

Newsletter 11th October 2024

Year 6 Return

Today we welcome back our Year 6 children who have been on residential to Osmington Bay in Weymouth. The weather has been mostly kind and this has enabled the children to have many fantastic experiences. Many have journeyed beyond their comfort zones through being away from their families for the first time, or in tackling really quite adventurous and sometimes intimidating activities. For the overwhelming majority we are confident that this has generated some life-long memories as well as a sense of pride and accomplishment. Welcome back to all of you. I hope you have a very good wash this evening and a restful weekend. I hope too that dealing with your cases and kit bags does not derail your families too greatly this weekend... always a joy! Most of all, I hope you are ready come Monday to share your stories and walk into Berrywood feeling just a little bit taller than you were a week ago. Of course, it would be remiss of me if I were not to take this opportunity to thank the caring and committed members of staff who made this trip possible and so successful.

Fireworks Night

This year's event takes place on Sunday 3rd October and, with tickets going on sale at 9.00 am on Monday morning next week. Adult tickets are £9 and children under 16 are priced at £5 all under threes go free. Time is ticking folks, and we really do need some parent volunteers to sign up for helping on stalls. This year, we are offering two free adult tickets for anyone who helps (worth £18). Don't worry if you have already paid, we can refund this when you sign up. It would be lovely to have a number of games stalls and fun activities to offer everyone, as well as all the regular food and drink options. Please do look out for opportunities to sign up on the courtyard, or simply email: berrywoodbsa@outlook.com and the team will be very glad to hear from you.

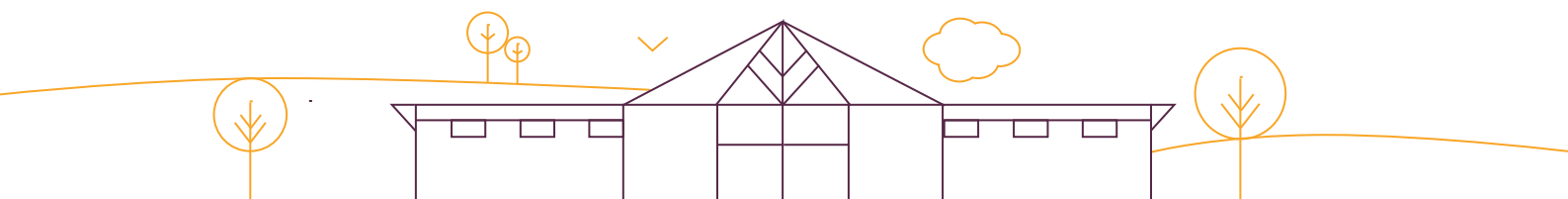
Parent Community

Firstly, a huge thank you to Year R parents for your understanding and support today. We never enjoy requesting that you make changes to regular routines, but these were of course very sad and unavoidable circumstances. Thank you again for making it possible for as many members of staff to pay their respect to Mrs Fisher's husband, and to support their dear colleague and friend. We very much hope Lee Fisher will rest in peace.

Another fantastic example of parent support has been in the attendance figures for the recent phonics workshops. You turned out in numbers and hopefully found these useful in helping you to support your children in the early stages of their reading development... and as all the research strongly suggests, there is little else to rival the importance of educational success in this area.

A less positive aspect of parental involvement in school life is unfortunately too often observed around the issues of parking. We know and fully understand the challenges and pressures that the school run bring, especially for working parents. However, keeping children safe at drop off and home times massively outweighs this. As too does the need for all parents to behave lawfully and respectfully in their actions at these busy times. A plea for therefore to your adherence of the following:

- Please don't park and drop children off on the zig-zag lines outside school (*illegal*)
- Please don't pull into the school car park for the purpose of dropping children off (*dangerous*)
- Please don't park across resident's driveways or partially on pavements (*anti-social and potentially dangerous*)
- Please don't park in the school car park when collecting from after school clubs (*dangerous*)



Believe it or not, I do actually dislike having to raise these matters and would much rather include more of the positive paragraphs seen above. However, it is behaviours of the minority that always seem have greatest negative impact and I can't stand by and watch, especially when these lead to unsafe circumstances.

Just Giving

On Sunday 20th October I am running my first ever marathon in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. I am doing this predominantly because I have got more and more into health and fitness as the years have gone on, and therefore, want to take on the challenge. I also thought that this was an appropriate opportunity to raise some funds for our **school BSA**. If you are able and willing to donate any amount, then please visit the Just Giving page that has been set up:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chris-reilly-1bsa?utm_term=3bQPkyjP4