

Half-Term Horizons

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Berrywood families the most enjoyable possible half-term break. Whatever it is you are doing, and wherever you may be, we hope you experience a healthy balance of fun, relaxation and good times. As this current half-term ends, I find myself reflecting on some of the challenges that the winter months bring. For example, illnesses seem to have been impacting upon people across the board to quite a high extent. This has of course included pupils at Berrywood, members of staff as well as parents and carers. Perhaps not unrelated to this is the cross-generational increase in anxiety currently being experienced and recorded.

Staying on track for a positive education journey with your child, is simply much harder when health and anxiety circumstances such as these become more severe. As a school, we don't have a magic wand to wave to solve these often complex difficulties. We do, however, endeavour to understand and support through implementing different strategies in the hope of finding the right formula to help improve things.

Some examples of this are the parent workshops we have hosted this term. The staff leading these have been effusive in describing the positive impact for the families taking part. These can't of course simultaneously reach all corners of our community, but hopefully there is one that will include you soon if your circumstances are such that some support and guidance would be welcomed. Thank you to all concerned!

As the restrictive nature of the winter weather eases into spring, we know that many of the rich curriculum projects and experiences at Berrywood will also come more fully into play. I am very proud of how these impact all pupils positively, and especially proud of the increasingly creative, practical and engaging elements which benefit our pupils with the most complex profiles. By sharing with you a flavour of what is still to come this year in the section below, I am hopeful that many of you will have that seasonal spring in your step when school resumes on Tuesday 20th February.

Key Events

INSET Days:	Monday 19 th February & Monday 24 th June
Parents Evenings:	Tuesday 27 th & Thursday 29 th February
Author Visits:	Monday 4 th March (Y5 & 6 pupils), Tuesday 12 th March (Years 1-4)
World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March
Spring Concert:	Thursday 21 st March 9.00 – 10.30am
Sports Days:	Monday 3 rd June (Y1&2), Tuesday 4 th June (Y5&6), Wednesday 5 th June (Year R), Thursday 6 th June (Y3&4)
Key Stage 2 SATs Week:	Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May
BSA Events:	Quiz Night' Friday 19 th April, 'Summer Fayre' Saturday 22 nd June
Class Photographs:	Tuesday 18 th June
Wildern & Deer Park Transition Day:	Thursday 27 th June
Move Up Afternoon:	Thursday 27 th June
Year 6 'Achieve' (Berry Theatre):	Thursday 11 th July
School Reports:	Friday 12 th July
'Rock Bottom' Performances:	Wednesday 17 th & Thursday 18 th July
Leavers Assembly (Year 6 parents):	Tuesday 23 rd July

Please of course also look out for Year Team newsletters which will have details of project celebrations, school trips and other events taking place affecting your child.

I would like to give a special mention to the **World Book Day** when there will be lots of activities in school to celebrate the joy of books and reading. Please see the newsletter Mrs Adams sent out earlier this week for ideas of how get involved.

Another special mention and plea for you to get yourselves organised into Teams of 6 for the **BSA Quiz Night**, with fish and chips and bring your own drinks. This should be a fun and affordable evening with friends... hopefully not too competitive, especially any staff teams which may, or may not, be in the process of being formulated! Please look out for further details in the near future.

