

Dear Parents

This half-term has vanished in the blink of an eye, and we are already at that special time when we get to listen to all the boys in the school compete in the House Singing competition, one of my absolute favourite moments in the year. Boys, House staff and music teachers have worked tirelessly to bring us some wonderful entertainment, and I can't wait! Good luck to the adjudicator!

I hope you enjoy seeing your boys over half-term. We have certainly enjoyed teaching them over the last five weeks, and look forward to doing so again in a week's time.

Please read below for the highlights of next half-term. There are a lot of opportunities and events coming after half-term, so we would be grateful if you could read the following carefully. We have also added a link to the Strategic Focus document, which encapsulates the vision, values and areas of focus of the school. We hope you are able to peruse it, and would welcome any feedback.

Just after half-term the bulletin will receive a bit of an upgrade, see below for details. We hope you like it.

Have a great week!

YEAR 3

Observations of the Moon

After half term Year 3 begin their topic on 'Earth and Beyond'. We would like them to start collating a moon diary. Could the boys please look at the moon and jot down what they observe in a simple drawing on the sheet in the link below. We understand that some nights it will be too cloudy, but the more observations the better. We will send a home a paper copy but attach a copy [here](#) just in case these go missing.

Tying shoe laces

It's been noticed in Games that there are still a number of boys who cannot tie their boot laces properly. In order for boys to get changed more easily, could we please ask parents to help the boys practise tying their laces over half term. Thank you for your help.

Y3 Parents' Evening, Monday 26th February

Parents are warmly invited to the Year 3 Parents' Evening on Monday 26th February. Please note the following information.

- The event will take place in the EMH and will commence at 4.30pm.
- Your son's form tutor plus all of his other subject teachers will be in attendance for you to speak with about his progress.
- There will not be a pre-arranged appointment system. You are encouraged to circulate freely between teachers and are requested to arrive no later than 6.00pm.
- Having had parent-tutor meetings with your son's form tutor last term, a key aim of this second Parents' Evening is for you to meet the other subject teachers for the first time.
- On arrival, you will be provided with a list of your son's teachers. Teachers' locations in the hall will be clearly signposted.
- In order to avoid frustrating queues, please keep conversations with any teacher to a maximum of five minutes. This is especially important with form tutors who you may, understandably, be especially keen to spend time with. If necessary, arrangements can be made to continue the conversation at another time. Hopefully communication on an ongoing basis with form tutors has been such that there will be no real surprises.
- Following last term's end of term written reports, you will receive assessment marks for Maths and English plus thorough written form tutor comments at the end of this term. You will also receive the usual End of Unit reflection and assessment sheets for Science and Topic.
- The "open plan" nature of this event in the EMH, in contrast to the meetings last term in separate classrooms, makes this occasion slightly less formal. For example, everyone will predominantly be stood up and teachers will not have pupils' books to hand.

We look forward to seeing you and we hope you will find the evening to be very purposeful. If you are unable to attend, we would be grateful if you could inform your son's tutor in advance. There is no need to confirm attendance if you will be coming.

Year 3 Activities Morning at Bedford Girls' School, Wednesday 28th February

For your information, all boys in Year 3 will be spending the morning of Wednesday 28th February at Bedford Girls' School to participate in some team building activities with the Year 3 girls. After registering at BPS in tutor rooms as usual, in normal uniform, we will depart for BGS at about 9am and travel there on foot. We will return to BPS in time for lunch. In order to ensure safe ratios of adults to boys while walking between the two schools, we would welcome approximately 6 parent volunteers to accompany us. Either you could walk with us in both directions and remain with us at BGS in the interim, or you could walk with us there, head off to do whatever you like in the middle, before re-joining us for the walk back at about 11.30am. If you are able to help with this, please email Mrs Carrington (ncarrington@bedfordschool.org.uk). We would be extremely grateful for any assistance.

Y3-4 House Hockey, Saturday 17th March

We are proposing to hold the Y3 & Y4 House Hockey matches on the morning of Saturday 17th March at our Gordon Field astroturf pitches. This is so that the boys can experience playing on a proper pitch and also so that hopefully more parents can come along to support the boys. A Saturday morning will also be used in the Summer Term for Cricket House matches for these two age groups as well.

