

park life

Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School Newsletter

A Good Friend...

As a school, we have identified nine Christian values which we believe will help us to develop the distinctive character of our school, and help the children and staff to become the very best people they can be:

Honesty	Respect	Compassion
Love	Wisdom	Forgiveness
Creativity	Friendship	Thankfulness



Throughout the school year we will focus on each value for a short period of time through our work in class and also in our worship times.

Our first value is 'Friendship'. Friendship is an undisputed value in our society, and it is very important to children of all ages. We will be helping the children to understand the importance of friendship, and how to be a good friend.

The Bible has many sayings about friendship. Here are two examples:

'A friend loves at all times.' (Proverbs 17:17)

'If one falls down, a friend can lift him up'. (Ecclesiastes 4:10)

We really enjoyed our first full week with the children. We're very pleased with how quickly they have settled into school life. As parents you can be very proud of them! We'd also like to thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron



www.buckinghampark.bucks.sch.uk
For all the latest news, information and updates



Earrings



I am sure that you will have read in our Uniform Policy and in last week's 'Park Life' that we do not allow any form of jewellery, except a simple wristwatch, to be worn in school. This includes any type of earring. Therefore, if you want your children to get their ears pierced, please choose to do this at the very beginning of the summer holiday so that the earrings can be removed before school restarts.

That said, we understand that some parents received their school allocation very late and may not have been aware of our policy. Therefore, if your child is currently wearing ear studs in newly pierced ears, please would you remove them as soon as you are able to and then only wear them outside of school. This should be by half term at the very latest.

Now that every parent is aware of our policy, we will not make any exception for newly pierced ears. Thank you for your support with this.

Water Bottles

We encourage all our children to drink water regularly through the school day so that they remain hydrated. Children who are hydrated are less likely to suffer from tiredness, illness and headaches.

Each child should have a refillable sports bottle in school which they can access throughout the school day. It should be clear (any bottle where we can see the contents) and with a sports cap to limit spillages. Please name your child's bottle!



We do not allow any squashes or fruit juices in these bottles. This is because we want to encourage healthy habits, and also because spillages of sugary drinks are damaging to our school environment.

Children may have an additional drink in his or her lunch box – and we also provide the option of a milk drink.

Nursery Opening in January



We are opening our brand new Nursery for 3 and 4 year olds in January 2013. The Nursery is housed in purpose built classrooms with its own entrance and office spaces, and a super, enclosed outdoor play area.

We will be making our first allocation of places at the end of September and application forms are now available from the school website and from the school office.

If you, or anyone you know, have a child who is three or four, you would be welcome to come to one of our information sessions which take place on Monday 24th September at 9.30am, and Thursday 18th October at 9.30am.

Our Nursery will operate two sessions each day – 8.30am to 11.30am, and 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Children will normally attend five mornings or five afternoons.



All About Reading

Reading is happening all the time in class and in school. We teach it in specific lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly. Older children are reading instructions, maths language, information books, topics and signs, displays, registers, charts, games and the list goes on. They're reading on computer, TV and interactive whiteboard screens too.

Younger children are practising good speaking, listening, reading and writing in all sorts of settings. Language games, outside play and role play will all be activities that your child will be excited to tell you about.

A child's 'reading journey' begins with 'learning to read' and moves on into 'reading to learn'.



What is Phonics?

All our children will now be learning phonics – learning to crack the alphabetic code. This involves learning letter sounds and shapes, hearing and saying the sounds in words in the correct order as well as being well on the way to being able to read and write the 44 phonemes or sounds in the English language. We teach phonics every day in small groups.

As children become more experienced with phonics, as well as children in Years 1 and 2, will still be learning letter sounds for reading and spelling, but these will become more complex. For example, they will look at the same sounds but with different spelling patterns, such as long vowel sounds, e.g. ai, ay, a-e. It's valuable to help them with these sounds at home when you are reading together and reinforce the letter sounds from the previous year so that children start to automatically apply their phonic skills when reading unfamiliar words. Alongside these patterns, children will learn 'tricky' words which they will recognise by sight. These 'tricky' words are some of the words that we use most regularly such as *the* or *said*.

Children bringing books home from school

This week your child will start to bring books home from school. Initially, these will be books from our class library that have taken your child's interest. These books are to share with you – it is unlikely, especially with our younger children, that your child will be able to read the book for themselves. We hope you enjoy reading with your child each day – we'd also like you to complete your child's reading diary.

Soon, your child will also bring home books from a selection of reading schemes that we have chosen. These books have been carefully selected so that your child can choose a book at the right level of difficulty to ensure the appropriate level of challenge and success. We hope that they will use their phonic skills to read the book with you. It's vital that you hear your child read to you and to talk about the book – with praise of course!

How can I help my child?

We want all our families to enjoy reading together, and you can really support your child as he or she continues to learn to read, write and spell. We invite you to come along to school on Wednesday 26th September at 6.30pm for a workshop at which we will explain our approach to teaching reading and help you to help your child at home.

It would be helpful if you could return the slip (overleaf) to the school office in order that we can prepare the appropriate number of resources for the event.



**COME & JOIN THE FUN! GREAT CLASSES
AT BUCKINGHAM PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

CLASS	DAY & TIME	AGE	COST
THEATRELAND	Thurs 3.30pm	5 - 7 yrs	£3.50
THEATRELAND	Thurs 4.30pm	8 - 11 yrs	£3.50



Now rehearsing for **SANTA'S PARADE IN AYLESBURY.**

Coming very soon to Berryfields & other venues near you...

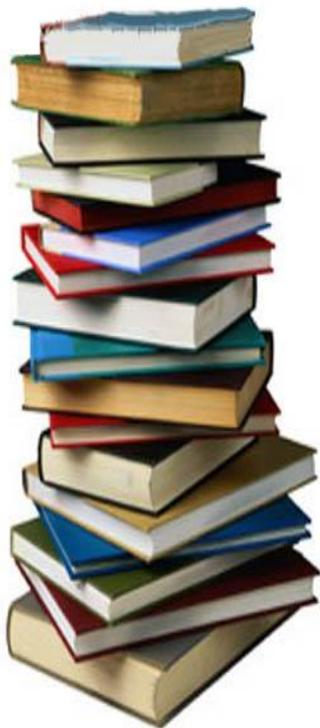


*For Children: Dance Blitz, TheatreLand,
Parents & Tots Time, Street Jazz, Musical Theatre*

*For Adults: Fine Vintage Fitness, Total Body Workout,
Zumba-Style, Adult Ballet, Larger than Life & MORE.*

For more info call Sophie on 07989 205 498 or go to WWW.KASOSTUDIOS.CO.UK

**Our School
Photographer will
be in school on
Friday!**



ALL ABOUT READING

An Invitation

**Come and hear all about how we will be helping your child
to become a great reader...
...and how you can help at home!**

Wednesday 26th September, 6.30pm – 8.00pm

**Learn all about phonemes, graphemes, blending and segmenting,
sound buttons, reading levels, phonics games, reading schemes,
real books and tricky words... in a fun, relaxed environment!**



Booking Form for the 'All About Reading' Parents' Workshop

Child's Name _____ Class: Red Blue Green

Number of places required: One Two

Please return to your child's classteacher or the school office by Friday 21st September.

