

# park life

Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School Newsletter

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## Peace Be With You

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At the start of each day we have a Worship Time. This is an opportunity to be together as a school, to sing together, to consider our school values and to think and pray.

We always greet each other with a cheery 'Good Morning' at the start of our Worship Time and we also use the greeting, "Peace be with you".

This is a traditional greeting in many faiths and cultures. Muslims use the greeting, "As-salam alaykum" and Jewish people often greet each other with the words, "Shalom aleikhem". All these phrases, though in different languages, mean the same thing.

One of our school values is to 'Be a Peacemaker'. The Hebrew term for peace, 'shalom', has a deep meaning, much more than simply the absence of hostility or war. Shalom includes ideas of healing and health, wholeness and well-being. It means harmony, stability and security within a community. It refers to relationships based on truth and righteousness, where people flourish because they are nurtured. That's what we want for our school.

Peace be with you.

*Nick Waldron*

## A Book is a Gift – Celebrating Birthdays

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We love celebrating birthdays at Buckingham Park. Birthdays are such fun – marking another year that is past, and a reminder that we are 'growing up'!

Schools have a number of ways of marking children's birthdays and I know that it is traditional in some schools for children to bring sweets or cakes to share with others.

For a number of reasons, we would prefer not to have sweets or cakes being brought in to school, and we want to relieve parents of that particular pressure when you have lots of other birthday things to think of!

We are very happy for children to wear their birthday badge, and we will – of course – sing a hearty 'happy birthday' on that special occasion. If you would like to mark your child's birthday in another way, we suggest that you consider donating a book to the school library. We will stick a special book plate in the front of the book to recognise your donation and your special day!

**"A book is a gift you can open again and again."**

Garrison Keillor

# We need you! School Travel Plan Working Group

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As a school we are committed to a high quality, all-round education for all our children. Part of the children's learning is about healthy lifestyles and personal safety.

A key element of our approach is the School Travel Plan. Our plan details the measures and initiatives we can adopt to reduce car journeys, increase other methods of getting to school and improve safety for the journey to school. These can include walking, cycling and public transport initiatives as well as engineering and education programmes.

If a plan is to be successful it must be supported by the whole school community; parents, teachers, students, governors and the local community.

A travel plan can have many benefits for our children, including:

- Improved road and personal safety skills and increases travel awareness.
- Improved health and fitness through increased levels of walking and cycling.
- Improved behaviour both in the school grounds as well as on the journey to and from school.
- Increased knowledge and awareness of the local environment and community.
- An opportunity for children to contribute directly towards shaping their local environment.
- A range of travel options for the school journey.

Our Travel Plan Working Group, led by Mrs Jackson, will look at the plan and promote the activities and aims throughout the school and local community. The group will comprise staff members, parents and representatives of the local community.

If you would be interested in joining the working party, or if you would like further information, please speak to Mrs Jackson in the school office.



## Improving our Communication

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We will soon be trialling a new facility in school which will allow us to contact you more quickly and efficiently. The system gives us the ability to send text messages (SMS) to your mobile phones and make automated telephone calls to you. We will also be using it to send you emails. This new facility will enable us to get a message to one or more parent(s) or the whole school very quickly.

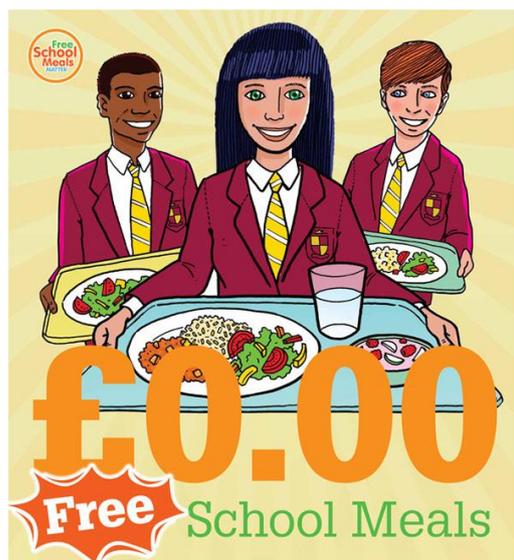
We may use the system for notifying you of school closures, following up absence, sending reminders, letting you know about upcoming events, for sending newsletters and much more.

Depending on the reason for contacting you, we will either send an email, a text message to your mobile phone or an automated voice message to your landline number, mobile phone or work numbers (if appropriate). We may also choose to send some messages in duplicate (i.e. via text & email).

We'll be sending home more information about our trial of this new system soon.

