

Dear Parents

It was a pleasure to welcome Year 5 parents into school this week to discuss progress of their sons at Parents' Evening, and we look forward to seeing Year 8 parents next week. We hope you find the new format conducive to effective discussions with your son's teachers, and please let us know if you would like to follow anything up, either with a longer discussion with your son's tutor or teachers, or thoughts on how to improve our Parents' Evenings. With regards to parking, please would you park at the South Side of the main building, access for which is to be gained via Burnaby Road, rather than at the drop off area in the Prep School.

We informed Prep School boys this week of the very sad news that our much respected former colleague, **Geoff Wickens**, passed away on 21st October having suffered a cardiac arrest. Geoff served on the staff of Bedford School for 37 years, most recently as our Deputy Head in the Prep School, until he suffered a stroke in February 2015. Since then, after a period in hospital, he has been in a care home with limited mobility; he has received regular visits from his wife, Wendy, family and friends.

His funeral will be held in the School Chapel at 3.30pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November and will be followed by refreshments. Parents, staff and OBs are most welcome to join us to celebrate his life. There is no expectation for Prep School boys to attend, but if one or two feel they would like to, we ask that a parent escorts them. Wendy and the family have asked me to pass on their thanks for your support at this difficult time.

Also, please see below a thank you to the amazing outgoing Chair of the Prep Guild, Andrea Spice, and a welcome to Rosie Biffa, our amazing new Chair.

## **YEAR 3**

### **Parent Helpers for Y3-4 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.

## **YEAR 4**

### **Y4-5 Saturday Sports Activities**

Y4 & Y5 Saturday sports will continue as normal this half term with Rugby from 9-10am and Hockey from 10.15-11.15am on the following dates:

Saturday 4th November

Saturday 18th November

Saturday 2nd December

Saturday 9th December

Saturday 11th November we can no longer offer due to additional fixtures for both Y4 & Y5 plus the remembrance service is on that morning.

### **Y4 PGL Trip, 6th - 8th June 2018**

Most of the boys are now signed up for the PGL trip. If you have not yet signed your son up for the trip and he would like to go, please return the slip at the bottom of the letter, together with the [medical form](#), the [booking form](#) and a deposit of £100 **by Monday 6th November**.

Please see the letter again [here](#).

### **Parent Helpers for Y3-4 Guided Reading**

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## **YEAR 5**

### **Y4-5 Saturday Sports Activities**

Y4 & Y5 Saturday sports will continue as normal this half term with Rugby from 9-10am and Hockey from 10.15-11.15am on the following dates:

Saturday 4th November

Saturday 18th November

Saturday 2nd December

Saturday 9th December

Saturday 11th November we can no longer offer due to additional fixtures for both Y4 & Y5 plus the remembrance service is on that morning.

### **Y5-6 Rugby - not on this half term**

There will be no Y5-6 rugby after school on a Friday this half term as it is too dark.

### **PE Notice**

Boys in Y5-8 will continue with the same activity they were doing before half term for one more week. All groups will change on the week commencing 13th November.

### **Parent Helpers for Y3-4 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.

## **YEAR 6**

### **Y5-6 Rugby - not on this half term**

There will be no Y5-6 rugby after school on a Friday this half term as it is too dark.

### **PE Notice**

Boys in Y5-8 will continue with the same activity they were doing before half term for one more week. All groups will change on the week commencing 13th November.

### **Parent Helpers for Y3-4 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.

## **YEAR 7**

### **Y7-8 Rugby 7s - no club tomorrow**

Due to the fixtures scheduled for this Saturday, there will be no Rugby 7s club for the Y7 and Y8 boys this week.

### **PE Notice**

Boys in Y5-8 will continue with the same activity they were doing before half term for one more week. All groups will change on the week commencing 13th November.

### **Parent Helpers for Y3-4 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.

## **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)**

A brief reminder about the Parents' Evening for all Year 8 parents/guardians. The meetings take place on **Monday 6th November (8M & 8S), Tuesday 7th November (8V & 8N) and Thursday 9th November (8J) from 4.30pm in the EMH**. To book your appointments, please visit <https://bedfordschool.parenteveningsystem.co.uk> For more details please see the [booking guide](#). **Please note that appointments can be made until 12pm the day before, 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](mailto: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.