YEAR 4

Request from Art Department

Y4 boys will need to find and print an A4 image (from google or from a holiday) of a landscape with a good foreground, middle ground and background. It could be a beach, a mountain, some countryside, a city, a town or a river landscape scene (no people). We have discussed this in our lessons. Please could boys bring it into school for the first art lesson after half term. Thank you.

Y4 Parents' Evening, Tuesday 27th February

Parents are warmly invited to the Year 4 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 27th February. Please note the following information.

- The event will take place in the EMH and will commence at 4.30pm.
- Your son's form tutor plus all of his other subject teachers will be in attendance for you to speak with about his progress.
- There will not be a pre-arranged appointment system. You are encouraged to circulate freely between teachers and are requested to arrive no later than 6.00pm.

- Having had parent-tutor meetings with your son's form tutor last term, a key aim of this second Parents' Evening is for you to meet the other subject teachers for the first time.
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YEAR 5

Y5 Science Museum Sleepover, Fri 11th - Sat 12th May

Each year the Y5 boys have the opportunity to attend one of the popular Science Night Sleepovers at the Science Museum in London. This year we have got tickets for Friday 11th May. Please see Mr Mallalieu's letter [here](#) for further information. Please note that the deadline for signing up and sending in payments for the trip is Wednesday 28th February.

We also need a couple of parents to accompany the trip alongside the teachers, so please indicate on the form if you would be interested in coming.

YEAR 6

Y6 Parents' Evening, 4.30 – 7pm in the EMH

Tuesday 20th February (6M and 6V)

Thursday 22nd February (6N and 6S)

A brief reminder about Parents' Evening after half term for all Year 6 parents/guardians. To book your appointments, please visit <https://bedfordschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. For more details please see the booking guide [here](#).

Please note that appointments can be made until noon the day before, at which point the booking system will close. Should you wish to make any changes after this time, please contact 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 slot per subject which you book. 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. Thank you.

YEAR 7

Higgs Boson Science Lecture, Thursday 22nd February

After half term there will be another Harpur Science Forum Lecture in the Great Hall at 4.45pm. Professor Bill Murray will be lecturing on 'The Interactions and the Properties of the Higgs Boson at CERN using the Atlas Detector.' This free lecture is aimed at those with an interest in physics and/or maths. For further information please see [here](#).

YEAR 8

Higgs Boson Science Lecture, Thursday 22nd February

After half term there will be another Harpur Science Forum Lecture in the Great Hall at 4.45pm. Professor Bill Murray will be lecturing on 'The Interactions and the Properties of the Higgs Boson at CERN using the Atlas Detector.' This free lecture is aimed at those with an interest in physics and/or maths. For further information please see [here](#).

ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

House Art Competition 2018

The House Art Competition for 2018 was introduced to all boys during this week's Art lessons. The theme is 'My Happiest Place' and reflects the concept of mindfulness that is a common exploration for all schools. Boys have been given an A3 booklet providing them with all details of the competition. In case this has been lost or forgotten, please check the department's firefly page [here](#) where all the details can be found. The deadline for work to be submitted is **Monday 12th March**. All artwork needs to be submitted with a House Art Entry [Form](#). Forms are also available from Prep Reception.

Internet Safety Presentation, Tuesday 20th February

On Tuesday 20th February, Roger Williams (Children, Young People and School's Police Community Support Officer) will be visiting the Prep School to talk to the boys about online safety. The internet is amazing. Children can play, learn, create and connect - opening up a whole world of exciting possibilities. But with the digital world changing all the time, the challenge of keeping children safe online is ever-increasing. It would be great for parents to follow up Roger's visit and presentation with a conversation at home regarding this important topic. Both the NSPCC and CEOP websites have some useful advice for parents on how to keep your child safe online.

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

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

Music Parents' Evening, Monday 5th March

Bookings are now open for the Music Parents Evening on Monday 5th March. Please access the booking system through the Parent Portal. Bookings will be open until 23:55 on Sunday 4th March.

