



The Botwell Bulletin

Friday 6th September 2024

Upcoming events

Welcome back everyone! We've been back for a week and it feels like the summer holiday is but a distant memory already. This is certainly the case with the weather that has seen the most torrential downfalls for the past day or two.

Uniform

Many families have sent their children in wearing summer uniform, which I don't have an issue with but now that we can clearly see that the glorious weather is long gone can we please transition towards everyone wearing autumn/winter uniform as per policy over the coming couple of weeks. Thank you.

We have school photos in a few weeks so it makes sense that the uniform is... well ... 'uniformed' one might say.

Earrings

A further point regarding uniform is that of earrings. After much conversation and deliberation, we have reviewed this policy and children can now have **one** plain small (gold or silver) ball stud earring in each ear. No jewels in it and it should be no more than 3mm in diameter. Parents who send their children in wearing these, do so at their own risk but it is ultimately their choice. We will review this at the end of the year and if there are no issues make it a permanent change. Please be clear though that the best thing, purely relating to safety, is for children not to wear earrings but we respect the decision of parents as long as it is within the parameters listed above.

Please refrain from putting tape on earrings now as this actually is more dangerous, looks appalling and is incredibly uncomfortable for the children.



The year ahead

I am incredibly excited about the year that we have planned for the children and also for you as families as we look at how we can work best together as a team to enable each and every child to surpass all their expectations of what they can achieve.

Right now though however each and every child seems exhausted as they acclimatise back into school-life so I hope that they, you and the staff have a restful weekend so we are all fully energised on Monday!

God Bless!

K. Oakley

- Wed 11th Sept – Zones of Regulation parent workshop (+coffee)
- Mon 16th Sept – Y3 meet the teacher: 5.00pm – 5.45pm
- Tue 17th Sept – Y1/2 meet the teacher: 5.00pm – 5.45pm
- Wed 18th Sept – Y4/5 meet the teacher: 5.00 – 5.45pm
- Thu 19th Sept – Y6 meet the teacher: 5.00 – 5.45pm
- Fri 13th Sept – Reception meet the teacher: 1.00pm – 1.30pm

Meet the teacher meetings

The children have settled brilliantly into their new classes and are making a positive start.

From next week, each year group will be having a Meet the Teacher meeting, where you will have a chance to meet your child's teacher and the year team. During this session, the teachers will be discussing the topics covered as well as giving out important information about routines and timetables.

We strongly advise all parents to attend these meetings. The dates for the meet the teacher sessions are as follows:

Monday 16th September: Year 3: 5.00 – 5.45pm

Tuesday 17th September: Year 1 & 2: 5.00 – 5.45pm

Wednesday 18th September: Year 4 & 5: 5.00 – 5.45pm

Thursday 19th September: Year 6: 5.00 – 5.45pm

Friday 20th September: Reception: 2:30 – 3.00pm

Uniform/coats



We have now reached September, a month that is notoriously noted for unpredictable weather. We can have all four seasons in one day!

With this in mind, please can you send your child to school with a coat (even if it is sunny in the morning) as the weather can change very quickly. On Wednesday, we noticed a number of children arriving at school without coats, despite the fact that it was raining.

Coffee morning/Parent workshops

We will be holding open coffee mornings for parents, starting from 8.30am after drop off. All families are welcome for a coffee and a chat. If you wish, you can stay to the workshops that will follow at 9.00am. This event will take place on the following dates:

Coffee and chat morning followed by Zones of Regulation Parent Workshop – Wednesday 11th September from 8.30am.

Coffee and chat morning followed by SEND Parents Workshop - Thursday 12th September from 8.30am.

Coffee and chat morning followed by Makaton Parents Workshop – Wednesday 18th September from 8.30am.

Prayer and Reflection

As we begin a new school year, celebrated with a lovely Mass led by year 6, we offer our prayers to God for a happy and successful year.

Lord, I pray for students and learners. Give them minds that are eager to learn. Give them courage to ask good questions, confidence to take risks, and the discipline to focus and study. I pray for quality friendships and safety in and out of the classroom. I pray for the children who struggle with anxiety and fear; may they feel your perfect love surround them, and give them the courage to get through each day. I pray that learning is engaging, valuable, and exciting. Give the students focus and direction as they prepare for what lies ahead.

I pray for teachers, support staff, school administrators and all the staff who keep the school running smoothly. I pray that the classroom and school buildings can be a place where love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control flourish. May all educators have the energy, creativity, and an abundance of compassion to create safe places of learning.

Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,

Amen

