

Dear Parents

Half-term is upon us and the term so far seems to have flown by. However, boys certainly seem ready for a break and a rest. It has been a very busy half-term, which concluded with a thoroughly enjoyable week. We enjoyed hosting Bedford School and England rugby legend, Budge Rogers, for a book signing of his biography which has just been released. We also enjoyed seeing Y3 and Y4 parents at Parents' Evening and hope they found it helpful and useful. On Friday a group of artists enjoyed a visit to the Henry Moore Foundation to be inspired by sculpture, and Y3 boys (and staff) dressed up for Egyptian Day. I hope all boys, staff and parents are able to enjoy some time off over the next few weeks (although I know that many of us will have to carry on working!), and we look forward to seeing the boys again on Monday 30th October fully refreshed.

After half-term we welcome Y5 parents to their Parents' Evening and details of how to book your appointments are below. Details of other highlights, events and opportunities which take place after half-term are contained below, including our new Gardening Club run by Miss Chaillou for boys from Y3-6, and the opportunity to get your favourite word emblazoned on the wall in the newly refurbished Inky Library.

Have a great half-term.

YEAR 3

Y3 DT Holiday activity

The DT department have set some optional holiday activities that boys might like to have a go at. No obligation but there are Merits on offer for good efforts. Please see the link to the project [here](#).

Y3-4 Football Club - no club after half term

Just a reminder that the Y3-4 Football club will now not be on until after Easter.

Y3-6 Gardening Club

After half term, Miss Chaillou will be starting a Nature and Gardening Club after school on Wednesdays. The boys will learn how to look after wildlife (building dens and making food balls) and they will try their hand at growing some flowers and vegetables in the spring term. Boys should meet in W13 and the club will finish at 5pm.

Y3 Hungry Boys Club - next club on Tuesday 31st October

Please note that the Hungry Boys club will start again after half term on Tuesday 31st October and will finish at 5.30pm.

YEAR 4

Y4 DT Holiday activity

The DT department have set some optional holiday activities that boys might like to have a go at. No obligation but there are Merits on offer for good efforts. Please see the links for the [Squire Bot](#) and the [Shield](#) projects.

Y3-4 Football Club - no club after half term

Just a reminder that the Y3-4 Football club will now not be on until after Easter.

Y3-6 Gardening Club

After half term, Miss Chaillou will be starting a Nature and Gardening Club after school on Wednesdays. The boys will learn how to look after wildlife (building dens and making food balls) and they will try their hand at growing some flowers and vegetables in the spring term. Boys should meet in W13 and the club will finish at 5pm.

Y4 Verulamium Museum Trip, Friday 3rd November

The Y4 boys will be going to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans on the first Friday after half term. Thank you to those of you who have completed the form. If you haven't yet signed your son up, please do as soon as possible via the online form in the letter [here](#). Boys should come to school in normal school uniform and bring a coat and a water bottle. They will also need to bring a packed lunch if they have opted to bring one from home.

Y4 PGL Trip, 6th - 8th June 2018

We are once again running a PGL trip for our Y4s in the summer term and we are returning to Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire. The trip will run from Wed 6th - Fri 8th June and will cost £315. Last year all the boys went and had an amazing time. For further information please see [here](#). If you would like your son to take part, please return the slip at the bottom of the letter, together with the [medical form](#), the [booking form](#) and a deposit of £100 as soon as possible.

YEAR 5

Y5 Parents' Evening, from 4.30pm in the EMH, Tue 31st Oct & Thur 2nd Nov

A brief reminder about the Parents' Evening for all Year 5 parents/guardians. The meetings take place on **Tuesday 31st October (5M & 5V) and Thursday 2nd November (5N & 5S) from 4.30pm in the EMH.** To book your appointments, please visit <https://bedfordschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> For more details please see the [booking guide](#). **Please note that appointments can be made until 12pm on Monday 30th October at which point the booking system will close.** Should you wish to make any changes after this time please contact Lesley Johnson via the Prep School reception or by email at prepinfo@bedfordschool.org.uk. Finally, in the interests of ensuring that all parents get to speak to their son's teacher at the allotted time, please can I urge all parents not to go beyond the 5 minute time allotted to you. Should a longer discussion prove necessary please make arrangements to speak to your son's teacher at an alternative time, rather than taking the time booked by another parent.

Y3-6 Gardening Club

After half term, Miss Chaillou will be starting a Nature and Gardening Club after school on Wednesdays. The boys will learn how to look after wildlife (building dens and making food balls) and they will try their hand at growing some flowers and vegetables in the spring term. Boys should meet in W13 and the club will finish at 5pm.

YEAR 6

Y3-6 Gardening Club

After half term, Miss Chaillou will be starting a Nature and Gardening Club after school on Wednesdays. The boys will learn how to look after wildlife (building dens and making food balls) and they will try their hand at growing some flowers and vegetables in the spring term. Boys should meet in W13 and the club will finish at 5pm.

YEAR 7

YEAR 8

Y8 Parents' Evening, from 4.30pm in the EMH

Monday 6th November (8M and 8S)

Tuesday 7th November (8V and 8N)

Thursday 9th November (8J)

The Y8 Parents' Evenings take place after half term. Parents should book appointments to see their son's teachers via an online system which is now open. To book your appointments please visit:

<https://bedfordschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

A link to a short guide on how to add appointments can be found [here](#). You will need to login with the following information:

Son's first name (preferred name on isams)

Son's surname

Son's date of birth.

