



Burscough Village Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Anna Smith

12th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year. Welcome to 2023. All the children and staff have settled well back into the school routines. I hope you had a great holiday break.

Dyslexia Award

We started the year with training on some of the school improvement areas for this year. We explored Dyslexia and how we can make our classrooms dyslexic friendly. All year group teams audited their classrooms according to the DBA checklist and set small goals to improve the provision for the children.

For those children in the junior classes who find spelling and handwriting more challenging we will start to use Nessy Fingers. This is a computer program that will teach the children how to type efficiently so they are able to use a device to record their ideas in some lessons. It is still important to teach the children to form their letters and develop their spelling strategies. Please contact Mrs Beevers if you would like a chat about this aspect.

Equality Award

We moved on to our Equality work to audit subject areas and highlight where we teach the children about diversity. We were pleased with the coverage across the curriculum and identified a few areas to develop. Mrs Swift has booked us in for the Equality Award Assessment in June. She is due to meet with the parent equality group later this month. Before the holidays, Mrs Swift worked with the Equality ambassadors to review accessibility for wheelchair users in school, interviewed Mrs Howard to see how we cater for dietary requirements and review the books in the library. The subject leaders are ordering books for their subjects to make our library books more inclusive. We will begin to use the following statement on communication to reflect our views on equality.

'We seek to foster a commitment to promoting equality and believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit us.'

Behaviour

In the afternoon, we revisited the behaviour policy for all staff. Mrs Graham is leading lunchtime provision, and she ran through all the different zones and activities the children can take part in at break times. The children will stay that particular zone for a week and then move onto the next zone. Throughout the term, the children will have experience of different games and activities. This links with our PE and sport work where children need to be physically active. All staff will facilitate the play and last week it was a great success. Towards the end of the year, we will be reviewing our current behaviour policy with a specific look at our rewards system. Well done to staff and children!

Vocabulary

The children are very good at identifying the school improvement targets. They told me all about their work on Vocabulary in assembly on Monday. Each class has a word of the week, and the children play many games to familiarise themselves with the word. They are then tasked to use the words in their work. The teachers have glitter pens to highlight when the children have used the words correctly. In the hall we have our vocabulary tree. The classes shared their new vocabulary with the whole school and the new words are added to the tree. By the end of the year, our tree and our children will be full of new and exciting words! See if you can spot them at home.

Statutory Assessments

Please find the dates of the assessments for each year group.

Year 6 SATS – Tuesday 9th May 2023- Friday 12th May. (Please note Monday is a bank holiday)

Year 2 SATS – This will take place from Monday 15th – Friday 26th May

Year 1 Phonics Screening – Monday 12th June – Friday 16th June

Year 4 Multiplication Test – Monday 5th June – Friday 9th June
(Please do not take holidays in these periods.)

Holidays in term time

Just a reminder that holidays in term time are not authorised. If your request of absences goes over five days, you will be issued with a penalty notice. This is our school policy.

PTFA

I hope 2023 at BVPS is filled with exciting experiences that create lasting memories. These are the things the children remember forever. The PTFA organised many of these events. We would like to thank Katie Chalk, the chair of the PTFA, for all her energy, enthusiasm, and creativity. She has decided to step down from her role as her children come to the end of their BVPS journey. It is important for us to have new parents/carers take over the role so that the children continue to benefit from a wide range of activities. It may be a group of parents rather than one role. Please come and speak to me if you are interested or you could attend the Hopvine on Tuesday 17th January at 8pm where some of the PTFA volunteers will be meeting.

'Every lesson shapes a life.'

This quote is perfect to highlight our work. We are a forward-thinking school, and it is important that we learn as practitioners so we can provide the children with the best possible education. Every day is a chance to learn for all of us!

Yours sincerely,



Miss A Smith

Headteacher