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How much is your child online?

Children are spending more time than ever online. As adults, we need to do everything we can to keep them safe in the digital world.

Do you know what your child is doing or accessing online?

Please can we remind you:

- to check your children's privacy settings on their various accounts
- to talk to your children about who they are interacting with online, are they friends or strangers?
- to ensure your child is not playing games or watching content that is not age appropriate, as many games and videos aimed at older children contain violence, theft, aggression and content that is not suitable for primary school children.

You may find these links helpful:

First full week of school 2022!

Despite the cold and frosty days last week we had successful and busy week as we moved fully into the spring term. This week promises to be equally as busy in all classes as the children get stuck into their learning.

We continue to rise to the challenge of covid with well-ventilated classrooms, regular handwashing and sanitising and maintaining our class bubbles, as long as staffing levels allow. Where staff are absent for any reason, classes will be covered where possible by other school staff. High levels of absence may result in classes being combined in order to maintain face to face teaching.

We shall continue to communicate regularly during this pandemic and keep you aware of any changes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Lowndes
Headteacher

Meet our staff team



Hi! My name is Mrs Maude, I have had the privilege of working at Baldwins Gate for almost 12 years! Currently I teach year 2 but have worked with children from nursery to year 5. I am part of the senior leadership team and deputise in the absence of Mrs Lowndes. I lead Key Stage One, Safeguarding and English and have a passion for education and making learning fun for all.

Recently I have undertaken the role of associate teacher for the Royal Shakespeare Company and I am excited by the many opportunities that this brings to our school.

When I am not at school I enjoy going on adventures with my husband in our campervan, Darcy, and walking our dog Poppy in the countryside.

Library Bus

As you may be aware the Mobile Library Bus is returning to the village, after a request from the school, every second Friday from 10:20am – 11:00am.

We are very excited to be accessing the library bus, starting with years 5 and 6. This Friday 21st January will be year 6's first visit, year 5 will visit on 4th February. We will extend this to other classes throughout this academic year, so that as many children as possible have the opportunity to visit.



If your child is in year 5 or 6 please return the permission forms as soon as possible – if not already done so.

After School Clubs

The children's learning continues beyond the classroom and this term school staff are offering a variety of extra-curricular clubs, as you can see from the list below:

- Funky Fingers – Reception
- Mindfulness – Year 1
- Gardening – Year 2
- Games – Year 3
- Crafts – Year 4
- Cookery – Year 5
- Sign Language – Year 6

Please collect children promptly at the stated finishing time unless they are booked into BUZZ.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



Our Prayer this week

Dear Lord,

*We give you our school.
We give you all the teachers
and staff who work here,
We give you all the children
who study here.
We pray our school would be
place of great discovery,
adventure and creativity.
May it be a place where we
love to learn and where we
learn to love,
A place where everyone is
respected and all are deeply
valued.
We ask all this through Jesus
Christ our Lord.*

Amen



**The deadline date for
Nursery admissions
(September 2022) is
Monday 31st January.**

Community Fundraising

Whitmore Parish Council is raising money for a defibrillator.

“The intention is to install a defibrillator in a redundant telephone kiosk and to site it adjacent to the bus stop outside the Sheet Anchor, which is where it used to be located when it was still functioning as a telephone kiosk. Whitmore Parish Council own the kiosk but for a number of years it has been in the safekeeping of a resident, who has undertaken to completely refurbish it and to relocate it. Whitmore Parish Council has obtained the necessary permissions from Highways and NuLBC to the location and the intended purpose, leaving us now to obtain the necessary funding, which amounts to £4012, which includes the defib kit, installation and power supply.”

As a school we are keen to support our community and will be holding a fundraising event later this half term – watch this space for more information.

Big Schools' Birdwatch

This year each class will be taking part in the RSPB's 'Big School's Birdwatch 2022' during week commencing 24th January. The children will be going out into the school grounds to see which birds they can spot. We hope that taking part will develop the children's knowledge of British birds, how to spot them and how to identify them, as well as being a fun activity for all.



This is also something you can take part in at home using the link below.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Covid update

Guidance on isolation has changed:

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD), test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace. If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

If you are informed that there has been a Covid case within your child's class—we would encourage you to conduct LFD tests regularly. Children can be asymptomatic and on these occasions - symptoms will simply not show.

Please see the link to the latest isolation guidance as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Should a child receive a positive test please inform the school office as soon as possible.

We ask you to ensure you are aware of Covid symptoms in children:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

IEP Review Meetings

IEP review meetings are being held over the next couple of weeks. If your child has an IEP, you will be contacted by their class teacher in order to arrange a meeting. If you have any further questions regarding your child's learning, please contact Mrs Lowndes as the SENDCo.

