



Newsletter

May 2019



Rear of Banwell Primary School, West Street, Banwell. BS29 6DB.

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www.banwellbuddies.com

Dates for your diary

Print off the page and keep it somewhere safe!

Remaining inset days for 2018-19:

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Last day of term 5: Friday 24th May 2019

First day of term 6: Monday 3rd June 2019

Leaver's presentation: Monday 22nd July 2019

Your help

Things we're looking for to help us out!

Herb and flower seeds, pebbles, soil, bark and gravel.

Pieces of wood for large scale building.

Footballs for playing

Corks and shells.

News from the playroom

An update on some of the ways we've been learning recently.

We have been playing in the garden a lot recently. The children have particularly enjoyed collecting leaves and sticks to build pretend bonfires.

Children have engaged well with our focus book 'The Colour Monster' and are using the colours to help them to identify their emotions.

Children have taken part in large scale painting by numbers and have been having lots of races with the cars, using chalk to measure distance.

The children have responded really well to the new resources we have introduced and we are looking forward to developing this further.

A sad goodbye...

We've recently said goodbye to Nicola Cassidy, who has moved on to work with babies in a nearby nursery. We wish her all the best for the future.

We are in the middle of a recruitment process to find another Early Years Educator to join our team.

Our community

Please can we remind all parents and carers that Banwell Buddies seeks to promote an inclusive and supportive environment in line with our mission statement:

Banwell Buddies primary goal is to work in partnership with families and the wider community to ensure that all children who attend are supported to reach their full potential. We seek to achieve this by providing the highest quality of care and education that is fully inclusive within a safe and stimulating environment.

This ethos extends to families and staff at preschool, not just the children who attend. We expect all our families to respect and share this ethos. We're proud of both our staff who work together brilliantly, and the village in which we are based. So many great things have been achieved by the people in Banwell working together and supporting each other.

Being a parent can be tough so it's vital we are respectful & supportive of each other. Children attending Buddies will be in varying stages of learning how to communicate with each other and how to find their place in the world. Some experience more challenges than others - ALL our children deserve our patience and respect.

Please find attached to this newsletter a copy of our Achieving Positive Behaviour policy which can also be found on our website. Please read through the policy to remind yourselves of the approach that staff use when managing behaviour. If you would like to discuss this further, please see Kirsty.

Coming up!

Louise Brogan from Play Wild will be coming in to hold some forest school sessions with the children:

Monday 13th May 9.30 - 11am

Thursday 16th May 1.00 - 2.30pm.

If your child does not attend either of these sessions you are welcome to bring them along but you will need to stay with them.

Please make sure that you send your child with appropriate clothing, as we will be outside and will be getting muddy!

School story sessions will be taking place in May and June for those children moving up to Banwell Primary School.

These sessions will take place on Wednesday 8th May, 5th & 12th June, and Tuesday 21st May, 18th & 25th June, all at 10.30 - 10.45. If your child isn't in on that day you will still be invited to attend by the school. If your child is with us on that day then we'll be taking them down with us and bringing them back.

If you have any questions please ask a member of staff.

Quality Improvement

We're always working hard and trying to improve what we do to make our preschool setting the best it can be for your little ones.

Thank you for all the responses we received from the parent questionnaire. We will analyse the results and share them with you soon.

Staff have been looking at the way we use resources to stimulate the children's learning and play. Simon Nicholson's Theory of Loose Parts explores the way that the creative and inventive possibilities of a landscape (or playscape) directly relate to the number of loose parts in it. These can be moved, stacked, carried, adapted, re-shaped, buried, extended and so on by the children. In education, the term 'loose parts' is used to refer to playable objects that are not permanently fixed in place.

At the same time, staff are reducing the number of plastic toys we have in the playroom. We welcome all suggestions of donations but please ask us first as we are being careful about what we use in the playroom.

We've been working on involving parents, families and the community in conversations on Facebook about what we do, and learning about what you all do at home too. Please join in! We'd love to hear what you've been up to at home with your little ones.

Staff will be looking at our tapestry usage and how we can ensure a faster turn around for observations on your little ones.

Don't forget!

IMPORTANT: It is vital that all invoices are paid by their due date, whether you pay weekly, fortnightly or monthly. We need to keep a close eye on our finances, and payments that are overdue cause serious issues for us. It may be necessary to introduce a late payment fee to cover the admin costs incurred by unpaid fees.

The weather is a bit fickle at the moment! Please remember to bring a warm coat for your children so they can still play outside while it's chilly. It will also soon be suncream weather, so please remember to pop a named bottle in the basket on the desk when the sun decides to make another appearance! It's vital that the children have ample opportunities to play outdoors in all weathers.

Please make sure that you cut all grapes, cherry tomatoes and other similar shaped foods for your child's lunchboxes as they are a choking hazard. Staff will cut them before your child eats them but it can take them considerable time to get round all the children!

Please include some fresh fruit/vegetables in your child's lunchbox as part of a balanced meal. Even if your child is not keen, we encourage children to have a taste, and familiarity with different foods do help them to feel brave enough to give them a try!

Please do not drive up the school drive to drop your child off at Buddies. Cars pose a significant safety risk to pedestrians walking and up and down.

Don't forget!

If you are waiting with older children at the end of the school day, please can you make sure that they don't bang the gate or unlock it.

We understand that some parents like to catch up with their child's key worker when they collect them from us. Unfortunately, this isn't always possible, and if they are engaged with the children on the carpet then you will need to speak to another staff member about your child's session on that occasion. If you are happy to stay behind at the end of the session then your key person will be able to speak to you after the session.

Drinks: Please make sure that water bottles only contain water, unless previously organised with staff. Water bottles should not have juice or squash in them.

A big thank you!

...to all our superstar fundraisers and donators:

Banwell Action Group who recently dissolved the organisation and gave us a lovely cheque! We're so grateful as it's given the staff the opportunity to buy some lovely new resources.

To everyone who has taken part in our Name the Buddies Bunny fundraiser. We raised £24 towards our new resources.

Fundraising

We've previously emailed you a letter about our committee and why we need to fundraise. These are just some of the ways you can support our preschool, from shopping online, to baking and collecting spare items at home!

Easyfundraising link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/banwellbuddies/>

Tubes for Storytelling: You should have all received a smarties tube for your child. Please enjoy the sweets and then save the tube!

If you can fill it with coins (1p, 5p, 10p, 20p and £1 all fit in) and bring it back the week beginning 7th May.

The money raised will pay for storytelling resources and hopefully a visit from our storytelling expert, Mike Akers.

Banwell Scouts are holding a Summer Duck Race on Saturday 9th June 2019.

We have been given the opportunity to sell some tickets, and to keep a percentage of the ticket money for Banwell Buddies. This is a great opportunity to be part of a community event and to also raise some money for ourselves!

Please take some ticket books to sell to your friends and family.

Watch out for further fundraising news soon!