

Friday 6th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Welcome back!

It may not be the warmest or driest welcome back due to the wet British weather but it certainly is wonderful to have all the children back at Berrywood this week. The children have worked hard already in showing pride in their presentation and we are looking forward to a really positive year. Immersed in learning this week, there is a real buzz around the school as children take part in enriching activities such as a Greek workshop in Year 6, explorations in Year 4 Science and a whole school Let's Think style lesson based on 'treasure'. It really is exciting to see how all of our fantastic pupils will progress this year.

A special welcome to our new parents, particularly those in Early Years – thank you for welcoming our Early Years staff into your homes over the last few days for those of you who have had visits. We are all looking forward to getting to know your children when they join us next week.

### Attendance

With the summer almost over, we have seen a rise in holiday requests this week and whilst we endorse the idea of children going on holiday with their families and the many benefits this brings; we need to remind you of the importance of children being in school during term time. Please see below an update to the issuing of penalty notices:

From 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the government have brought in changes relating to the issuing of penalty notices. These changes are outlined below:

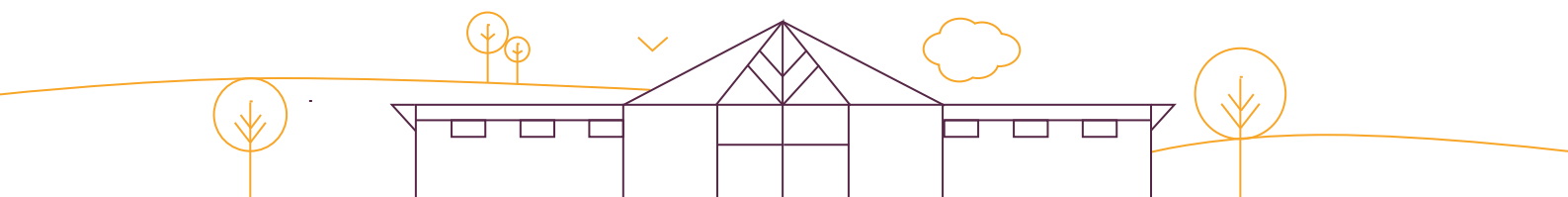
- If you are receiving your first penalty notice in a three-year period, you will have up to 21 days to pay a fine of £80 (per parent, per child) or failing that, a further 7 days to pay £160 (per parent, per child).
- If you are receiving your second penalty notice in a three-year period you will have up to 28 days to pay a fine of £160 (per parent, per child).
- If you pay these penalty notices and your child has further unauthorised absences, a third penalty notice cannot be issued and additional action should be taken instead. This may include prosecution or other attendance legal interventions.

In Hampshire, Penalty Notices are issued when a pupil has 10 or more half day sessions (equivalent to five school days) of unauthorised absence in the last 10-week period, which may span different terms or school years.

All schools can grant a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances but are guided by the fact that the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure or recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

Please note that if your unauthorised absence occurred during the summer term 2024, penalty notices will be issued under the previous regulations which is a fine of £60 (per parent, per child) if paid within the first 21 days or a further 7 days to pay a fine of £120.

If you have any questions about this new guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will do our best to advise you.



### Reading Reading Reading

Of course, I could not write a newsletter and hold back in mentioning the word 'reading'. Please see below some important literacy dates coming up.



**BERRYWOOD LITERACY UPCOMING EVENTS**

YEAR 1 SHARE-A-STORY 2:45PM	SEPT <b>23</b>	YEAR 5 SHARE-A-STORY 2:45PM	SEPT <b>24</b>
PARENTS' PHONICS WORKSHOP 9AM OR 5:30PM	OCT <b>03</b>	KS2 OPEN MIC NIGHT 5-6PM	NOV <b>28</b>

[www.berrywood-pri.hants.sch.uk](http://www.berrywood-pri.hants.sch.uk)



The Share-A-Story events have been rescheduled from the summer term. Our Parents' Phonics Workshop is for parents of pupils in Early Years, Year 1 or Year 2 that did not attend the phonics workshop last year. Lastly, our KS2 Open Mic Night is a new event to give the older children the opportunity to share creative work. This could be a poem, song or short piece of writing that they wish to share. If your child wishes to take part in this event, they should come and see me for an invite. In the meantime, keep encouraging your child to read at home – The Berrywood Reading Raffle is back next Friday!

### Sports Celebrations

Speaking of celebrations, please send your child in with any sports achievements that they may wish to celebrate in our Achieve Assemblies. Mr Rolfe looks forward to sharing these at the end

of every half term.

### Parent Questionnaire Results

Thank you again for the amazing feedback you provided in our parent questionnaire at the end of the summer term. Staff were touched with the kind words and messages and really appreciated the time you took to complete these. We read each and every response and ensure to make changes where possible to make Berrywood the best school it can be.

Mr Reilly's newsletter will be back next week and will continue fortnightly. If you have any questions or concerns, I am on the courtyard before and after school daily.

### MDSA Vacancy

We are now advertising for Mid-Day Supervisory Assistants. If you are interested, please speak to our School Office.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Adams