

# Begbrook News

## ***New Year, New Decade!***

A Happy New Year to all of our children and families in this first newsletter of the year...and the decade! We hope that the Twenties will be a decade of continued development for the school and our community. It seems strange to think that by the end of the decade, every single pupil that currently attends Begbrook will have moved on to secondary school and with some of the older children already venturing into the worlds of university and work. While we are always sad to see them go (and we love it when they come back to say hello!) we hope that their time with us will prepare them well for whatever challenges the future holds.

New Years are about new beginnings and can be about setting goals and ambitions for the future (see the eco update for some ideas for resolutions!). This time last year, we resolved to improve our communication via Twitter and those of you that follow the school (@BegbrookAcademy) will have seen a lot more of our learning and extra-curricular activities on our feed. The redesigned curriculum has played a huge part in this as the children have been able to delve much deeper in their learning for longer. We are always trying to improve the ways that we communicate with families and we will be looking forward to hearing your views at our parent forum. As promised, we will soon be in touch with dates for this and for our parent information sessions about maths learning at Begbrook.

Since the start of term, our children have been making the most of their learning time. We have had a raft of new children joining the Nursery (we are almost full now with just one space left for two sessions!). Our dedicated team have been making home visits and helping to settle children in to routines as they develop their social skills and their independence.

In Reception, children were introduced to 'Everywhere Bear'. Unfortunately, Everywhere Bear got lost in the school... Luckily, the children used their Diamond Power and wrote posters to describe what he looked like and they were able to find him! The children have also been developing their self-awareness, identifying what they are good at and finding out what it means to be a good friend.

Year 1 started the year as Geographers, noting the seasonal changes compared to Autumn now that winter is truly here. They have now returned to being authors, developing their writing skills, including writing longer sentences using conjunctions and starting to use a greater variety of punctuation.

Year 2 have continued to be historians, studying the differences between Victorian lives and our own. With all the trappings of a Victorian Christmas neatly packed away, they are now focused on the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the great engineering works of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

At the start of term, Year 3 were programmers, working together to choreograph their amazing Bee-bot dance, which many parents were able to come in and watch. They are now absorbed in being scientists, learning all about insects.

Year 4 have started the year off being geographers, studying the location and key features of South America. They have learnt about the features of human and physical geography and created their own maps of the continent.

Children in Year 5 have also been Geographers this term, although somewhat closer to home. They have been studying Britain and our continent, Europe, trying to answer the question "How can we locate our place in the world?" They have been developing their understanding of maps and atlases as well as developing their sense of direction.

Year 6 children have been immersed in Ancient Egypt, studying the physical geography that supported the rise of this great civilisation, examining agricultural practices and finding out about the building of pyramids as they answer the question "What is the legacy of the Ancient Egyptian civilisation?"

What a fantastic start to the year everyone! Please check our Twitter feed for photos.

Mr Munro, Mrs Shaw and Mr McLaughlin

## Attendance

We ask just **ONE BIG THING** – please get your children to school every day they are well enough. When they are here, we can support their learning. Here are the top three classes for attendance so far this term:

**1<sup>st</sup>** – RRF with a stunning 100% for both weeks so far!

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – 2LR - 99.1%

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – 2ER - 98.9%

On a more sombre note, since September, the equivalent of over 200 lessons of learning have been lost due to unauthorised holidays during term time. As you are aware, there are over 12 weeks during the year when we are not in school and holidays can be taken freely. Please check the term dates (see the dates for the diary segment on the next page) before booking your holiday to ensure that no learning time is missed.

More information on term time absences and the penalty notice procedure can be found in the Attendance Policy on our website.

*If you need support in getting your child to school, please speak to Miss Sutton.*

## PTFA Corner

Happy New Year from us all here at the PTFA! We had a busy ol' time last term, with Winterfest and the Christmas Shop being two of the highlights. We raised an amazing £900 at the Christmas shop alone, so we are feeling buoyed up and ready to go in 2020.



As always we must thank you for your support last term, and hope that the support will continue into the school year. In fact, every person reading this is a member of the PTFA, it's just up to you whether you want to have a more active role. We are desperate for more volunteers to join us - before and during events but particularly in planning them. It's vital for us, otherwise events just won't be able to take place in the future. So please do get in touch if you have any free time - we'd love to hear from you.

Here are 5 great reasons to jump on board:

1. You get to feel at home at school, and get to know the staff, students and parents.
2. Understand how the school works
3. Help the school be even better
4. Be a good role model
5. And above all....HAVE FUN!

We're having an open committee meeting on Thursday 30th January at 2pm (in the boardroom) and we warmly invite you all! Come along, see what's occurring, and have your say on events past, present and future.

What we've got planned so far this term:

- Chinese New Year celebration - Friday 24th January, after school. This will involve a samosa and cake sale, along with Chinese themed treats and balloons.
- Mother's Day Shop - Friday 20th March.

All money raised goes directly back into the school. Soon we are looking to help improve the outdoor areas around the school, and this term we organised for the Hobgoblin Theatre Company to come in and perform 'The Wind in the Willows' for the children - which they loved!

Begbrook Primary PTFA.

