

***Please read this carefully - it  
contains important information!!***



# NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2016

2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome parents of our new "Squirrels". Please take the time to read this newsletter as it contains important information for you.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Flowers  
Headteacher

## **School Dinners**

School dinners this half-term (Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December) will cost:-

KS1	Free	
KS2	37 days @ £1.95	£72.15 (£9.75 per week)
Fun Fridays - KS2	7 days @ £1.95	£13.65

You can view the School Dinners menu around the school and on our website ([bramingham.net](http://bramingham.net)) in the Parents section.

Please remember dinner payments are still made through the Allpay online payment methods; you will need to top up your child's account. You have the freedom to top-up securely in a number of ways:

**online** - using a debit card via Allpay's internet payment services - [www.allpayments.net](http://www.allpayments.net)

**over the phone** - using a debit card via Allpay's telephone payment services - 0844 557 8321

**over the counter** - by presenting the barcoded letter at any PayPoint or Post Office outlet **through the Allpay App** - available to download from the Apple App Store or Google Play for your smartphone. This option is proving to be most popular.

*You will have been advised that a **new provider for the payment of school meals will be put in place soon!***

As part of a continuous effort to improve online payment methods LBC Catering Services reviewed its provider, and they are pleased to inform you that Tucasi will be the new provider. This system proves to be user friendly and easy to navigate.

As a parent/guardian, you will be allocated an account for your child and issued with a barcoded letter. If your child(ren) receive Universal Infant Free School Meals or Free School Meals, you are not required to make any payment. However, you are encouraged to register online if you wish to keep track of your child's daily meal uptake.

You will have various methods of making payment securely such as:

**Online** - using a debit card via Tucasi's internet payment service [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com)

**Over the counter** - by presenting the barcoded letter at any PayPoint outlet.

**Via mobile device** – by visiting the Tucasi website ([www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com)) and accessing the special mobile friendly features.

### **As a reminder no cash or cheques for top up will be taken at school**

You will have access to an online account where all payment information is held on a secure server storing details of individual cash balances and transactions.

In due course you will receive your barcoded letter containing your new unique payment reference number (PRN), with further information on how to register your account online.

**Please do not credit your child's account on Tucasi until you are advised of the go-live date for the school.**

All outstanding debit and credit balances will be transferred to the new system as an opening balance.

For more information visit [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com) and have a look at the parent/guardian FAQs, and visit [www.paypoint.com](http://www.paypoint.com) to find your nearest PayPoint outlet.

We hope that you will support us and we will all start to see the benefits of this new and innovative system immediately. Should you have any concerns or questions, please call LBC Catering Services on 01582 538210. We aim to make the transition to the new Cashless system as smooth as possible.

Please note: If your child changes from dinners to packed lunch, or vice versa, you must give the kitchen one week's notice. If dinner money is not paid for 1 week, no further meals will be provided until the debt is cleared.

As a school we endorse the position of the catering services and will not be supplying dinner to a child if the kitchen refuses to give a meal. If the child has not got a packed lunch, we will contact you; you will then have the responsibility of making sure that you provide a lunch for your child.

*ALL DINNER MONEY QUERIES ARE DEALT WITH BY THE SCHOOL MEALS' CASHIER, Mrs Shearer, (telephone 562945).*

## **Bramingham Primary School Website – Bramingham.net**

We have been working really hard to improve our website and make its content more interesting for parents and children to read.

You can log on to our website on *bramingham.net*

If you click on the Children's tab you will find a page for each class. Most classes have put on details of the children's homework and some teachers have added some exciting links. For example:

***Foxes*** – Do you know Year 1 and Year 2 common exception words? Take a look and help your child to learn them. Parents you can also support your child with some ICT maths games where children can learn some number facts.

***Wrens*** – You will find lots of useful information, games and activities by following the links on Wrens' page.

***Rabbits and Owls*** – There are photos of the classes' recent trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum as well as Abacus online homework.