If you have any questions, please contact prepinfo@bedfordschool.org.uk

Upper School Open Morning for Current Y8 Boys and Parents, Saturday 18th November 2017

The Upper School will be holding an Open Morning for all Year 8 parents and guardians on Saturday 18th November. This will provide you with an opportunity to tour the Upper School and to meet with some key members of staff.

The programme for the morning will be:

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| 10.00am | Arrival and refreshments in the Erskine May Hall Foyer |
| 10.15am | Boys join their parents after periods 1 and 2 |
| 10.30am | Welcome by the Head Master, James Hodgson, in the EMH |
| 11.00am | Tours of the Upper School |
| 11.45am | Refreshments in the Great Hall and an opportunity to speak to key staff |
| 12.30pm | Event finishes |

For those travelling by car, we would be grateful if you could arrive via the Burnaby Road entrance, where our Security Team will be on hand to direct you to parking. There is no need to confirm your attendance, however please don't hesitate to contact our Admissions Team on 01234 362216 if you have any questions.

Scholarship and Bursary Awards

(for Current Y8 Boys as they Join the Upper School in September 2018)

Application Deadline Friday 1st December 2017

A range of scholarships are available to current Bedford Prep School boys as they move into Year 9 in the Upper School. Scholarships are awarded to boys who excel academically, or show outstanding talent in Art, Drama, Music or Sport (Rugby, Hockey, Rowing, Cricket and Golf). Boys who show ability in two or more of these areas and/or demonstrate other particular strengths may be considered for an all-round award.

Up to 20 Scholars will receive up to a maximum of 10% of annual school fees from the Harpur Trust. Up to 12 of these Scholars may receive up to a further 25% of annual fees if they demonstrate exceptional talent. This additional funding, from the Brian Saville Scholarship Fund, gives a total award of up to 35% of annual school fees.

Financial support is also available to boys entering Year 9 on a means-tested basis through our Bursary Award Scheme. If you would like to receive further information about the scheme, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Department at admissions@bedfordschool.org.uk or by telephone on 01234 362216.

Please note that the closing date for Scholarship and Bursary applications is **Friday 1st December 2017**. Applications received after this date can unfortunately not be considered.

Scholarship application forms can be collected from the Prep School Reception or are available to download from the Admissions section of the school website [here](#).

ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Bringing Medicines into School

We would like to remind you about the protocols regarding medicines in school. If your son needs to bring prescribed medication (for example antibiotics), it must be handed in. **Over the counter medicines such as paracetamol should not be brought to school** as the Medical Centre is fully stocked.

Suggestions for Library Word Cloud

I hope you have managed to get a look at the newly refurbished Inky Library, which we are very proud of. We would like to make the library look even more exciting by creating a word cloud on the wall above the non-fiction bookshelves. With this in mind, we would like to invite boys to suggest some words to make up the cloud. Over half term please ask your son to

think about a word that would look or sound good and ask him to tell us why he feels it should be part of the cloud. It could be his favourite subject for non fiction books, or a really important discovery, person, place or event. It could be a word, or words he particularly likes, or that he thinks sounds really interesting. He can suggest more than one word if he likes. Suggestions of the word or words, plus his reason, should be given to Mrs Lumley-Wood after half term please.

Message from IT regarding Firefly Maintenance

From 8am on Monday 16th October to 5pm on Friday 20th October, the school's ELearning Platform (FireFly) will be unavailable. We are working with FireFly to migrate the service to their new Cloud Hosted Platform so that we can enable some exciting new features and provide better performance and support. Access will still be available this weekend should they need to get any information from the site. The migration process will preserve all current information and the boys' login details will remain the same (email address and School Network Password). Parental Access will be via the current email address that you use but you will be required to reset your password. We will be sending out separate details on this process once it has been finalised. Thank you for your patience.

Accelerated Reader

Well done to all our readers this half term. At present the school has read 1,170 books, which is almost halfway to our target of 2,500. This amounts to 34,556,336 words! Years 3 & 4 will announce the most productive reading class after half term, but in Years 5 - 8 the winners are 5V, 6M, 7V & 8EN-M1. Well done to them and they will receive a special confectionery prize after half term. In the House competition, Bunyan are just in front with 330 books read. Harpur are close behind with 304. Enjoy half term and keep reading!

Eagle House Open Evening, Wednesday 29th November

We would like to invite you to an Open Evening at the Prep School boarding house, Eagle House. The evening will give you a chance to find out more about our Day Plus programme and boarding opportunities and will include a tour of the house and supper with our Houseparents. For further information and for details on how to book your place please see the letter [here](#).

Thank you from the Prep Guild

The Prep Guild would like to thank everyone who came along to the quiz night on Saturday 7th October. It was fantastic to see so many of you there and we hope you all had a great time. Congratulations to the winning team, 'The Year 5 Beatniks!'

For the full calendar please click [here](#)

For sports fixtures please click [here](#)

For Speech & Drama lessons next week please see [here](#)

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
30/10/2017	08:40		Second half of term begins
30/10/2017			Y3 & 4 Nasal Spray Flu vaccinations
31/10/2017	16:30	19:00	5M & 5V Parents' Evening
02/11/2017	16:30	19:00	5N & 5S Parents' Evening
03/11/2017	10:30	16:00	Y4 visit to Verulamium Museum
03/11/2017	16:30	17:30	Prep Informal Concert for Piano and Voice

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](#)

