



Newsletter

February 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!

Last day of term 3: Friday 15th February

Remaining inset days for 2018-19:

Monday 18th March 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

First day of Term 4: Monday 25th February 2019

Gruffalo's birthday: Coming up!

National Polar Bear Day: Wednesday 27th February

World Book Day 2019: Thursday 7th March

News from the playroom

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

The children have been exploring what floats and what sinks. Please do let us know if they carry on experimenting at home!

They have also been acting out stories. Ones they have heard, ones they have made up and ones they have remembered.

Kim Luca visited to read stories to the children. She is from the Bookstart programme and the children really enjoyed her visit.

Last month we welcomed Cloe Miller-Picton to our staff team. Cloe has a Childhood Studies Foundation Degree and will be working Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Cloe carried out her student placement here at Buddies so she may already be a familiar face to some.

Our new book is **The Great Explorer by Chris Judge.**

The children have been experimenting with different mark-making and they especially enjoyed drawing on the underneath of the tables on the paper we had stuck there.

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.

Following on from our peer observations last term, we will be repeating the process outside to ensure that our activities and engagement with the children are of a continuous standard.

We will be carrying out recommendations on different parts of the playroom to see if we can make any improvements.

Staff are looking at ways to collaborate on observations. This is a great way to share information and ideas for how to further extend activities and learning opportunities.

Parent questionnaires will be given out in the week beginning 25th February 2019. Please complete and return by 15th March.

We're working on records that show parents what progress has been made since the last consultation.

Upcoming training:

Food Hygiene renewal (February)	Jo
Signs of Safety (March)	Kirsty
Early Help (March)	Kirsty
Promoting Children's Self-Regulation through Everyday Provision and Practice	Jo & Kirsty
Listening and Attention for Under 5's	Helen & Nicola

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.

It's really cold, brrrrr! Please remember to bring named hats and gloves and a warm coat for your children so they can still play outside. It's vital that the children have ample opportunities to play outdoors in all weathers.

Also, please check your child's wellies to make sure that they are the right size.

Emergency Closure: Our procedure worked well in the recent snow. Please let us know if any of your contact details change so we can update our records.

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!

Don't forget!

Parent consultations will be arranged and carried out beginning of next term. This is a great chance to talk about your child and their development.

We understand that some parent's 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.

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:

Central Asset Finance who gave us a generous Christmas donation from a staff collection;

Carole Cragg who held a birthday fundraiser on Facebook and raised an amazing £110.

And to all our parents who have donated clothes and toys to us recently, particularly Rachel Siaens, Rebecca Summers, Louise Benjafield and Sam Robertson.

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/>

We would like to fundraise specifically for our storytelling project in the next few months. The money raised will pay for storytelling resources and hopefully a visit from our storytelling expert, Mike Akers.

Our Christmas Market and Mini Market raised almost £425! Thank you so much for everyone's support.

The Tubes for Storytelling fundraiser will begin after half term. More details to come!