***Frogs*** – Apart from reminders and info, you will find some interesting games/activities and videos.

***Magpies*** – Reminders, homework, info and videos, but look out for 'The Planet Rap'!

***Doves and Kestrels*** – You will find links to help your child learn more about Ancient Greece.

***Sport Results/News*** – We are very pleased to announce that Bramingham has achieved the School Games Gold Mark for the third year in a row. The School Games Mark is now in its 5th year and continues to reward schools for their commitment to and development of competition, school sport and physical education.

As a school we take part in many sporting activities such as tag rugby, football, 5 a-side football, netball, table tennis, badminton, indoor sports hall athletics and enter in many competitions for those sports as well as cross country, new age curling, boccia, tri-golf, Zone Sports and Town Sports and we have also hosted some of the larger competitions such as the Year 4 Rounders Festival.

In addition to our after school events, we have taken the opportunity to deliver a morning club for our netball squad. This has contributed further to meeting the criteria needed to achieve the Gold Kitemark.

## **Family Workers' News**

Wow, the start of term has truly whizzed by!

We have welcomed our new Squirrels children into Bramingham on the start of their school journey with us. We are holding a coffee afternoon for our new Squirrels parents on **Thursday 3rd November at 2.30pm - 3.20pm** in the Family room (end green hut).

Toddler Time, our stay and play for 0-4 years runs on Mondays from 9.00am to 10.15am in the Family Room. We have a variety of toys and crafts on offer as well as tea, coffee and toast so do pop in!

Meeting Needs coffee mornings for parents of children with medical/physical/additional and Special Educational Needs are a great way to find out information on clubs, activities and meet other parents.

Next sessions are **Wednesday 9th November** and **Wednesday 8th December** at 9.00am-10.30am in the Family room.

Just What We Need-Emotional wellbeing course - We have just had week 4 of the course and looked at many areas of emotional wellbeing. The importance of having our emotional needs met and the sessions' topics have covered the importance of goals, the need for security, attention, communication and listening, what we and our children need to feel safe... So much to mention. Our next sessions are looking at a sense of status, control, privacy, meaning and purpose and the need for competence and achievement. This course is closed to new attendees but if the topics covered are of interest and you would like to attend a course running at a later date please contact us.

Mrs Altaf will also be releasing dates for the English as an Additional Language sessions after half term. Over the academic year there will also be sessions to help you support your children with areas of their school work such as handwriting and maths. We are also hoping to run the Child and Infant Resuscitation course for parents in the Summer Term.

If you are interested in any of our sessions or just want to know more about what we do. Please pop in for a chat or call us or email us on [clegg@bramingham.net](mailto:clegg@bramingham.net) or [galtaf@bramingham.net](mailto:galtaf@bramingham.net).

We hope you had a safe and enjoyable half term and have come back refreshed!

*Miss Legg and Mrs Altaf*

## **Reminders/School's rules**

As we are in a new academic year and have new parents in school, I thought it would be an opportunity to send you all a few reminders of some of the school's expectations.

### ***School Uniform***

We are noticing a recent drop in the high standards we expect. See below details of our school uniform:

#### **GIRLS**

- Navy skirt/trousers, pinafore dress, red and white checked gingham dress, navy shorts
- White blouse or polo shirt, red or navy polo neck jumpers/polo shirts
- Red sweatshirt/jumper
- White or blue socks (during the winter months, navy or red tights may be preferred)
- Brown/black/blue shoes, blue/white/red sandals. NOT trainers.

#### **BOYS**

- Navy trousers/shorts
- White shirt or polo shirt, red polo neck jumpers, white or red polo shirts
- Red sweatshirt/jumper
- Grey or navy socks
- Brown/black/blue shoes, NOT trainers
- A navy and red tie is available.

Please be aware that if boots are worn to school, children should change into their shoes whilst on the school premises. If sandals are 'too open' children will not be allowed to participate in some activities. Trainers are not to be worn in school, only for PE lessons, or lunchtimes. The headbands which have 'ears' on them are also not suitable.

### ***PE clothing***

#### **GIRLS AND BOYS**

- Navy shorts
- Red T-shirt
- Plimsolls or suitable footwear for outdoor use
- Indoor Physical Education will be barefoot
- Navy or red leotards or gym skirts for girls' P.E. are optional

It is essential that children have a change of clothing for P.E.

