



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



BUILDING UPDATES

The 'top block' is pretty much complete I am delighted to share. We have a new roof which will not leak, new ceilings, energy efficient lighting and new alarm systems. I'd like to thank the staff and particularly the children in Year 3 for being so adaptable and having a very successful half-term despite being moved all over the place! The next phase will be on the main building. The contractors are focusing on the external roof which means that we should have a clear patch of time where no classes are having to vacate their rooms whilst internal works are done – this is likely to resume in April but we will keep you updated.

TRIPS & VISITS

2025/26 has already started off with some exciting trips. Each Year 5 class has visited the Houses of Parliament, seeing the House of Commons and the House of Lords, took part in a really interesting workshop before asking their local MP some excellent questions.

Last week we also took 48 lucky children to Wembley Stadium to watch the England Men's team beat Wales 3-0. The experience was amazing although we would rather the M1 not be shut on the way back!

Year 6 have visited the National Justice Museum where they got to take part in a mock trial and learn all about England's legal system.

Next half-term, 40 very lucky members of our drama club are travelling down to the West-End to watch Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, which we are all (especially me) very excited about.

Trips for every year group are planned in and this year we are offering residential to all children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and are in the process of looking into the feasibility of a Year 2 school sleepover night!





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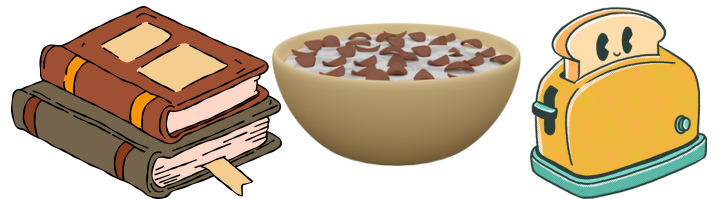
STAFFING



I would like to share the exceptionally happy news that Miss Sargison has given birth to Ida Rose and mum and daughter are doing fantastically well. We will miss her greatly whilst she enjoys her maternity leave, but are so delighted for her and her family. In a couple of days, we also say goodbye to Miss Matthews for a few months as she too goes off to start her maternity leave and we all look forward to hearing the great news. Mrs Price, our KS1 Lead and Assistant Head, will be taking over Miss

Matthew's teaching days on Mondays and Tuesdays and forming a new job share partnership with Mrs Kendall. With all these people going off, it has left my support and cover capacity a little bare – so with that in mind, I have asked Mrs Trenowden to help Berry Hill out for a couple of terms as a cover supervisor. She will be joining Berry Hill after half-term, working with children in KS1 and giving us a much-needed option to cover any training or absence.

BREAKFAST CLUB



After half term I'm going to trial a few changes, and hopefully improvements, to how we run breakfast club. We often have many children of varying ages and it is not always the calmest of atmospheres so I'd like to make this better.

We will have 5 regular activities: outdoor sports, construction play, arts and crafts, board games and we are going to use our library for stories and as somewhere children can sit and natter. We are going to do the eating part altogether from 8:20 until 8:40 where the children can all sit together, eat and chat. This will hopefully address the issue of some children not wanting to eat because they feel they are sacrificing play. Instead of having a member of staff doing a register on an iPad, I'd rather have more staff to interact with the children, so after half term, we will ask the children to sign in on the signing in screen in reception (which the adults will have live access to in the hall). When you bring your child, please have them sign in and bring them into the hall and hand them over to an adult, so that you know that we're aware they are with us. If you send your child to breakfast club and would like them to eat, please try and get them here for 8:20. Hopefully these changes will give the children a more enjoyable atmosphere.



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Stronger **TESCO**
Starts *Every little helps*



THANKYOU FROM US & MRS B...

“Berry Hill Primary School was very pleased to hear over the summer holidays that we had secured first place in the TESCO in store blue token voting. We have made a swift start to spending that money and this last week of the half term have welcomed Stuart Barrett, from Just Grown Forest School. He has erected a canopy that goes over part of the Forest School area. This should keep us much drier in the coming months but is very easy to put up and take down. Mrs B is looking forward to trying it out when we come back after October half term. Thank you very much to everyone who voted for us in our local Tesco Store, that helped us secure this funding. Without your votes we would not have secured this amount of money to complete this project”



HARVEST

In the first week back after the half term holiday we are making a collection of non-perishable items for the Sherwood Forest Food Bank. This is to complete our Harvest Festival celebration in school. Miss Trolley led an assembly this half term, to talk about harvest and why we are making this collection. The Food Bank have a list of items that they are always in need of, but obviously as long as it is not perishable, then anything is welcome, particularly toiletries. Please bring your items to main reception from 3rd to 7th November.