## Eco Update

Our in-school eco co-ordinator, Mrs Alger-Seats, recently read an inspiring book ('How to Save the World for Free' by Natalie Fee) and found plenty of ideas for anyone wishing to make a green resolution. There are plenty to choose from and; have a look at the lists below to see if there is one (or more!) you'd like to try out. If you are interested in eco issues, there are some great websites to look at. Here a few of Mrs Alger-Seats favourites:

[www.citytosea.org.uk](http://www.citytosea.org.uk)

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

[www.savewatersavemoney.co.uk](http://www.savewatersavemoney.co.uk)

[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org) Marine Conservation Society

[www.communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk](http://www.communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk) Simms Hill, St George

### Ideas for green resolutions

#### Reducing the use of plastic:

"by 2015 humans produced 6.3 billion tons of plastic waste, just 9% of it was recycled globally" – City to Sea

Reusable water bottles (and refill – use the <b>refill app</b> to find out where you can)	Stop using glitter – try paper based
Reusable coffee cups	Use disposable cutlery when appropriate
Metal/paper straws	Ask your take away to reuse plastic containers or to not use plastic at all
Consider menstrual products – many on the market that do not use plastic or harmful chemicals	<b>STOP</b> using wet wipes and <b>NEVER</b> flush them down the toilet (even ones that say they can be flushed)
Never flush menstrual products down the toilet	Use paper/biodegradable cotton buds #switchthestick
Use a Guppy bag when washing your clothes to avoid micro fibres in our oceans	Take your own veg/fruit bags to super market and buy loose items
Use beeswax wrap rather than cling film	Avoid 'meal deal' lunches
Have your milk delivered in glass bottles	Buy loose leaf tea/coffee
Refill shampoo bottles / use shampoo bars	Use hand soap bars
Use corn starch dog poo bags (if you have a dog!)	Use beeswax or soy-wax candles

Did you know, in 2018 micro plastics were banned from toothpastes, shower gels, face scrubs. NOT from sunscreen or toilet cleaner though 😞

## **Eco Update ctd.**

### **Food and diet:**

<i>Eat less beef – or less meat altogether</i>	<i>Plant based diet</i>
<i>Use oat milk NOT almond</i>	<i>Buy organic</i>
<i>Avoid palm oil</i>	<i>Ask for a doggy bag at a restaurant to avoid food waste</i>
<i>Upcycle/compost leftovers</i>	<i>Buy sustainably caught fish</i>
<i>Use a soda stream to make fizzy drinks</i>	<i>Only boil enough water you need in a kettle</i>
<i>Buy wine from as local as possible and organic wine</i>	<i>Look into food sharing schemes and local farms for veg etc</i>

### **Transport/travel:**

<i>Use public transport</i>	<i>Car share/car pools</i>
<i>Electric cars</i>	<i>Cycle</i>
<i>Offset your flights</i>	<i>Choose economy, fly non-stop</i>
<i>Don't use the air con in your car</i>	<i>Keep tyres inflated so more efficient</i>
<i>Accelerate slowly</i>	<i>Switch engine off when waiting</i>
<i>Look into 'eco holidays'</i>	<i>Avoid cruises (fuel and sewerage)</i>

### **Electricity and water:**

<i>Switch your energy to green tariff</i>	<i>Use your washing machine at 30 or even 20 degrees</i>
<i>Switch off appliances at night (save approx. £80 a year)</i>	<i>Switch off wifi at night</i>
<i>Water butts</i>	<i>Use LED bulbs</i>
<i>5 minute showers</i>	<i>Share a bath</i>

### **Home and lifestyle:**

<i>Buy second hand furniture</i>	<i>Upcycle old clothes/furniture</i>
<i>Charity shops</i>	<i>Use bamboo toothbrushes</i>
<i>Switch to recycled, unbleached toilet paper</i>	<i>Buy houseplants</i>
<i>Buy organic cotton (not other cotton)</i>	<i>Fair trade clothes</i>
<i>Recycle your old trainers</i>	<i>Avoid leather</i>
<i>Put a sign up on your door saying 'no leaflets, menus or junk mail'</i>	

Please get in touch with Mrs Alger-Seats if you wish to get involved with our Eco Committee.



Diary Dates



ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET day – no children in school	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	First day back in school for children	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' evening (until 6pm)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Hobgoblin Theatre Company (EYFS & KS1)	9 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> March	Sports Relief Week (activities tba)
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Last day in school for children
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Future Stars Holiday Camp – during half term	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	INSET day – no children in school
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' evening (until 7pm)	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Future Stars Holiday Camp – during Easter holidays

### Term Dates 2019/20

Term 1: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019  
 Term 2: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019  
 Term 3: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020  
 Term 4: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr 2020  
 Term 5: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Apr – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020  
 Term 6: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Bank Holidays

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
 Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020  
 Good Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
 Easter Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### INSET DAYS

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
 Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
 Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

## Begbrook Photo Board





Gem power  
certificate winners



Demonstrating the power  
of practice...



Gem power  
certificate winners



Grit power wins awards  
at home too!



Gem power  
certificate winners



Gem power  
certificate winners