

Dear Parents

School is up and running! It is superb to see all of our boys back in the classrooms, on the fields and around the estate. They have filled the place with energy, excitement and enthusiasm to get going. Let's hope it continues for the whole term!

Next week we will have Meet the Tutor evenings (see below for dates and timings), and I hope the name explains the emphasis of the evenings. This is a new initiative, and we hope you will find the evenings useful. We will start with some general information, followed by a chance to meet your son's tutor. For those who want to, there will be a glass of wine or soft drink afterwards, and a chance to chat with staff and other parents. Boys are not invited to attend this event.

In the first assembly of term I talked to the boys about challenge (perhaps they will explain to you the challenge I undertook on my holiday in the Alps) and I encouraged them to challenge themselves this year to be the best they can possibly be. We want the boys to be challenged; we don't expect everything to go smoothly, or for them to find everything easy, but we do want them to embrace the challenge and grow accordingly.

Excitingly, the Inky Library has been refurbished over the summer, and the books have been labelled and positioned in order to fit in with the Accelerated Reader scheme (see below). There will be a chance to celebrate an opening, with our new patron of reading, later in the term - details to follow.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend. Please do read through, and enjoy, the bulletin and let us know if there is anything else you would like to see included.

YEAR 3

Introduction to the Accelerated Reader programme

The Accelerated Reader is a reading programme that we use that enables us to very effectively and confidently monitor, support and quantify progress in reading ability. This week, all boys in Years 3 and 4 have undergone a computerised reading test, the results from which will enable them to commence (or recommence) the Accelerated Reader

programme next week. Please click [here](#) for an explanation of the programme by way of a glossary of key terms. If it seems confusing, rest assured that it will become clearer as the boys get stuck into it. Please note that this information will shortly be placed onto the school's Firefly site and you will be shown how to access it at the Meet the Tutor evenings next week.

Meet the Tutor & Information Evening for Parents of Y3-5 boys, Tues 12th September

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at this event next week which is taking place from 6 - 8pm on Tuesday 12th September in the Prep School EMH. Please note that this event is for parents only.

Y3 Trip to Ickwell, Tuesday 12th September

This term our Y3 boys will have an opportunity to participate in a team building trip to our nature reserve site at Ickwell during the school day to do some bush craft. For further information please see [here](#). Packed lunches are being ordered on Monday morning so please can you complete the form [here](#) by Sunday 10th September.

Y3-4 Tennis Club, starting Thursday 14th September

We are looking to start the very well attended Y3/Y4 tennis club next Thursday 14th September. The club starts at 7.15am and runs until 8.15am. We will be in the Sports Hall and the boys need to access the school by the main gates, and leave their equipment in the first changing room. The boys need to come changed and an appropriately sized tennis racket is desirable but not essential. To maximise the time, we are running later and therefore the boys will need to have breakfast before they come. A snack after the club may be desirable. The boys will then change and go to registration.

Y3 Hungry Boys' Club

The Hungry Boys' Club is an after school cookery club where boys learn how to cook different recipes to bring home. Run by Mrs Carrington in the school dining halls, the club starts on Tuesday 3rd October and places are limited. For further information on how to sign your son up please see [here](#).

PE and Games

Although the PE staff have been really impressed with the boys, could we please ask you to practise tying ties, tying shoelaces and doing up buttons with the boys. This will help speed up changing before and after PE.

YEAR 4

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Collecting exercise books from last year

Boys who were in Year 3 or Year 4 during the last academic year are invited to collect their old exercise books for the subjects that they were taught by their form tutor from their old tutor rooms at lunchtime on Monday 11th September. Boys will be told of this opportunity via the internal school bulletin on Monday morning, but parents who are particularly keen that the books come home are encouraged to remind their sons too. Any books not collected will go to recycling.

Meet the Tutor & Information Evening for Parents of Y3-5 boys, Tues 12th September

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Y4 Trip to Ickwell, Tuesday 26th September

This term our Y4 boys will have an opportunity to participate in a team building trip to our nature reserve site at Ickwell during the school day to do some bush craft. For further information please see [here](#). To sign your son up please can you complete the form [here](#) by Thursday 14th September.

Y3-4 Tennis Club, starting Thursday 14th September

We are looking to start the very well attended Y3/Y4 tennis club next Thursday 14th September. The club starts at 7.15am and runs until 8.15am. We will be in the Sports Hall and the boys need to access the school by the main gates, and leave their equipment in the first changing room. The boys need to come changed and an appropriately sized tennis racket is desirable but not essential. To maximise the time, we are running later and therefore the boys will need to have breakfast before they come. A snack after the club may be desirable. The boys will then change and go to registration.

