

Playground Equipment

Quite a lot of excitement is being generated by the work now underway to replace our faithful, but now quite dated, playground equipment. The whole project is expected to take three weeks in total, but as areas become completed they will be opened up for the children to use. The new equipment is designed with the latest thinking regarding developmental play. The total project cost is £77K, with some of these costs being met by BSA fundraising events.

The three areas of the school being improved are: our Key Stage 2 Adventure Play, the Key Stage 1 Playground and our Year R Discovery Area. There are a series of obstacle courses, each targeting specific aspects of physical skill progression. The centre piece in each location is the 'Pick Up Sticks' equipment which encourages problem solving and imagination in finding different routes and techniques when exploring the apparatus. These are really welcome additions to our school, and we are confident they will provide the children with much happiness for many years to come.

All Things Books

Thank you to those families who were able to support the Book Fair held this week in the school Hall. The funds raised will go towards topping up the 14,000 books already located in our amazing school library. We hope your children cherish and respect the books you purchased!

On Friday this week we will be visited by the amazing 'Storyteller' Jamie Crawford. His magical narratives leave children quite often spellbound, we know this will be a truly wonderful and memorable occasion for all our pupils in both Key Stage 1 and 2.

Today we have celebrated World Book Day. This year we provided the option for children to dress up as their favourite book characters. Irrespective of whether your child dressed up or not, in classes across the school there have been happy and excited conversations about books and the joys of reading.

School Car Park

As from Monday next week, and for a sustained period of time thereafter, members of staff will be patrolling the vehicle access gates to the school car park. These patrols will take place between 8.00 – 8.50am and again in the afternoon between 3.00 – 3.35pm.

The purpose of the patrols is to: -

- Prevent unauthorised vehicles from entering the car park;
- Pedestrians from entering or exiting the school through the vehicle access gates;
- Record and report details of cars 'dropping off' on the yellow zigzags or school driveway.

Berrywood school car park is for the use of members of staff and authorised visitors only. Authorised visitors include parents with disabilities **who have made a prior arrangement with the school**. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer car parking spaces for parents picking up from after-school clubs (except for Berries!). However, given the time these clubs finish, it ought to be easier to park quite near to the school in order to collect.

These are clearly issues of safety, and actually, common decency. It is incredibly sad and frustrating that I am having to deploy members of staff away from their regular duties in order to carry out these patrols. If you do need to drive your child to school, then please just accept that you will probably need to park a bit of distance from the school along with all the other parents in the same position. Likewise, if you walk with your child to school then please take a few extra steps and use one of the four pedestrian gates available to you, rather than the one vehicle access gate.

In the interests of once again being able to positively refer to the *Berrywood community*, when our patrols end, please do not relapse into the antisocial and irresponsible actions described above.

Kind regards,

Chris Reilly
Headteacher

