

Newsletter 05th May 2023

Summer Term Underway...

Although the weather has remained fairly cool and pretty damp, the summer term is of course well underway. This is the busiest by far in the school year, for children, parents and for adults working in schools. With that bustle comes much excitement and opportunities, as well as the danger that folks may miss out things simply because there is so much going on. We hope you found the recent Year Team Newsletters helpful in setting out some of the activities, arrangements and key dates.

The week after next (beginning 15th May) is *Walk to School* week. On Tuesday next week your child will bring home a letter explaining all the details. This is a national campaign that we very much hope Berrywood families will be able to support. I believe most parents will have an appreciation of the congestion and parking difficulties frequently experienced during the school run. These pressures, and dangers, are felt by local residents and in our school car park too. We have definitely seen a sustained improvement in safety since our recent decision to monitor and patrol the school car park. Thank you to all the families that have continued to support us with this important issue.

Year 6 Pupils SATs

We would like to wish our Year 6 pupils well next week in their SATs. The hard work of the children and staff teams throughout the years has been very clear, and we know our children are well prepared for what lies ahead. Throughout my career I have continued to argue for significant reform of these assessments, as I don't believe they best serve the interests of young people. However, we have to operate in the system as it is, and I am incredibly proud of the effort, determination and high level of achievement that we are very likely to attain this year. A really huge well done in advance to all the children and staff.

The following week, our Year 2 SATs begin. Our aim with these assessments is for the children not to know they are even taking a 'test'! As with Year 6 pupils though, we know our Year 2 children are very ready to show their knowledge and understanding. Thank you to the Year 2 team for all their hard work and preparation in this regard. The Government have taken the decision that 2023 will be the last year in which Key Stage 1 SATs will be mandatory... the results of a 20+ year campaign by many educationalists.

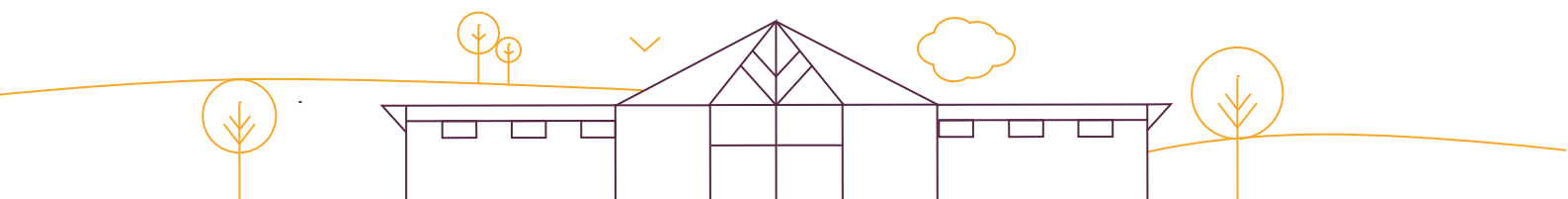
School Within a Garden (SWAG) Summer Fair

Saturday 24th June 12.00 – 3.00 pm with our reserve date (in case of bad weather) being Sunday 25th June.

This year, we are really pushing three main themes: -

1. **Children participating & performing** – KS1 choir, Robin Hood & Sherwood Hoodies singing/dancing, park run events (in the school grounds!) pupils V staff football match... etc.
2. **Showcasing our 'School Within a Garden' ethos** – through incorporating **Berrywood Market Days** stalls at the fair, child led tours of the school grounds and reducing our plastic waste on the day.
3. **Food, food and more food!** – our kitchens and *Market Days* team will be going into overdrive to ensure no-one can possibly leave the fair hungry! As well as the classic burgers and hot dog favourites, there will be an impressive array of picnic favourites including a wonderful salad bar. We are making our own artisan style ice-creams for sale and, of course, adults will be able to select their favourite(s) from a range of liquid refreshments to suit all tastes.

With the children performing & taking part more actively, this means we will make more use of a central ARENA for their activities. We will also use the arena to host the star act... the **Berrywood Busking Band** who have postponed their world tour to make sure we have live *music* on the day. If the demand is strong enough, then we could also hold a *dog show* in the arena and various other entertaining features we hope you'll enjoy.



Lastly...

- Entrance on the day will be free, along with a good number of activities;
- We are very mindful of financial pressures and will seek to keep the cost of all aspects as low as we can;
- The regular summer fair stalls; tombola, raffle, coconut shy, wellie-wanging, glitter tattoos etc. will all be there.

Please look out for a Google Form being emailed to families on Tuesday 16th giving you the opportunity to sign your children up for various events and to offer voluntary help at stalls.

I wish you all an enjoyable Coronation Bank Holiday weekend.

Kind regards,

Chris Reilly

