

Newsletter - May 2014

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Three times a year, the school provides a census return to the Department for Education which is used to define the amount of funding Ballifield receives.

A huge part of this now rests on the amount of children entitled to free school meals so we really want to urge parents who think they may be entitled to claim to do so, even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch.

We also appreciate that many parent's financial circumstances may have changed recently in this financial climate and may not realise they are eligible for free meals.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on-paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Application forms are available from the school office and any enquiries will be treated with the strictest confidentiality. Children receiving free meals are **NEVER** identified at registration, even the class teachers cannot see who is entitled to a free meal.

TIMEKEEPING

As part of our attendance monitoring, we have noticed an increase in the number of late marks throughout the school.



Doors open at 8.40am with registration taking place from 8.50am to 9.00am. If your child arrives between 8.50 and 9.00am they should report straight to their class. If they arrive after 9.00am children should report to reception for a late mark. Arrival after 9.30am is recorded as unauthorised absence for the morning session.

It's really important that children are in school and settled for 8.50am so they don't miss the introduction to lessons as key subjects are taught in the mornings.

PTA SUMMER FAYRE

This year's Summer Fayre will take place on Sunday 13th July 2014 between 11am and 1 pm.



As always, anyone with some spare time is invited to join us in the planning and running of the event on Monday Evenings from 6.30pm.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Children may not attend breakfast club before 8am. Please remind children they **MUST** purchase a breakfast as we have noticed some children sat at the tables without eating anything.

WARM WEATHER

As the better weather is now here, could we please remind children to bring a named plastic drinks bottle which can then be refilled during the day.



Children can get very thirsty and due to hygiene issues it is not possible for school to provide plastic cups.

On really sunny days we also advise parents apply sunscreen before children come to school and provide a sunhat.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

A really busy half term is nearly behind us. Y6s & Y2s have completed their SATs tests and assessments have been going on throughout the school. Next term will be just as busy as we start transition activities throughout the school.

I am really excited by the news about our new classrooms which you can read over the page. It was disappointing that the Local Authority withdrew their funding for the project but by carefully managing our own budget, we have been able to provide this fantastic resource whilst improving Teaching and Learning outcomes and increasing Teaching Assistant support throughout the school.

We are currently finalising our staffing structure for the next school year. I know you appreciate early notification of your child's new teacher. Hopefully we will have these details ready for you when we return from the half term break.

Sheila Haigh

Ballifield will close for the half term break on Thursday 22nd May at 3.15pm. (Friday is a staff training day)

We re-open to children on Monday 2nd June.

Newsletter - May 14 Extra!

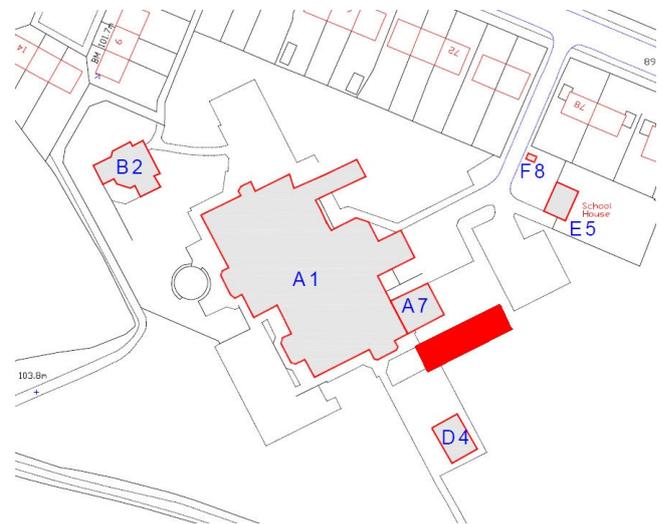
EXCITING NEWS!!

You may remember that in the last newsletter we told you we had the finances in place to replace the aging mobile classrooms. We are now delighted to say that we have planning permission and the order has been signed to make the dream a reality!

Where will it be?

We spent absolutely ages and engaged an architect to look at the best options for the site as ideally we wanted the new classrooms to be adjoined to the main building. Unfortunately, due to the layout of the school which has been tweaked many times in its 40 year life it was just not possible.

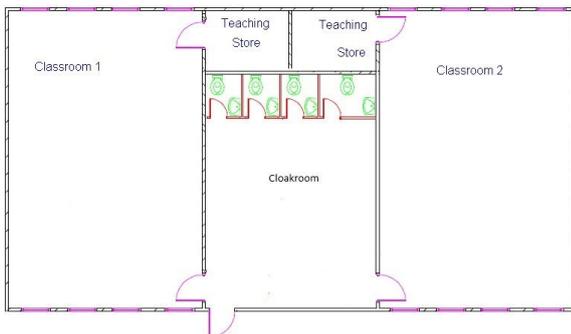
We picked the location (shown in red on the map) as this will minimise the journey into the main school building and feel more "part" of our school.



What about inside?

Again, hours were spent ensuring that everything we wanted would be included in the layout of the new building. First and foremost we wanted toilet facilities so that children would no longer need to cross the playground in all weathers to use the loo.

We also wanted large spacious classrooms with loads of natural light. We are delighted that all these features have been included.



What will it look like?

The only restraint put on us by the planning department was that the new building matched in with the rest of the school. Even though the new classrooms will be a modular structure (6 boxes joined together) it will be brick clad to conserve heat and also so that the building will last a lifetime!

This picture is from another local school who have used the same building technique and materials and is very close to how the outside of our new classrooms will look.



When will it all happen?

We know that there is no time to lose and want to make sure that we have the best facilities for all our children. With that in mind the ground will be broken on the 7th July with the classroom ready for its first children this September!

To be ready on time, there will be some ground works in the last two weeks before the summer break but we will ensure that there is suitable barriers around the site, there is extra supervision in place and that rigorous risk assessments have been completed.