park life

Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Park Life Begins…

Welcome to the very first issue of 'Park Life', the newsletter for parents, families and friends of Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School.

The governors and staff are thrilled to be involved with this school from the very outset and we do hope that you share our excitement. We will do everything that we can to create an outstanding school for the children, families and community of Buckingham Park and we know that you will help and support us every step of the way.

Thank you for the very warm welcome that we have all received this week. We look forward to meeting very many families over the next few weeks. I will try to be available as often as possible outside at the beginning and end of the school day – please don't be afraid to speak to me!

'Park Life' is the place where we will try to place all the important news and dates. Please take time to read each one carefully. A copy will also be placed on our school website.

We are all looking forward to an enjoyable, hardworking and successful year at the school and would like to thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Keeping in touch

In addition to 'Park Life' we hope to keep in touch with you in a variety of different ways.

We have a Twitter (@buckinghampark) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/BuckinghamPark) presence. These are particularly useful for highlighting information in a 'little and often' way. Feel free to 'follow' or 'like' us and you will get all our updates. Our website is an ever-growing source of information about the school. We will copy all our letters to the site, as well as all our policies, procedures and news.

Of course we are still very happy for you to telephone the school or pop in and see us!

School Uniform

We expect the very highest standards of presentation from our pupils. Please help us to ensure that children are always neatly dressed in full school uniform. We will be asking children to be dressed smartly (with shirts tucked in and long hair tied back) at school and on their journey to and from school. This sends a very positive message to all about the School. If your child is unable to wear the correct uniform for any reason, please write a note to his or her class teacher.

Please note 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.

Please make sure that all school uniform (and anything else your child brings to school: coats, bags, trainers, shoes etc) is clearly marked with your child's name.

Finally, please also remember that PE kit should be available at school for use every day. We sometimes have to rearrange lessons without notice due to our ever changing weather! PE Kit should be kept in a simple drawstring bag and placed on your child's peg. We will send it home periodically for a wash!

Thank you for your support on this issue.

Drop off and collection of children

The safety and well-being of the children is of paramount importance to us all. We particularly want to ensure that all our children are safe at the beginning and end of the school day.

Children should come into school between 8.30am and 8.40am. You are very welcome to accompany your child to class. Before 8.30am, you should wait with your children on the playground. Please do not allow your children to play with our outdoor play resources at this time – they will be all ready and set up for the school day. We would also ask if children could please not go onto the school field at the beginning or end of the school day.

At the end of the day, we will bring the children out onto the playground. If you are not there for any reason, we will take your child to wait in the school office. We do not want them t come and find you - please would you reinforce this message at home.

Once the children have met with you, please supervise them closely, alongside any younger brothers or sisters. We have asked the children to wait patiently with you and not to run around, use the equipment or come back into school at this time.

Please be aware that when you arrive at school to collect your children from the playground, there will still be lessons being taught. If there is a class using the outside areas for a PE lesson, as a courtesy to the staff please would you wait by the gate until that lesson has completed before moving round to the playground. Thank you.

Punctuality and Attendance

We are keen to ensure that we start the day on time – ready to learn. To this end, we will take the register promptly at 8.40am expecting all our children to be there. Throughout the term we will be operating a 'late gate' system. If a child arrives after 8.40am, his or her name will be recorded in our book and parents will be asked to give a reason for his or her late arrival. Arriving on time for school instils good habits and demonstrates reliability.

Being late for school may be embarrassing for your child and it may disrupt the class if your child arrives late. Additionally, your child may miss something important, for example some information about the day ahead or the start of a reflection time.

Your child's attendance at school is very important. Please do everything possible to ensure they try to get as near full attendance as possible. We know there may be illness, which can often not be avoided. However, some shopping trips, holidays in term –time, birthdays and long weekends are not reasons for school absence.

Our attendance target in school this year is 95%. We will give out attendance certificates and rewards to any pupils who reach this target. In order to reach our target, and in common with other schools, we do not authorise term time holidays unless they are for truly exceptional reasons.

Poor attendance has a direct impact upon your child's academic performance and life opportunities. Therefore, if we are concerned about your child's attendance (and especially if it falls below 90%) we will contact you to discuss ways in which we can support you to improve your child's attendance.

If your child is absent from school unexpectedly, please telephone the school to let us know. If we have not heard from you, we will contact you to find out the reason for the absence. If it is a planned absence, we will expect you to complete one of our absence request forms which are available from the school office.

Our full attendance policy is available from our school website.

Site Safety and Visitors

Apart from drop off and collection times, we will expect you to sign in at the school office every time you visit the school. This rule applies to all our visitors – it helps us to keep everyone safe. Once you are signed in, we will issue you with a visitor badge which you can return when you sign out.

Please note that we do not allow dogs on the school site (except for working dogs such as guide dogs) and smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site, indoor or out.

www.buckinghampark.bucks.sch.uk

For all the latest news, information and updates

Diary Dates

Monday 10th September
First day of term
School meals start

Wednesday 19th September
Photographer in school for general shots

Wednesday 26th September
Parents Information Evening – Phonics and Reading
(more information to follow)

Friday 21st September
School Photographer in school for Portrait Photographs

Monday 22nd October
5pm – 8pm Parent Teacher Consultations

Wednesday 24th October
3.30pm – 6pm Parent Teacher Consultations

Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November
Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 11th December
2pm Christmas Performance

Thursday 13th December
6pm Christmas Performance

Friday 21st December
1.30pm Term Ends

Payments for School Meals

Whilst we establish our online payment system for school meals, we are requesting that you pay for school meals by cash. This will cover the school meals for the first two weeks.

Please return the slip below, in an envelope, with cash to the school office as soon as possible.

Once we have established our online payment system through ParentPay®, we will send you all the information you will need to set up your account and make your first payment. ParentPay® allows parents to make secure online payments by credit and debit card or to pay cash at local stores through the PayPoint network. Setting up an account and making parents is easy – we will give you all the details once we are ready to go.

If you think that your child might be eligible for a free school meal, please pop into the office and speak to Hayley Jackson. She'll give you a form to complete and we'll be able to check your eligibility for you.

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PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL MEALS

Child's Name: _____ Class: Red ☐ Blue ☐ Green ☐

Amount Enclosed: £_____ (£2 per meal to a maximum of £20 for 10 meals) | Cash ☐ Cheque ☐

Signed: _____

Please place in an envelope and return to your child's class teacher or to the school office as soon as possible. Thanks.