

# Newsletter - May 2018

## CURRICULUM SURVEYS

Thank you to everyone who has completed the online curriculum surveys regarding Ballifield's curriculum. The staff and children have also completed questionnaires which we are using to review and redesign our current curriculum over the next few years.

We will be sending you the outcomes of the surveys and we will continue to involve you in the process.

## WARM WEATHER

As the better weather is now here, could we please remind children to bring a named plastic drinks bottle which can then be refilled during the day.



Children can get very thirsty and due to hygiene issues it is not possible for school to provide plastic cups.

On really sunny days we also advise parents to apply sunscreen before children come to school and provide a sunhat.

## PARKING

Thank you for your response and support with the issues regarding parking around school. As stated in my letter, we will continue to work on developing a long-term plan on the parking issues but in the short term there have been some improvements to the start of the day. Could I please ask that you continue to be considerate of local residents and abide by the road markings.



## VISITS, VISITORS & EXPERIENCES

- Y1 Whirlow Hall Farm trip
- Y2 Yorkshire Wildlife Park trip
- Y3 multi-skills activity at Handsworth Grange School
- Y4C trip to SUFC
- Y5R Orienteering at Handsworth Grange
- Y5 Viking day
- PE challenge day
- Spring discos



Next half-term will be just as busy as we start transition activities throughout the school and we celebrate Healthy Schools day on the 27th June and Sports day on the 23rd July.

**Ballifield will close for the half term break on Wednesday 23rd May at 3.15pm. (Thursday and Friday are staff training days).**

**We re-open to children on Monday 4th June.**

## HANDWRITING

The teacher training day on Friday 25th May will focus on handwriting. We will be working with a handwriting consultant, called Martin Harvey, from ISHA (Improvement in School through Handwriting and Art) who delivers staff training which enables schools to develop excellent handwriting and high quality presentation skills in both pupils and staff. ISHA will provide teachers with the knowledge and understanding of how to teach handwriting effectively. They model effective teaching strategies, effective teaching language, understanding of how to interact with children during lessons and how to structure handwriting lessons.



Teaching handwriting effectively has four great benefits:

1. The impact on children's self-esteem, of seeing beautiful writing which they have created with their own hand.
2. The huge effect of good handwriting on children's motivation and enjoyment for writing.
3. Developing a strong sense of pride which cannot be measured by National Curriculum levels.
4. Where children have good handwriting and are really proud of how their work looks, they become far more meticulous about spelling, punctuation, grammar and their use of language.

More information to follow after half-term. To see the standards that ISHA help schools to achieve, have a look at their website: [www.improvementinschool.co.uk](http://www.improvementinschool.co.uk)

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

A really busy half term is nearly behind us. The Y2s and Y6s have completed their SATs tests and the teachers will be busy writing end of year reports which you will receive in July.

On May 23rd our Nurture unit will be undertaking the Boxall Quality Mark accreditation in recognition of the excellent practice that the Haven Unit and staff provide and in September the Leading Parent Partnership Award accreditation will be taking place. More information to follow!

We are currently finalising our staffing structure for the next school year. Hopefully we will have these details ready for you when we return from the half term break.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Amanda Smith*