**REMINDER: Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting this  
Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm. ALL WELCOME!**

# Claim a Free School Meal...and Everyone Wins!



**You save money and time!**

**Your child gets a tasty, nutritious meal!**

**Our school gets £900 for every registered pupil!**

Your child may be entitled to receive free school meals if you are entitled to receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190

Applying is really easy - and totally confidential. Just collect a form from the school office return it to the Hayley Jackson, School Business Manager.

If your child is already having a free school meal, you will need to complete a new form for this school year.

If you have any questions, just pop in and ask us!

## All About Reading

Our first Parent Information Evening is all about Reading. Come and hear all about how we will be helping your child to become a great reader and how you can help at home!

**Thursday 26th September, 7.00pm – 8.30pm**

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!



This information evening is targeted at parents of children in Reception and is a repeat of last year's evening. That said, parents of children in other year groups are very welcome to attend.



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

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: Nursery  RA  RB  1A  1B  2A  3A

Number of places: One  Two

Please return to your child's classteacher or the school office by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

# Lunch at School

Our Reception children have started staying for lunch with us today so this is a good opportunity to let you know how we 'do lunch' here at Buckingham Park. As a parent, I know that it can sometimes be difficult to get information from our children!



Our lunch break is from 12.00 – 1.00pm (though our Reception children start off coming in a little earlier so that they have plenty of time to eat their lunch). The children say a thank you prayer in class, wash their hands and are brought through to the dining hall by their teacher. Some classes go directly out to play and then come into the dining hall later.

Children having a packed lunch get their lunch box from the class trolley and choose a place to sit. Children having a hot school meal line up to select their meal before choosing a place to sit. Knives and forks, water and milk are all available at the table.

Children are encouraged to enjoy the meal time with their friends, and our staff and volunteers support them by opening packets, cutting up food, serving puddings and clearing away crockery and cutlery.

If children need to go to the toilet during this part of the lunch break they are free to do so, they just need to ask one of the adults before going.

When finished, children remain in their place until the time when they are allowed to go onto the playground. Children have as much time as they need to eat their lunch. No-one is ever rushed – quite the opposite – we encourage children to eat as much as they can. We gently encourage, never force, because we want children to have a positive experience at lunch. If you are worried that your child is not eating enough, just speak to us and we will help out in any way that we can.

Once outside, the children can play freely with whoever they please. Our staff and volunteers supervise the children, and also help them to play safely and creatively. The classroom play equipment is not accessible at lunchtime but we provide other equipment to play with such as footballs, hoops and skipping ropes. If the children need to go to the toilet, they just need to ask – the toilets are directly accessible from the playground. If it's raining we do something in class – draw, read, play a game or watch a DVD.

At the end of lunchtime a member of staff raises their hand and the children stop playing, raise their hand and listen. Once the equipment is packed away, they quietly return to class with their teachers...and silence falls on the playground!

Our hot meals are delicious. Cooked by Chef Fraser at Blueprint School and served piping hot here at Buckingham Park. The menus for the entire term are now available to view on our school website (school meals page).

Payment for school meals are made through ParentPay. Children eligible for a free school meal will be able to have a hot, nutritious meal every day with no payment required!

If you have any questions about the lunchtime experience at Buckingham Park, please do ask.

Week 2 Commencing 1st September		blueprint Hot & Chilled Meal Service					Autumn Term 2013
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
<b>Main Course</b> Meatly Dish	Chunky Cottage Pie w/ Chicken & Sweetcorn Pasta	Sausages & Onion Gravy	Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding	Lamb Lasagne	Breaded Cod		
<b>Main Course</b> Vegetarian Dish	Tomato, Basil & Vegetable Casserole	Quorn Sausages & Onion Gravy	Cheese Tortellini & Tomato Sauce	Vegetarian Lasagne	Roasted Vegetable Quiche		
<b>Served with ...</b>	New Potatoes	Cream Potatoes	Roast Potatoes	Garlic Bread	Oven Baked Chips		
<b>Vegetables / Salad</b>	Green Beans Carrots	Baked Beans	Savoy Cabbage Sweetcorn	Mixed Vegetables	Peas Baked Beans		
<b>Desserts</b>	Chocolate Brownies & Cream	Chocolate Chip Mousse	Buckingham Tart & Cream	Baked Apple Sponge & Custard	Treacle Tart & Cream		
Freshly Baked Rolls, Salad Bar, Yoghurts and Fresh Fruit Served Daily							
Dishes may be subject to change depending on availability. *No Salt is added during or after cooking process*							