



Newsletter

May 2018



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

01934 822233

www.banwellbuddies.com

Dates for your diary

*Print off the page and keep it somewhere safe!
All our term dates are on our website on our 'Further reading' page.*

Last day of term 5: Thursday 24th May

May break: Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June

Last day of the summer term: Monday 23rd July

Leaver's service: Tuesday 24th July

Inset days: Friday 25th May & Tuesday 24th July

Royal wedding party & cake sale: Friday 18th May
(see last page)

Summer Duck Race: Saturday 24th June

Parent consultations: End of June

Child Safety Week: 4-8th June

In Child Safety Week children will be taking part in activities about road safety, sun safety, water safety and safety at home.

News from the playroom

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

We've been playing outside a lot in the welcome bursts of sunshine! There has been a lot of water play and colour mixing in the water, and exploring what makes ice melt.

Don't forget to check Tapestry for pictures of your child, and if you haven't managed to sign up yet and would like some help please see your child's key worker. While you are there, please don't forget to like and comment on your child's posts.

The little gardeners at preschool have been planting sunflowers. We're enjoying learning how they grow and it's really exciting seeing it actually happen!

Oink! Oink! Oink! We've been using different materials to make the three little pigs houses, pig biscuits and toilet roll pigs.

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale. We're planning on using the money from the cake sale and Popcorn Wednesday to get some wall stickers to brighten up our toilet and sink area.

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.

Staff training and development:

Jo has been on a first aid course and has stepped up to be our deputy safeguarding practitioner.

Nicola has been on a safeguarding basic awareness course.

Staff supervisions will take place this term. It's an opportunity for two-way conversations to take place on what the staff envisage for their future and the future of Banwell Buddies.

Transition arrangements:

For the children moving up to Banwell Primary School, story times will take place at the school on the 9th and 23rd May, and 6th, 12th, 19th and 26th June. These sessions are an ideal opportunity for the children to become familiar with their school environment and their new teachers for September.

Our playroom:

Staff are completing a layout review to see if the room is being used to its full potential and to monitor the activities that are laid out daily.

Our garden:

We have plans! We've consulted a playground designer who has given us some amazing ideas for the future, and we've asked someone to come and do some basic maintenance to tidy up the outside area. Buildbase in Weston have donated the materials for this, so thank you very much!

We're so grateful.

Quality Improvement

continued

Staff roles:

A couple of our parents expressed some unease over our decision on the leader role. We are sorry that you felt like this, and we appreciate that it came as a shock. It wasn't an easy decision for any of us, and we'd like reassure you again that we always have the best interests of your families at the heart of everything we do. It is testament to the skills and expertise of the rest of our dedicated staff that any gaps or issues were picked up and dealt with in-house and parents were unaware of our concerns. But this wasn't a situation that was sustainable.

Going forward, Kirsty will be, once again, stepping into our leader role until our long term plans are firmed up. She has lots of experience at Buddies and knows the community and the role well, having done it for us before. Jo and Helen are sharing the deputy leader role with plenty of support from the rest of the staff.

Katie Harding will be returning after maternity leave in July and we're thrilled she's coming back! For those of you that haven't met Katie before, do introduce yourselves when you see her. She'll be helping us out for a few days before July too.

Emma, our current Chair, will be fulfilling a few more hours in the office, using her skills and experience to help us to ensure that we maintain our high standards. We've been able to complete more items on our action plan with her on site more often, and she's continuing her work on the social media strategy, the tone of voice policy, and communication with parents.

Both Vikki and Emma are in the office more regularly; one of them will be in the office daily, and always over the busy lunchtime period.

Quality Improvement details are also posted on the board in the entrance. The results of our two recent parent questionnaires will go up on our website soon!

We'll be taking a good look at everyone's roles and responsibilities at Buddies, how we can use everyone's skills and passions to take the preschool forward into a stable future.

Don't forget!

In the increasingly warm weather, please make sure that your child has all of these items, named please.

1. suncream
2. sun hat
3. water bottle.

Suncream needs to be replaced every 12 months as it will no longer be as effective after this time. Look out for the star ratings too as they'll let you know how effective the UVA and UVB coverage is.

Please make sure that your child always has a set of spare clothes with them in their bag, including underwear. It's not only in case of accidents, sometimes we get carried away with just being messy. We are doing a lot of water play in these warm days!

The children also need a pair of wellies for stomping about in the garden. Little feet tend to grow quickly, so please make sure that the ones we have are the correct size.

We want to keep everyone safe, family members too. So please always use the bottom gate at the entrance to the school. and note that the school drive is no longer accessible to cars due to new security measures in place at school.

Please remember to return your copy of the storytelling project book at the stated time, otherwise the next child on the list misses out.

How you can help

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/>

Please join up if you can and help us to raise funds. There is a current offer to receive three months Apple Music for free when you join up with a mobile device.

Royal wedding party! Look out for the poster at the end of this newsletter. Face painting and temporary tattoos are optional activities.

Preschool can use the following in the playroom. If you have any spare at home we'll happily take your donations!

- Watering cans for water play in the garden!
- Cardboard boxes and tubes
- Ribbon and fabric
- Coloured paper, or anything with a texture/pattern
- Pebbles
- Flower pots
- Cupcake cases (unused)
- Unwanted flower and herb seeds for planting

If you can spare an hour we have some rubbish we need taking to the tip! We can only use cars as we don't have a commercial waste license, so please let us know if you can take a load for us.

You are invited to



Royal Wedding party!

Friday 18th May 2018



Face
Painting
£1



Temporary
tattoos
20p each

All children are
invited to dress up
in red white and
blue clothes.

Cake sale at 3.30pm.
Donations welcome.

All funds raised to
Banwell Buddies.