Y4-5 Saturday Morning Sports Activities

Saturday morning Rugby and Hockey is starting tomorrow for those who would like to come. This is available to all boys in Year 4 and 5. Please can boys bring the correct kit for the sport plus water and snacks. Boys do not have to do both sports if they do not wish to. These sessions are not compulsory but are there to enhance their development and enjoyment of the sports.

9am -10am Rugby on Main Field meet at Langham Pavilion

10.15am -11.15am Hockey on Philpotts Astro

9th Sept

16th Sept (Y4 only. Y5 Fixture)

30th Sept

4th Nov

11th Nov

18th Nov (Y4 only. Y5 Fixture)

2nd Dec

9th Dec (Y4 only. Y5 Fixture)

YEAR 5

Accelerated Reader Programme

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Accelerated Reader Programme for the whole school, from Year 3-8. It is a reading programme that we use that enables us to very effectively and confidently monitor, support and quantify progress in reading ability. Currently 17,000 schools in the UK use it. By the end of next week all boys will have undergone a computerised reading test, the results from which will enable them to commence (or recommence) the Accelerated Reader programme next week. Please click [here](#) for an explanation of the programme by way of a glossary of key terms. If it seems confusing, rest assured that it will become clearer as the boys get stuck into it. Please note that this information will shortly be placed onto the school's Firefly site and you will be shown how to access it at the Meet the Tutor evenings next week.

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Y5 Trip to Ickwell, Tuesday 19th September

This term our Y5 boys will have an opportunity to participate in a team building trip to our nature reserve site at Ickwell during the school day to do some bush craft. For further information please see [here](#). To sign your son up please can you complete the form [here](#) by Friday 15th September.

Y4-5 Saturday Morning Sports Activities

Saturday morning Rugby and Hockey is starting tomorrow for those who would like to come. This is available to all boys in Year 4 and 5. Please can boys bring the correct kit for the sport plus water and snacks. Boys do not have to do both sports if they do not wish to. These sessions are not compulsory but are there to enhance their development and enjoyment of the sports.

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4th Nov

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18th Nov (Y4 only. Y5 Fixture)

2nd Dec

9th Dec (Y4 only. Y5 Fixture)

New boys in Y5-8 - Hockey Assessment, Monday 11th September

Could all new boys please bring their trainers and gumshields in on Monday to do a hockey assessment in the Sports Hall at lunchtime. Sticks can be provided.

YEAR 6

Accelerated Reader Programme

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Meet the Tutor and Information Evening for Parents of Y6-8 boys, Thurs 14th Sept

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at this event next week which is taking place from 6 - 8pm on Thursday 14th September in the Prep School EMH. Please note that this event is for parents only.

New boys in Y5-8 - Hockey Assessment, Monday 11th September

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YEAR 7

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New boys in Y5-8 - Hockey Assessment, Monday 11th September

Could all new boys please bring their trainers and gumshields in on Monday to do a hockey assessment in the Sports Hall at lunchtime. Sticks can be provided.

Y7 Spy Challenge Trip, Monday 25th September

A trip to Spy Games in Milton Keynes has been arranged for the Y7 boys on Monday 25th September. Aimed at developing team-work skills, the boys will take part in a number of spy based challenges including safe cracking and laser combat. For further information please

see [here](#) and to sign your son up please complete the online [form](#). The deadline for the trip is Friday 15th September.

YEAR 8

Accelerated Reader Programme

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New boys in Y5-8 - Hockey Assessment, Monday 11th September

Could all new boys please bring their trainers and gumshields in on Monday to do a hockey assessment in the Sports Hall at lunchtime. Sticks can be provided.

Y8 Rugby 7s Club starting tomorrow

Mr Phillips and Mr Allen will be running the Rugby 7s club after school on Saturdays starting tomorrow. The club runs from 12:15 - 13:30 and boys should meet on the Prep Astro. Boys should go to lunch in the dining halls and then get changed.

Prefects

Prefects will be chosen shortly, and we wanted to outline the process for selection of prefects. Mr Beckwith (Head of Year 8) spoke to all the boys last term to explain how the process works and the majority have applied by sending their application letters in. There

are a number of details, including criteria, application process, duties and privileges, and job specification, on firefly, which can be found by clicking the following link: [prefects](#)

This year, in line with our policy regarding parents who are teaching staff of boys in the relevant year group, the Headmaster will take himself out of the process.