Term Time Holiday Requests

A significant amount of school time is lost each year as a result of parents taking their children out of school in order to go on holiday. We would like to inform parents of the issues they need to consider when thinking about a holiday during term time.

The relevant regulations were amended to remove the discretion headteachers previously had to grant leave for term time holidays in special circumstances. The regulations now state that headteachers may only grant any leave of absence during term time if there are exceptional circumstances.

The following are not considered exceptional circumstances:

- the availability of cheap holidays
- the availability of desired accommodation
- poor weather experienced during school holiday periods
- an overlap with the beginning/end of term
- you have not previously requested term time leave

If you take your child out of school for a holiday without exceptional circumstances, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

It is important to remember that by taking your child out of school during term time you may be giving him/her an unspoken message that school is not important. You should also bear in mind that some children may find it difficult to renew friendships with other children when they return to school after a period of absence. But you should remember most of all that every lesson counts!

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Superstar Awards

Awards have been presented to:	
Nursery	Arthur
Reception	Ella-Grace, Georgie
Year 1	Poppy, Sennon
Year 2	James, Sophie
Year 3	Lily, Xavier
Year 4	Arthur, Phoebe
Year 5	Constantina, Holly
Year 6	Ella, Lexi



Headteacher Awards

Children can be nominated to receive a Headteacher's Award from Mrs Lowndes which recognises something special that has been achieved. This could be related to their work, behaviour or attitude to the school community.



The first Headteacher's Award goes to: *Ava in Year 3*

Well done!

What's on this week?

Week commencing Monday 17 th January	
Monday	Mrs Lowndes visit St Luke's Primary School, Cannock, with Mrs Boulton (Chair of Governors)
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Mrs Roche attending online RE course (Mrs Heathcote teaching Year 3 all day) Educational Psychologist in school (am)
Thursday	Year 6 - TweenSAFE (3 of 6)
Friday	

Baldwins Gate Primary School – 2021/2022 Diary Dates

PLEASE CHECK DIARY DATES ON A REGULAR BASIS IN CASE OF AMENDMENT

Date	Event
Friday 15 th October	Deadline for the return of Academy Photo orders to school
Thursday 21 st October	Pupils break up for half term
Friday 22 nd October	Staff Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th October	October half term week
Monday 1 st November	Pupils return to school

Thursday 4 th November	Bonfire Night Themed Lunch
Monday 8 th November	Reception and Year 6 – Height and Weight checks
Thursday 11 th November	Flu immunisation team in school – Reception to Year 6
Monday 15 th November	Stoke City Football Club City 7's in school to visit pupils in Year 2 and Year 3
Wednesday 17 th November	Year 5 and Year 6 religious difference and diversity workshops in school
Friday 19 th November	Children in Need – wear your glitz n glamour for a £1.00 donation to Children in Need
Thursday 2 nd December	PTA Film Night 3.30 – 5.30 pm BUZZ after school club closed.
Friday 3 rd December	Year 6 Ancient Greek Day
Friday 10 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – wear your Christmas Jumper and donate £1.00 to Save the Children Surprise Jars to school please
Wednesday 15 th December	Christmas Lunch in school Class Christmas Parties (bring a £1.00 for Surprise Jars)
Friday 17 th December	Break up for Christmas holiday
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Staff Inset Day
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Pupils return to school
Saturday 15 th January	Closing date for Reception admissions
Thursday 17 th February	Arc Theatre in school – road safety and staying safe around construction sites workshops to Years 5 and 6
Friday 18 th February	Last day before half term
Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 28 th February	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 1 st March	Secondary school offers
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day
Friday 4 th March	Year 5 London Transport Museum virtual workshop
Friday 25 th March	Year 6 London Transport Museum virtual workshop
Friday 8 th April	INSET Day School closed to pupils
Monday 11 th – Friday 22 nd April	Easter Holiday (Easter Monday on 18 th April)
Monday 25 th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Week commencing 9 th May	KS2 SATs
Friday 27 th May	Last day before Half Term
Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June	Half Term (Bank holidays on 2 nd and 3 rd June – Queen's Platinum Jubilee)
Monday 6 th June	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 8 th to Friday 10 th June	Year 6 residential to Llandudno
Monday 20 th to Wednesday 22 nd June	Year 5 residential to Boreatton Park
Wednesday 13 th to Friday 15 th July	Year 4 residential to Stanley Head
Thursday 14 th July	Year 3 day visit to Stanley Head (1 of 2)
Friday 15 th July	Year 3 day visit to Stanley Head (2 of 2)
Wednesday 20 th July	Last day before summer holiday
Thursday 21 st July	Summer holiday starts