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

Tennis at Bedford Prep School after half term

An exciting new project is happening at Bedford School starting the week commencing Monday 19th February where the boys will be able to access individual tennis tuition. The sessions will take place on the Phillpotts courts which are situated on site and will run from 12.15 - 1.15pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunch times. Boys will attend lunch before walking up to the courts for their training session. They will need to return and be changed and ready for the start of period 5 at 1.30pm.

The following Coaches will be delivering the sessions:

Jonny Woolf - LTA Licensed Senior Club Coach (Level 4) & DBS Checked

Tony Woolf - LTA Licensed Senior Performance Coach (Level 4) & DBS Checked

Robbie Woolf - LTA Licensed Senior Club Coach (Level 4) & DBS Checked

All three coaches are currently working with many County and Regional standard players. They work closely together to develop players and they will ensure that every player is paired with the coach best suited to their needs. During the sessions, they will be focusing on improving every player, both technically and tactically. These sessions are open to every boy, regardless of their ability or experience. Sessions will cost £35 per hour and will be paid directly to the coach. For further information or to book sessions please contact Jonny Woolf (Mobile - 07880712864 or Email - jonnywoolf85@hotmail.co.uk).

Introducing our new-look Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin

Further to our message at the end of last year, we are pleased to confirm that we will be rolling out our new weekly communications after half term.

‘The Week’

On Fridays you will receive ‘The Week’, which will contain a round-up of the top news stories from across both the Prep School and Upper School, along with details of events that we hope are of interest for the week ahead.

‘Weekly Bulletin’

Your usual weekly bulletin, with links to parents’ letters and other essential operational information will have a new format and look, and will be sent at 9.00am on Saturday mornings.

Both communications will be sent via email. If you do not spot either in your inbox, we would recommend that you check that they have not mistakenly landed to your junk/spam folder.

Accelerated Reading Programme

With half term rapidly approaching, the Prep School has been reading its way through the dark days and evenings of January. The boys have read 4000 books, which amounts to an amazing 122 million words! We have 31 millionaires, with many more boys approaching that milestone. Well done.

World Book Day, Thursday 1st March

On Thursday 1st March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. Each boy will receive a book token which can be redeemed in many UK book stores and they are invited to dress up as a favourite book character. We would like to stress that this is not an extra mufti day, so if boys decide not to dress up, they must come in their school uniform please. In addition, on Tuesday 28th February, we have the author Peter Bunzl visiting.

Post Match Refreshments

After sport matches against other schools we usually provide refreshments for all players and parents. Boys are expected to attend the after match 'teas' as a matter of course with only exceptional circumstances allowing them to miss them. This also includes matches on a Saturday.

Trains from Kettering and Wellingborough

Could parents of any pupils whose regular journeys into school from Kettering or Wellingborough on East Midlands Trains will be impacted by the [planned schedule changes](#) for May 2018, please contact the Bursar's PA, Yolanda Larrier: ylarrier@bedfordschool.org.uk

Strategic Focus Document

At this half-way point in the year we thought it would be a good idea to add a link to the school's strategic focus document for your perusal. It captures the school's values, mission statement, vision and our areas of focus. You can find it on the website, and we will add it to the bottom of the bulletin in future.

<https://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Strategic-Focus.pdf>

Romeo and Juliet, Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th February

Tickets are selling quickly for this exciting and bold re-imagining of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. This is a joint production between Bedford School, Bedford Girls' School and

Mark Rutherford School, and runs from Thursday 22nd February to Saturday 24th February at our Quarry Theatre. For further information and to book tickets whilst they are still available, visit [The Quarry Theatre](#) website.

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
09/02/2018	14:30	16:10	Prep School House Singing
09/02/2018	16:10		Prep School Half Term Begins
19/02/2018	08:40		Second half of term begins
20/02/2018	12:00	13:00	Y7 House Squash
20/02/2018	13:00	13:50	Y5-8 Internet Safety presentation
20/02/2018	16:30	19:00	6M & 6V Parents' Evening
21/02/2018	16:45	18:30	Y8 Showcase for Bedfordshire Festival
22/02/2018	16:30	19:00	6N & 6S Parents' Evening

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

For sports fixtures please click [here](#)

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

For the weekly menu please see [here](#)

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](#)