It would be much appreciated if a bag with a drawstring, labelled with your child's name, could be provided for keeping the kit together.

During the winter months, it is ESSENTIAL that the children are provided with a tracksuit or similar warm clothing for outdoor P.E. Where possible, these should be red or navy.

Although it is preferable that P.E. kits are left in school throughout the week, please note that in the event of a fire, P.E. kit left at school will not be covered for replacement or cleaning.

All individual items of school uniform **MUST** have the child's name clearly marked.

### ***Parking***

We would like to remind all parents that ***the school car park should only be used by staff, school visitors, parents with parking permits*** (these are issued by the school under special circumstances) ***or for dropping off children at Breakfast Club or picking up from After School Club.***

Cars should not be parked on the yellow lines outside school. Cars parked in this area cause an obstruction in general, and in particular they block pushchair access. We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter, for the safety of all concerned. We are very fortunate that Sainsbury's store has always very kindly allowed parents to park in their car park when dropping off children. There is also the car park at the back of the Bramingham Public House/Local shops. Please make sure you use these facilities and also avoid parking in Campania Grove or Cicero Drive.

*If you are allowed to drive in the school car park please make sure you drive **VERY** slowly.*

### ***Children's safety outside the school gates and the school car park***

Parents need to remind their children not to run across the top of Freeman Avenue or wander off the footpath onto the car park. There have been numerous near misses with cars driving in or out of the school premises.

### ***Bikes and Scooters***

Children coming to school on their bikes or scooters should not ride them along the school footpaths, or the playground. Once on the premises, they should walk alongside their scooters as riding them can be dangerous with so many children and adults around.

### ***Dropping Off and Collection of Children***

The school day starts at 9.00am; children may come into their classrooms from 8.45am. Any child not present for registration will be marked as late on the register and this will affect their attendance record. No child or adult is allowed into classrooms or the school building before 8.45am (unless previously arranged with a member of staff) as staff could be meeting together there, or elsewhere in the school.

*The Dell outside door should only be used for Breakfast Club and After School Club parents.*

Please make sure the front entrance to the school building is only used if you need to talk to a member of our office staff or if your child is arriving late to school or returning from an appointment. There are still a number of parents who walk through the main entrance in the mornings after dropping off their children; please leave the school via the classrooms or outside cloakroom doors unless you need to speak to the office staff.

The school day finishes at 3.30pm; children need to be collected at the end of the day unless they are allowed to walk home. If you have been delayed and cannot collect your child on time, please contact the office to make alternative arrangements. To increase children's safety, a child cannot be left unsupervised in the school. Should we not hear from you by 3.40pm, we will provide a place for your child at After School Club and will request payment from you the following day, as stated on your admission form.

### ***School Apparatus***

We would like to remind parents that children should not be on the school apparatus before or after school when they are not supervised by a member of staff.

### ***Early Years gates***

The new Early Years area has been fenced off for the children's safety. We would therefore ask you to close the gates behind you when leaving the Early Years unit after dropping off your children.

### ***Snacks***

Children are allowed to have a snack for morning break or in their lunch boxes. All snacks should be healthy snacks such as fresh fruits and vegetables. Winders are not a healthy option and are not allowed.

### ***Lost Property***

Please ensure that all items of school clothing (**and lunchboxes**) are marked clearly with your child's name (or even initials). This helps greatly when items are misplaced, and we can then ensure that items are returned to their owners quickly. Our lost property boxes are always overflowing with items which are not named making it impossible for us to find the right owners.

### ***Appointments***

Could you please make every possible effort to avoid taking children out of school for appointments, such as doctor and dental. We have noted an increase in the number of children being collected during the school day for such appointments.

### ***Child's Personal Information***

It is essential that you let the office staff know of any changes in your details (e.g. email, address, telephone number, mobile number or personal circumstances) so that our contact records are kept up-to-date. If you change your address we need to see a proof of address e.g. utility bill or a solicitor's letter confirming the sale completion.

### ***Money Collection***

Any money being sent to school (trips/BC/ASC, milk etc.) **must not** be taken to the school office; it should be sent in a named envelope and given to the class teacher first thing in the morning.