The collection will be picked up by the Food Bank team on 10th November.

- Tinned Spaghetti / Baked Beans / Soup / Fish / Potatoes
- Tinned cold meat (corned beef/ham etc) (400gms)
- Red & brown sauce
- Cartons of juice
- UHT milk (1 litre)
- Sponge puddings
- Tea & Coffee
- Female sanitary product - pads, tampons etc.
- Toiletries - deodorants, bars of soap, shampoo/shower gel, razors
- Carrier bags - bags for life etc.



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CLUBS & TEAMS

It has been a fantastic first half-term of clubs with new clubs being offered out for next half term. I have had a couple of conversations with parents in Year 3, who are not familiar with how we do clubs and teams, so wanted to take this opportunity to clarify things for everyone. Each half-term, we try and run as many clubs as we can and often we put on clubs in the build-up to matches, festivals or competitions which are organised by Mansfield's 'School Games Co-ordinator', The adults who run the clubs, choose children from the clubs to represent school, based on how they've done in the clubs and sometimes how they've got on in comparable PE sessions. We try to give as many children the opportunity to represent Berry Hill as we can. Last year in years 5 and 6, 40 different children had the opportunity to play as part of our 5/6 football team. Obviously we can't take the entire club to every game as 16 subs would be ridiculous, but by the end of the year we hope to have given loads of our children the chance to attend. More club opportunities will be shared throughout the year but I did want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff who put these on – they are voluntary and I am so lucky to have so many people willing to do these out of good will.

EYFS AND KEY STAGE 1 PRODUCTIONS

Shortly after half term, parents of EYFS, Year 1 and 2 will receive ticketing details for our Christmas Productions. The dates are:

Key Stage 1:

Monday 8th December @ 2pm

Tuesday 9th December @ 9:30am

Tuesday 9th December @ 2pm

EYFS:

Wednesday 10th December @ 9:30

Thursday 11th December @ 2pm





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PARKING AND MORNING TRAFFIC

Parking and morning drop-offs has always been an area where we need our parents and careers' full cooperation in order to keep the mornings as calm and safe as we can. Particularly with so much of school's car parking presently out of bounds, congestion has increased a little. Could I please ask all members of our community to try and remain as patient as possible – there have been a couple of incidents where people have clearly become frustrated waiting to turn or pull out and have then sped off at a completely inappropriate speed, causing children and parents and myself to feel really concerned. I absolutely appreciate that drop offs can feel like a bit of a challenge on some days, but potentially hitting a child because someone has been delayed for 3 minutes is not something I want on anyone's conscience.

Can I also remind parents again that after 8 in the morning you are not allowed to park or stop on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school. The white zig-zag lines either side of the zebra crossing are always illegal to stop on and doing either of these things makes visibility for children crossing the road riskier than it needs to be. We regularly have the traffic camera car drive up and down Black Scotch Lane in the mornings and at pickup times and I know there have been several fines issued in the past.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tues 4th Nov F2: PTFA Autumn Crafts

Fri 7th Nov: PTFA Bingo & Karaoke (7pm - 11pm) – just for the grown-ups!

Mon 10th Nov: Wear Odd Socks Day to support anti-bullying and mental health

Thurs 13th Nov: PTFA Children's Discos (Y1&2 3:30 – 4:30; Y3&4 4:45-5:45; Y5&6 6:00-7:00)

Weds 10th Dec: F2 to Y6 Pantomime Visit to Palace Theatre (return 5-5:30pm)

Sun 14th Dec: The big PTFA Christmas Fair: 10:30 – 1pm

Mon 15th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day and School Christmas Dinner Day

Thurs 18th Dec: Christmas Carol Concert @ Southwell Minster 7pm

Fri 19th Dec: Parent's Christmas Crafts Morning: 9:00 – 10:30

New for 2025/2026: Any families who are able and would like to start the Christmas break a little earlier are offered to come and collect their child at 1:30 on the last day of term. Please be reminded that there is not an after-school club on this day.

We hope all of our families have a lovely half-term