warm **welcome back**. Despite the gloomy weather over the summer, everyone seems to have bounced back into school ready to learn and looking very relaxed. The staff spent many days in the holidays preparing for the new school year training, setting up their classrooms and putting up interesting displays. This is such an exciting time, full of promise. Thank you all! I have been so pleased to walk round school and see the children all working hard and settling in to their new classes.

We welcome all the new Reception children and the families who have joined us in Class Two and Class One. I hope that your time spent at Babraham will be full of exciting learning and personal experiences. We hope that you might be able to join us for any of our Class or Celebration assemblies, Harvest Festival, Christmas and Christingle Services. Please see the dates and times below.

I'm sure it will be another busy year for us all and we look forward to meeting all the challenges which we will encounter, and to enjoy the wonderful moments which are also part of school life.

We continued developing our knowledge of the SEAL (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning) Programme at the start of the term and the theme was **New Beginnings**. It helped us all find the strategies that create a learning environment which helps the children learn together in a happy, busy and safe way. They have also identified the emotions they have when they are happy, sad, scared and excited, and how to manage these feelings in the classroom.

Class Newsletters

The teachers will be sending out their termly class newsletters very soon. This should give you a good idea of the learning planned in your child's class and give you some ideas of ways you could help with your child's learning this term at home. Sometimes parents have a particular talent or knowledge which links with a class topic in art, science, history, geography or even PE. If you feel you have something you could contribute to the class, please let us know. These letters and our newsletters are kindly uploaded by Mr Rawlings onto our school website www.babrahamschool.org.uk

Coffee Mornings

I am glad to say that Jentie Weaver will be continuing to run her coffee mornings this year. She will be in the playground on 20th September at 9am, so that you can put a face to her name.

Whole School days

As we develop our understanding as to what it means to be a Healthy School we thought that we might dedicate two whole school days this term to this focus. On the first day we will think about our own health and needs, but then we will develop it into a wider international theme and consider the health and wellbeing of children across the world.

Data Collection

Accompanying this letter is our data collection sheet. We would be grateful if you could look through it carefully and add or delete any of the information on it and return the form to us as soon as possible. It is vital that we know up to date mobile numbers and contact numbers, should we ever wish to contact you. We have also gone electronic as regards the registration of the children. The implications of this mean that if we do not hear from you by 9.05 am or if the children are running late, we will have to register them as






unauthorised absences and this is definitely what we do not want. Please could you just let us know if the children are poorly or if you are on your way. You can always leave a message on our answer phone.

Fruit at break times

While all children in KS1 will continue to get free fruit we would like to encourage children in Year three upwards to bring a piece of fruit for their mid morning snack. They will all benefit from topping up their energy levels at this time.

School Meals

School meals are now £1.85 a week and £61.05 for the half term. Cheques for school dinners should be made payable to Cambridgeshire County Council. Mrs Hart works hard to ensure that the dinners are well balanced and nutritious. If school meals are not for you, here are some ideas for a healthy lunchbox.

<p>One portion of salad or vegetables</p> 	<p>One portion of fruit – fresh or dried</p> 	<p>One portion of milk or dairy</p> 	<p>One portion of protein</p> 	<p>One portion of starchy food</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add grated carrot to any sandwich filling. • Baby corn and red peppers go well with a humous dip • Tomato chutney or homemade salsa can zest up a pitta pocket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try a variety of fruit and cut them up in different ways • Mix dried fruit – apricots, cranberries, bananas for a snack • Cut a kiwi in half and pop in a spoon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blend natural yoghurt with fresh berries and honey for a smoothie • Pack a low-fat chocolate flavour milk carton • A variety of mini cheeses can add fun and colour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken, turkey or ham fillings • Peanut butter • Cottage Cheese • Leftovers such as quiche, tortilla or even cold sausages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiment with pitta, wraps or bagels • Don't just stick to bread. Pasta or couscous salad can be made in bulk then frozen for later • Add some malt loaf or a fruit scone

SAT's results

We were delighted with our SAT's results. The children have done very well this year. All the children in KS2 achieved a level 4 in Maths and English and Science. Well done everyone.

Harvest Festival

This will be on Thursday 27th September at St Peter's Church at 2.30. We would be grateful if you could send tins or fresh produce into school on or before that date as St Peter's Church auction them during their Harvest Supper to raise much needed funds.

School Clubs 3.20 - 4.30.

These will start on 17th September and run for 10 weeks.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sports Xtra Football	Sports Xtra Mutisport	Craft club (lunchtimes)	Mr Bootman's sports club Year 3+	Computer club for Girls Year 3 + (maximum number 8)

My apologies to the boys that the computer club will be restricted to girls for at least 2 terms but this is a specific site with resources provided by the DfES.

Building works

At long last the hall floor has been completed and after extensive work during the summer, we now have a brand new green surface. While the workers were there, they also removed any remaining traces of concrete contaminated by the fuel leak last Christmas and so, in addition to looking good, it also smells good. We have also have had a new school sign commissioned and I hope you will approve of the mission statement that the staff, governors and children developed. It is *Learning together for life* and I think that it sums up our ethos very well.

Links with Sawston Village College

Miss Bridstrup will continue to visit once a fortnight to teach French with Miss Lawrence and Class 3. She has also provided resources so that French teaching can begin in Class 2 as well.

Music lessons

These will start on Thursday 13th September

Finally, I look forward to meeting with you on the playground or at special events during the term. I am teaching half the week this year, so please forgive me if I can't get back to you immediately some days. However I will do my best.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S J Berry

Diary Dates

Class 2 Kentwell visit	25 th September
Celebration assemblies	5 th October, 9 th November, 7 th December at 2.45pm
Class 2 assembly	12 th October (2.45pm)
Class 1 assembly	16 th November (2.45pm)
Class 3 assembly	30 th November (2.45pm)
Half term	22 nd - 26 th October
Babraham Church Barn Dance	6 th October (details to follow)
Harvest Festival	27 th September (2.30pm)
Parent Consultation	Thursday 1 st November (3.30 - 5.30 pm) Monday 5 th November (4 - 6 pm) Class 1 & 3 Wednesday 7th November (4 - 6pm) Class 2 -please note the change
Individual Photographs	22 nd November
Book fair	9 th - 16 th November
Carol service	12 th December (6.30 pm)
Christingle	17 th December (9.30 am)
School closes	19 th December