

Newsletter 3rd November 2023**Sunday 5th November – Berrywood Fireworks**

Hopefully, excitement is mounting as fireworks night approaches. The Met Office forecast is looking quite good, so fingers crossed for a dry evening. Gates are open between 4.30 -5.30pm, so please don't be late!

We have currently sold 1500 tickets, and so have capacity for a further 500 to go before we close the booking platform at 9pm on Saturday evening.

To book tickets, please visit <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/bsa/>

This really is a high quality firework display, with the Busking Band performing live on stage just before hand...they really are very good! Refreshments and stalls between 4.30 – 5.30, Busking Band performing 5.30 – 6.00 with the fireworks display itself from 6.00pm.

Unfortunately, the deadline for pre-ordering hotdogs has now passed. However, there will be plenty of other food and drink refreshments options available. Most of the fair type activities are lowly priced to ensure that your children can be active without it costing a fortune. If you would like more details of exactly what is on offer, then please search out earlier newsletters on our website.

Storm

Thank you for the messages of support we have received regarding our response to the storm this week. I know a good number of you were very pleased that we remained open. Especially those of you working in the NHS or other vital occupations (40+ parents that I know of) who were able to work as a result of us being open, and therefore continue your contribution to the running of key services.

Less positively, I am also aware of some derogatory social media comments that were made on Wednesday evening expressing anger that we hadn't announced a closure.

I would like to point out that the guidance to schools is that they have a legal duty to remain open whenever possible. On Wednesday evening the Met Office issued an amber warning, and were forecasting maximum gust speeds of 40-50mph for our postcode during school hours on Thursday. I don't believe those circumstances justify school closure. I took the decision to wait until morning to assess the actual conditions, and to review the updated forecast.

As it turned out, the predicted strength of wind in our area never materialised, and the updated forecast downgraded school hour wind speeds to a maximum of 35mph. Circumstances in which we were able to confidently open. We had 100% attendance from members of staff (some of whom brought their own children in to work because of other schools being closed) and 89% of pupils. The 550 Berrywood children that did come in had a calm, enjoyable and purposeful day.

No amount of Facebook griping, or any other form of offensive keyboard warrior behaviour will change my approach when storm *Dorothy* inevitably shows up a few weeks from now. I will always try to keep the school open if it is at all possible to do so. I will always communicate with you as quickly as I can. If the circumstances are judged to present too great a risk, then we will close.

Kind regards

Chris Reilly