The process is quite straightforward. We read each boy's application letter and all staff have the opportunity to give positive comments on the boys who have applied, assessing them against the criteria. Then, last year's tutors and Heads of Year, together with this year's tutors and Head of Year and Senior Leadership Team, discuss each boy and come up with a final shortlist. We try to keep the initial list short and appoint boys who display the vast majority of the criteria in their behaviour about school, and make further appointments throughout the year.

ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Inky Library

In order to encourage reading further, we have refurbished the Inky Library. Thanks to the thorough and painstaking work of our librarian, Mrs Lumley-Wood, the refurbished library has been completely reconfigured and labelled in order to fit in with the Accelerated Reader scheme. If you are at all interested, please do come and have a look. It has been completely transformed and we are very excited about reintroducing it to the school community.

Prep School Activities List

Our list of clubs is now available to view on Firefly [Prep School Autumn Activities 2017](#).

Sports Clubs Timetable

The sports club timetable is now available to view on Firefly [here](#)

Head of History

Last year I wrote to parents to say that Miss Randhawa would be starting with us in January. Over the summer we were very pleased to find out that she would be able to start in September. In further news, I am delighted to let you know that she had a wedding in August, so is now Mrs Badhan. Therefore, Mrs Badhan is our new Head of History, and form tutor of 8M. Those of you whose sons are taught History by Mrs Badhan (nee Randhawa) or

are in her tutor group will perhaps already have realised this. Apologies we did not tell you at the start of term.

Parent Helpers for Year 3 and 4 Guided Reading

We are looking for more parent helpers for our Guided Reading scheme which we successfully introduced last year. We are looking for parents from all year groups to help with the Year 3 and 4 boys and the sessions will run every Monday afternoon. For further information and to register your interest please see [here](#). Any help with this initiative, which we know benefits the boys enormously and which we believe helpers really enjoy too, would be hugely appreciated.

Saturday School

A reminder that Saturday school starts in Year 6, so we look forward to seeing Year 6 boys for their first taste of Saturday school tomorrow. Saturday school starts at 8:35 and finishes at 11:40.

Nearly New Shop Open tomorrow Saturday 9th September

The Parents' Guild Nearly New Shop on Burnaby Road (entrance through the Main Shop) will be open tomorrow from 8.30am to 10.30am. Come along and grab yourself a coffee whilst you browse the shop for bargains. We very much look forward to welcoming and meeting new parents. For all our opening times this term, and to find out how to sell items through the Nearly New Shop, visit our [website](#). Follow us on Twitter at [@bedfordguild](#) or email us at parentsguild@bedfordschool.org.uk

Transport to and from school

In order to keep our database details up to date, we would be grateful if you could let the school know if the way in which your son travels to school has changed since last year, particularly if he is catching a bus for the first time. If he is now travelling to and from school by bus please email prepinfo@bedfordschool.org.uk with his bus number or if he is now travelling to and from school by car rather than bus please also email in. Thank you for your help.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

The Prep Guild and The Parents' Guild warmly invite parents, grandparents and friends of boys from across the whole school to come for coffee and cake in the Cafe Bar (next to the

Dining Halls) between 8.30am and 12.30pm on Saturday 16th September to raise money for MacMillan. Children are also most welcome. Please see the flyer [here](#).

For the calendar please click [here](#)

For sports fixtures please click [here](#)

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
11/09/2017	17:45	19:30	Boarders' BBQ at Sussex House
12/09/2017	08:50	16:05	Y3 Trip to Ickwell
12/09/2017	18:00	20:00	Information evening and meet the tutor evening for Y3-5 parents
14/09/2017	09:00	16:10	Y8 Talented Art Visit
14/09/2017	18:00	20:00	Information evening and meet the Form Tutor evening for Y6-8 parents
16/09/2017	08:30	12:30	Prep Guild Macmillan Coffee Morning
19/09/2017	09:00	11:55	Y7 Talented Art workshop
19/09/2017	09:00	16:00	Y5 Visit to Ickwell
20/09/2017	19:00	20:30	Prep School Curriculum & Website Information evening for parents
23/09/2017			EXEAT
24/09/2017			EXEAT

This term's letters are also available to view in the Parents' section on the school website on the [Parents' Letters Page](#)

For details on all the concerts, exhibitions and lectures this term, please see the [What's On Page](#)