### **Y7-8 Rugby 7s - no club tomorrow**

Due to the fixtures scheduled for this Saturday, there will be no Rugby 7s club for the Y7 and Y8 boys this week.

### **PE Notice**

Boys in Y5-8 will continue with the same activity they were doing before half term for one more week. All groups will change on the week commencing 13th November.

### **Y8 Gothic Film Night, Thursday 30th November**

On Thursday 30th November, Year 8 are invited to a Gothic Film Night in the EMH. We will be showing Alejandro Amenábar's production of The Others starring Nicole Kidman (please see further film details [here](#)). The film is rated 12 and has moments that may worry those of a nervous disposition. Attendance is not compulsory, but we do promise a scary evening to those who are brave enough! The evening is free and there will be an interval where pizza and drinks will be served. The event will start at 5.30pm and boys can be collected from the Burnaby Road exit at 7.30pm. Please confirm attendance via this [form](#).

### **Parent Helpers for Y3-4 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.

### **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:

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](mailto: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**

### **Run, Hide, Tell - assemblies on terrorism**

Over the next couple of weeks, Miss Donley will be sharing the 'Run, Hide, Tell' message with all the boys in their year group assemblies in an age-appropriate presentation. As parents, you may wish to spend some time talking to your son about this topic. Please see Miss Donley's letter [here](#).

### **Poppies**

Poppies are now on sale at the Prep School if you would like to send your son in with some money to donate to the Poppy Appeal. Prefects will be coming round during registration or they can be bought from PS Reception. It would be nice if all the Y6-8 boys could wear a poppy to the Whole School Remembrance Assembly on Saturday 11th November.

### **Mornings**

Please can we remind you that supervision in the Prep School begins at 8am. If a boy has a club, activity or lesson that starts at 8am he is permitted to turn up a couple of minutes before this in order to get there on time. If you would like your son to come to school earlier, from 7.30am onwards, or have breakfast in school, please speak to Mr Lincoln to book into our Day Plus programme in advance.

### **Squad Swimming**

Any boy who would like to join the swimming squad is welcome, so please come along on a Tuesday afternoon from 4.15 - 5.15pm and a Thursday lunchtime from 12.00 - 12.35pm (lunch after). Boys should be able to swim at least 25m with a decent stroke technique.

### **Instrumental Lesson Timetables**

Following a website security review, we have relocated the instrumental lesson timetables inside the school firewall. They are now placed within Firefly at the following location: <https://bedfordschool.fireflycloud.net/instrumental-lessons>. Parents will be able to access the timetables by entering their usual username and password.

### **New Prep Guild Chairman**

At the Prep Guild's 2017 AGM held last month, Andrea Spice stepped down as the Chairman. Andrea took over as Chairman of the Prep Guild four years ago and during her time has continued to build the committee and a fantastic team of helpers. Andrea brought a huge amount of energy and fun to the role and as a consequence, parents and boys in the Prep School have benefited enormously from the wide range of events that have been on offer. We would like to thank her for all the time and effort she has committed to the role and wish her all the best for the future. We would also like to thank all other committee members who stepped down at the AGM. Andrea leaves the committee in good hands, as she has handed the role of Chairman over to Rosie Biffa. Rosie is mum to Olly in Year 4 and Jake in Year 6, so many of you may already know her. We would like to thank Rosie and the rest of the committee for continuing with the invaluable work of the Prep Guild.

### **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](#).

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
03/11/2017	16:30	17:30	Prep Informal Concert for Piano and Voice
06/11/2017	16:30	19:00	8M & 8S Parents Evening
07/11/2017	16:30	19:00	8V & 8N Parents Evening
09/11/2017	16:30	19:00	8J Parents Evening
10/11/2017	09:00	16:10	Y8 Talented Art workshop
10/11/2017	16:30	17:30	Prep Informal Concert for Woodwind & Brass



13/11/2017			Y6 Geography visit to Ickwell
14/11/2017	16:20	17:30	Y7 & 8 General Knowledge Quiz with BGS
14/11/2017	16:30	17:45	U9, U10, U11 Swimming v Kimbolton & BGS (H)
15/11/2017			Prep School Rugby team photos
17/11/2017	09:00	11:55	Y7 Talented Art workshop
17/11/2017	16:30	17:30	Prep School Informal Concert for Strings

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](#)