



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024



Thank You

**SO MANY
THANK
YOUS!**

As we bring 2023-24 to a close, we have so many people and companies to say thank you to.

- Firstly to our amazing reading volunteers who come in every week to give children more opportunities to read out loud.
- To Linda and her lovely dog Daisy, thank you for giving up such a huge amount of your time for our children.
- Thank you to Sainsburys Argos, Mansfield, for giving us funds towards a freezer as part of our Food Bank initiative.
- Thank you to Blidworth Menswear for your very generous donation towards our OPAL resources.
- Thank you to Rhino Kitchen Wraps for giving some of our desks a new lease of life.
- Finally, thank you to all of our Berry Hill Community for a really positive year and in particular for supporting our amazing PTFA with so many different events.



SCHOOL STRUCTURE FOR NEXT YEAR



We are delighted that we do not have to bid farewell to any of our teachers this summer. We wish Miss Fullwood luck and happiness at her new school, having completed her apprenticeship with us and are delighted to announce that Mrs Edwards will be staying with us having also completed her apprenticeship at the same time. We will also be welcoming 3 new TA apprentices in Miss Darbyshire, Miss Hickman and Mrs Bell as well as 2 new student teachers: Miss Fox and Mr Lewin.

STAFFING 2024/25

F1: Mrs McKinlay, Miss Comery, Mrs Kenworthy, Miss Myatt (mat cover)

F2: Mrs Ireland, Mrs Miller, Mrs Sutton, Mrs Hogg, Mrs Bennett

Y1: Miss Hedges, Miss King, Mr Marriott, Miss Hickman, Miss Fox

Y2: Mrs Kendall, Miss Matthews, Miss Clarke, Mrs Colley, Miss Jones

Y3: Miss Trolley, Mrs Tranter, Mrs Palmer, Mrs Edwards

Y4: Miss Shaw, Mr Abbas, Mr Lewin, Miss Elliott, Mrs Bell

Y5: Mr Toon, Miss McIntyre, Miss Beal, Mrs Kirk

Y6: Mrs Stirling-Wood, Mrs Davis, Mrs Harris, Miss Darbyshire



A VERY MUSICAL YEAR @ BERRY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year we set out to drastically improve the music provision at Berry Hill and partnered up with Mr Stanton and his tuition company Sound Advice. 3 terms later and I am delighted by the progress that the school and pupils have made. Years 3 and 4 have a programme established where they have 12 half-terms of instrument-specific tuition. In addition to this, we have over 100 peripatetic music lessons happening weekly now.

In the autumn term we are hoping to have a new music tuition room built and we look forward to supporting more children to discover and pursue a passion for music. We currently offer additional peripatetic lessons for keyboard, drums, guitar and are starting brass lessons in September.

Music and performing arts form part of our 4 pillars on which I feel a good school must be built: supporting children to become morally strong, a well-sequenced and engaging curriculum, a breadth of performing arts opportunities and finally, a strong sports offering.

BERRY HILL HOUSES SET FOR A MAKEOVER...

When the children return in September, they will be placed into one of our four new houses, which will replace the current system of 6. The houses are based on specific trees which grow on Berry Hill's site. They will be as follows:



A YEAR OF GREAT ACCREDITATIONS

23/24 has seen Berry Hill receive 3 great accreditations as the result of much hard work: We are delighted to be only the 2nd school in the whole East Midlands to be awarded the OPAL Platinum Award. We have received the Gold School Games Mark through our wide range of clubs and tournament participations and we have also just been awarded the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Quality Mark. We are incredibly proud of all of the efforts that have gone into all of these.

GOVERNMENT'S TOUGHER MEASURES TO TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS

From September 2024, all schools are being asked to follow a national approach regarding term-time holidays. With these plans, the consequences for term-time holidays are increasing. Under this system, a fine for school absence will be £160 per pupil per parent (but reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days). If there is a second unauthorised holiday, the fine is £160 per pupil per parent with no early payment reduction. If there are 3 incidents within 3 years, the case goes directly to court with fines currently upto £2,500. We have also been warned that going to court may result in a parent failing a DBS check on the grounds of not safeguarding their child's education.

Before anyone turns up at school with an angry pitchfork, I would like to make sure everyone definitely knows the following:

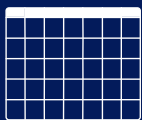
- None of this money goes to any schools
- It is school that notifies the local authority but the 'discretion' or exceptional circumstances we are allowed to grant are increasingly slim
- The DfE now monitor each school's attendance records and we have to be able to justify any decision to authorise absence
- We are specifically told that parents not being able to get time off over the summer or parents returning to their countries of origin for medical appointments should not be authorised.
- For the record, as a parent myself, I believe they should target the holiday industry about the gross inequality of pricing rather than targeting parents. However, as a headteacher I also fully agree that good attendance is vital to achieving good outcomes for our young people.

PARKING & TRAFFIC

Over recent days, we have been contacted by school's neighbours who have had people parking over the entrance to their drives at drop-off and pick-up times, blocking them in.

Could I also remind parents how dangerous it is to stop and drop children off at the zebra crossing. Several times this has resulted in someone overtaking and having no visibility of someone attempting to cross.

A FEW KEY DATES FOR AUTUMN 2024/25



- Dates can sometimes be subject to change - we'll try to tell you as early as possible if any of them do.

First day back after Summer: Weds 4th Sept

September welcome meetings for parents 3:30 or 4:30: Y1 Mon 9th; Y2 Mon 16th; Y3 Thu 19th; Y4 Thu 12th; Y5 Fri 13th; Y6 Mon 9th

Autumn Term Parents' Evenings: Tue 8th & Weds 9th October

Open Evening for parents thinking about coming to F2 next year: Thu 17th @ 5pm

EYFS Christmas Productions: Tue 10th Dec @ 9:30 & Wed 11th @ 2:00

KS1 Christmas Productions: Tue 10th Dec @ 2:00, Wed 11th @ 9:30 & Thu 12th @ 9:30

F2 - Y6 Panto Visit to the Palace Theatre: Fri 13th 2:00 - 5:30

Christmas Dinner Day: Monday 16th Dec

Southwell Minster Berry Hill Christmas Concert: Thu 19th Dec @ 7pm

Berry Hill's Christmas Fayre TBC