### ***No Smoking***

In line with the council's policy, Bramingham Primary School is **AT ALL TIMES A NO SMOKING SCHOOL**. May we therefore remind parents not to smoke on the school's premises. This includes the school car park, playground and playing field.

## **Term Dates**

Below are the term dates for 2016/2017. A copy of these dates is displayed on the Parents' Notice Board in the entrance lobby as well as on our website ([bramingham.net](http://bramingham.net) - note no 'www').

### ***Term dates 2016/2017***

#### **Autumn Term 2016**

Term ends Tuesday 20 December 2016

#### **Spring Term 2017**

Term starts Thursday 5 January 2017  
Half term Week commencing Monday 13 February 2017  
Term ends Friday 31 March 2017

#### **Summer Term 2017**

Term starts Tuesday 18 April 2017  
Half term Week commencing Tuesday 30 May 2017  
Term ends Friday 21 July 2017

**Training Day Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017**

## **Dates for your diaries**

*These dates will be made available again throughout the year. They are subject to changes and additions so please make sure Newsletters are read carefully! You will be able to see changes in italic and bold.*

### **➤ w/b 24.10.16**

- 07.11.16
- 14.11.16
- 15.11.16
- 17.11.16
- 17.11.16
- 24.11.16
- 13.12.16
- 14.12.16
- 14.12.16

### **Half term week**

- Yr 1 – Luton Museum in School
- Yr 6 – Young Shakespeare Theatre Company in School
- School photographer - individual & family photos
- Yr 2 – visit Royal Gunpowder Mills
- Frogs Assembly
- Magpies Assembly
- KS1 Parents watch Nativity (PM)
- KS1 Parents watch Nativity (AM)
- 3.45 – 5.00 - Christmas Fayre

- 16.12.16
- 19.12.16
- 20.12.16
- **20.12.16**  
**holidays start**
- **05.01.17**
- w/b 09.01.17
- w/b 16.01.17
- 20.01.17
- w/b 23.01.17
- 27.01.17
- w/b 30.01.17
- w/b 30.01.17
- 03.02.17
- w/b 06.02.17
- 09.02.17
- 10.02.17
- **w/b 13.02.17**
- w/b 20.02.17
- 22 & 23.02.17
- w/b 27.02.17
- 03 to 05.03.17
- w/b 06.03.17
- 10.03.17
- w/b 13.03.17
- 17.03.17
- 24.03.17
- 31.03.17
- **31.03.17**
- **18.04.17**
- **01.05.17**
- 12 to 15.05.17
- w/b 08.05.17
- 19.05.17
- 26.05.17
- **w/b 29.05.17**
- **23.06.17**
- 27.06.17
- 21.07.17
- **21.07.167**

Early Year Parents watch Nativity (AM)  
 EY, KS1 & Yr 3 Christmas Parties (PM)  
 Yr 4, Yr 5 & Yr 6 Christmas parties (PM)  
**Last day of term - Christmas**

### **Back to School – Start of Spring Term**

Yr 6 parents visit class  
 Yr 6 & Yr 2 parents visit class  
 Badgers' Assembly  
 Yr 5 & Yr 2 parents visit class  
 Hedgehogs' Assembly  
 Yr 5 & Yr 4 parents visit class  
 Book fortnight  
 Kestrels' Assembly  
 Yr 4 & Yr 3 parents visit class  
 Doves' Assembly  
 Book fortnight Assembly  
**Half term week**  
 Yr 3 parent visit  
 Open Evenings  
 Yr 3 & Yr 1 parents visit class  
 Yrs 5 & 6 Residential trip to PGL - Marchants Hill  
 Yr 1 & EY parents visit class  
 Wrens' Assembly  
 EY parents visit class  
 Foxes' Assembly  
 Owls' Assembly  
 Rabbits' Assembly

### **Last day of term - Easter holidays start**

### **Back to school - Start of the Summer Term**

#### **May Bank Holiday**

Yr 6 Residential trip to PGL – Little Canada  
 KS2 SATS week  
 Robins' Assembly  
 Swifts' Assembly

#### **Half Term Week**

#### **School closure/training day**

Sports Day  
 Leavers' Assembly

### **Last day of term - Summer Holidays start**