



The BERRY HILL PROPHET

BE KIND * WORK HARD * BE BRAVE



**NEW VISION AND VALUES * BEHAVIOUR POLICY * HOUSE POINTS * DIARY DATES
PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES * NEW DEPUTY HEAD * NEW READING SCHEME**

Welcome back to the new school year; we hope that all of our families had a wonderful summer. As we begin creating this newsletter, I already fear it may be quite a long document – so apologies for that, along with the Harry Potter theming for the newsletter for anyone who has been left confused by the design! From a personal point of view, I am so excited about starting my first full year here at Berry Hill and helping us develop this lovely school.

VISION & VALUES

This year, I have changed Berry Hill's vision and values. I wanted to simplify our values and what we wanted for our children; this is now: **Be Kind, Work Hard, Be Brave**. I also want our vision to be **"Listen more to your dreams and less to your fears"** and help our children to dream big and not be scared of failure. These have been shared with the children and will be the focus of our Shine Assemblies on Fridays.

REWARDS

Here at Berry Hill Primary School, we are committed to creating a setting where good behaviour is key in ensuring a positive learning environment. We have tweaked our behaviour policies to ensure that individual success is celebrated, and to support children in carrying out restorative actions in response to unwanted behaviours. As well as counting collective house points, the children are now also counting their individual totals using 'Class Dojo'. Over the year, when children reach milestones of 25, 50, 100, 200... they will receive a prize, with the prizes getting bigger with the increasing totals.

WELCOME FROM OUR NEW DEPUTY HEAD

Dear parents and carers, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Deputy Head Teacher of Berry Hill Primary School. I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity as Deputy Head of such a fantastic school which is populated by a terrific community of pupils and parents alike. I have lived in Mansfield for most of my life but have been lucky enough to travel around and work in schools of various sizes and contexts throughout my teaching career. Most recently, I held position of Assistant Head Teacher in a large primary school in Derby, however I have also had the pleasure of teaching at an international school in Brunei, a charitable foundation in Kenya and a small village school in

Lincolnshire. Being a mother to an 18-month-old, I am very much aware of the responsibility that we have in looking after your children. Alongside Mr Trenowden, I will strive to ensure that we are always achieving the highest standards of teaching and learning as well as making sure that all children are happy and feel excited to come to school each day.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few days in school. I have been impressed by the children's learning attitudes and have had the pleasure of meeting children with such marvellous manners. It has been a joy to walk around classrooms and feel the excited buzz in the room as the children engage in their learning. I am very much looking forward to seeing the lengths to which the children can be challenged and to support them in achieving their potential. I have had the opportunity to meet some of you on the gate in a morning but look forward to meeting more of you as the weeks go on – please do come and introduce yourself.

Miss Sargison.

UNIFORM

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school whether for on or off-site activities. We expect parents to provide their child with uniform and appropriate PE kit. The list of our current uniform expectations can be found on our school website at <https://www.berryhillprimary.co.uk/uniform/> . No jewellery should be worn at school, including earrings.

Please make sure that your child brings an appropriate coat as the weather begins to change.

NEW BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Having trialled an alternative behaviour policy last year, having listened to children, staff and parents, we are adopting a simpler and more straight-forward approach. Our whole policy is on our school website but to summarise the key principles, they are:

- Praise in public; reprimand in private
- If there are unwanted behaviours, they will be addressed in the following way
 - A reminder of expectations
 - A verbal warning
 - A yellow card
 - A red card
- If a child receives a red card, there will be a consequence which will be to miss their next break time. During this break time, they will be supported to try and put right whatever has gone wrong, be it completing work they did not put effort into, tidying / repairing something that has been damaged or preparing an apology for someone who needs it.
- We will ensure that parents are always notified if any child receives a red card.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Here at Berry Hill Primary School we have a wonderfully committed and involved governing body. We currently have 2 parent governor vacancies which our lovely office staff will be contacting you about shortly. If you would possibly like to become more involved in school life, please contact us; I'd be more than happy to have a chat.

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE

Last year we were still seeing school absence being significantly affected by Covid 19; we are very hopeful that attendance levels across school can return to their pre-pandemic levels. Just as a reminder, under DfE guidance, leave of absence requests will only be granted for exceptional circumstances. These are for truly unavoidable or remarkable reasons which could not have reasonably been rescheduled away from term time. In terms of general absence, we have a duty to act if levels are not good, these will range from inviting parents in for supportive meetings about how we can overcome barriers and work together to the possibility of having to make referrals to the Education Attendance Enforcement services. I have been really pleased with how supportive our families have been on this issue and have optimism that attendance will be a success story come the end of the year.

MOBILE PHONES

We understand that there is often a genuine need for children to have their mobile phone with them at school, especially for those walking to and from school independently. We ask that if children are bringing a mobile phone to school, teachers are informed so that we can keep all devices safe. Year 5 and 6 children will place their mobile phone into a box in the classroom on arrival and will be given their phones at the end of the day. All other year groups must bring their phone to the school office, where the phones will be kept securely. We ask that no mobile phones are used until the children are off site.

LITTLE WANDLE (OUR NEW PHONICS)

This year we have adopted a new phonics scheme called 'Little Wandle'. Our reading leaders will be in contact with parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

shortly to invite you to a parent's meeting to outline expectations and how you can best support your child at home.

OPAL

We are very excited to share with you that we have commissioned OPAL, an award-winning school improvement programme, to support us in further developing our school grounds for play times. This is a 2-year commitment and is quite an alternative approach to how schools operate their outdoor space. Later in the year, we will be excited to invite you in for an information evening all about our innovative approach and what benefits it has for your child.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT AT HOME

Reading is the most important skill that children learn as it is often the gateway to further learning. We ask that you hear your child read as often as you can but record in their reading diary at least 3 times per week. The children also need to regularly practise the words on their spelling lists and should practice their times tables as often as they can. Please support your child with this at home. Class teachers will be more than happy to support you with approaches to this if you would like further support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 14th and 15th September 9am & 5am – Little Wandle Phonics Parents' Information Evenings
- 4th October 3:30 – 5:30 and 5th October 4:00 – 6:00 Parents' Evenings – all classes
- 7th October Multiplication Tables Check Meeting with Miss McIntyre for Year 4 parents
- 20th December – Inaugural Annual Christmas Carol Concert @ Southwell Minster (more details of this event to follow)

This list will of course grow considerably over the coming weeks; we will update you as new arrangements are finalised.

Many thanks, Berry Hill Primary School Senior Leadership Team