

CountDown

Issue 01
June 2012

‘Excellence, through God who strengthens us’

Welcome

Countdown is the name of our new newsletter for parents of Buckingham Park Church of England. This newsletter will be sent to all our new parents and families in the run up to the school's opening in September. We aim to keep you in touch with all the school's developments and information.



We recognise that joining a new school is a significant and exciting time for children and families – it is for the staff also! We also understand that it can be frustrating not to be able to visit the school, order uniform, or chat to existing parents and staff. We hope that this newsletter will go some way to helping you to feel part of the school community, and well informed. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if there is any other information that you need.

We are really looking forward to meeting all our families, and especially to getting started in September – we hope you are too.

The School Day



The Governing Body have agreed the times for the school day. We have listened to parents who shared a broad range of ideas on start and finish times. We hope that our solution below will be helpful to the majority of parents.

Punctuality is really important to us. When your child is on time for school, they are able to receive a warm, positive greeting, a positive 'handover' and a great start to the day – this is essential for him or her to feel happy and ready for the day of learning ahead.

Our school day will start promptly at 8.40am. Any child arriving after this time will be considered to be late for school and this will be recorded in the register. We will open our gates at 8.15am so that parents can bring children onto the playground and wait with them. At 8.30am, we will be available to take responsibility for the children from their parents. This gives us a ten minute handover period which will help us not to feel 'rushed' in the morning.

The school day will end at 3.15pm, and our lunch break will be taken at midday.

Dates for your diary

To help you plan your dates for the next academic year the school holiday dates for 2012-13 are published below. As we add dates to our school calendar, we will publish them on our school website.

Please note that we expect all families to take holidays during school closures so please be mindful of these dates if you are planning any trips or visits.



Autumn Term	Tuesday 4 th and Wednesday 5 th September	Staff training days - school closed to children
	Thursday 6 th September	Induction sessions for all pupils (schedule to follow)
	Friday 7 th September	Induction sessions for all pupils (schedule to follow)
	Monday 10 th September	All pupils start full time (hot school meals available)
	Monday 29 th October – Friday 2 nd November	Half Term
	Friday 21 st December	Break up for Christmas Holiday
Spring Term	Monday 7 th and Tuesday 8 th January	Staff training days - school closed to children
	Wednesday 9 th January	Term starts
	Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd February	Half Term
	Thursday 28 th March	Break up for Easter Holiday
Summer Term	Monday 15 th April 2013	Term starts
	Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st May	Half Term
	Monday 17 th June	Staff training day – school closed to children
	Wednesday 24 th July	Break up for Summer holiday

Hot, Nutritious and Delicious School Meals



Great news! We will be able to offer hot school meals from the very start in September. We have a fully kitted out satellite kitchen, a lovely dining room, and a partnership with a local hub kitchen which already supplies fantastic meals to some local schools.

We'll be able to give you more information soon regarding the hot meal service – we'll talk to you all about the range of meals, the menu, the sourcing of local ingredients, the cost and eligibility for free school meals. In the meantime, we thought you'd like to know that we will have hot meals so that you don't have to worry about lunch boxes and packed lunch shopping!

School Uniform

The decision over school uniform is something that we are very keen to get right and we will be taking a final decision at our Governing Body meeting this week.

Our uniform will be smart, simple, easy to purchase, and will represent good value for money. The basic uniform will be a coloured sweatshirt and polo shirt, with grey trousers or skirt and black school shoes. We will also offer a book bag, PE T-shirt and shorts, and school coat. Some items will feature our school logo, whilst others will be general items available from local clothing retailers and supermarkets.

As soon as we have finalised our decision, we'll publish the information on our school website and include it in our next edition of Countdown.



After School Care and Holiday Schemes



Nick Waldron, headteacher, and Hayley Jackson, School Business Manager, recently met with the team at the Jonathan Page Play Centre. The Play Centre is an amazing, purpose built facility on Meadowcroft in Aylesbury, just a short distance from Buckingham Park Primary School.

The Play Centre, owned and operated by AVDC, offers an after-school club from 3pm to 6pm. The club provides a healthy snack tea, a quiet homework area and an opportunity for the children to make friends and chill out after a busy day at school. The centre has a wide variety of equipment for all ages both inside the Play Centre and in the secure adjacent play area outside. The centre also operates a holiday play scheme.

After school session costs just £7.50 (£6 for Passport to Leisure card holders). If we have families from the school who wish to use the centre, the team will arrange for the children to be collected from the school at 3.15pm by a member of staff (for a small additional charge).

For further information, please feel free to contact the friendly team at the Jonathan Page Play Centre directly on 01296 336413 or visit the website www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/play

Introductions

We have appointed four members of staff so far. Mr Nick Waldron is our headteacher. He has been a headteacher in Buckinghamshire for 13 years and has been working full time for Buckingham Park since Easter. Mrs Hayley Jackson is our School Business Manager. She comes to us with many years' experience as a school business administrator and she is working alongside Mr Waldron as part of the school's senior leadership team.



Miss Ann Whytewood will join us in September as our Early Years Foundation Stage leader. She will lead the Reception and Nursery team, as well as teaching in Reception. Ann joins us from a school in High Wycombe where she is a Reception class teacher. Teaching alongside Ann in Reception will be Miss Christine Parker-Fraser. Christine is currently teaching in Henley where she co-ordinates the Foundation Stage.

I am sure you will join us in welcoming them all to the team!

Getting to know you



We are busy planning some fun and informative welcome meetings which will take place in July. These events will be an opportunity for parents to find out more about the school, and for children to meet the staff and have some fun with their new class mates.

The school building will not be complete until the summer holidays, unfortunately, so we are awaiting the opening of the new Community Centre so that we can hold our welcome events there. As soon as we have the dates we will let you have them – thank you for your patience.

In September, we have set aside the first two days of term to have some more induction events. We'd like children and parents to be able to visit the school together, for children to spend time in class with their new teacher, and for tours of the new building to take place. We will schedule each family in to a session – details to follow. All children will start full time at school on Monday 10th September.

In addition, we'll be in touch with your child's current school or nursery to speak with the staff about your child's progress so far. We want to help them settle into their learning as quickly as possible, and finding about how they are doing in their current setting really helps us to help them.

Of course, you will know the most about your child. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to tell us anything that is important too. Our class teachers will arrange to speak to you as part of our induction arrangements.

Keeping in touch

We want to stay in touch with all our parents over the summer as we get closer and closer to our school opening. We have a number of ways in which we are trying to make our communication effective for parents.



1. Email: If you received this edition of 'Countdown' by email then we have your email address safely stored as part of our database. If you received this another way, please let us have a contact email address – it will really help us to stay in touch with you.
2. Our school website: We'll be updating this regularly over the next few months so keep checking for new bits.
3. Twitter and Facebook: We'll let you know when there are new updates on the website, and share our thoughts as we prepare for our new school. We're @buckinghampark on Twitter and our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/buckinghampark

What a picture!



We've already planned our first school photo day. We just know that parents will be keen to get a photograph of their child in the new school uniform – and they make excellent Christmas presents for grandparents!

Our school photographs will take place on Friday 21st September.