

BORDESLEY VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cromwell Learning Community Multi Academy Trust

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Spring Half-Term Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we move through the final week of this half term the children will be engaging in Art & DT sessions. As part of Internet Safety Day on Tuesday 11th February the children will have explored this year's theme - **'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'**. Yr.4 will though, have combined this with the opportunity to visit the Islamic Exhibition organised by the Miah Foundation in Balsall Heath. On Thursday 13th February, Yr.1 parents have then been invited to the class' presentation of Chinese New Year and its story and celebrations. A very busy week - please ask your child/ren to tell you about it!



Always looking to enrich the children's experiences in school, the go karts were very much enjoyed by children in Yrs. 2 and 3 who were the first to have this opportunity. We'll let you know of the next session for other classes soon.

At this point can we also thank you for your contributions to our fundraising last Friday. The NSPCC Number Day allowed the children to have fun with maths - playing games and solving problems outside of a formal lesson.

Punctuality & Attendance

The response to this half term's Parent/Carers Consultations was very positive – thank you to everyone who took the time to come into school and meet with their child/ren's teacher(s). We hope you found the discussions useful and you have a good knowledge of where your child is, in terms of their levels of attainment, as well as their strengths, and areas of development. Together we can overcome gaps in learning, but we cannot do so without you supporting our attendance policy at the same time. Assessment data highlights the link between poor attendance and lower levels of attainment and while we acknowledge children will be ill from time to time, there are still some families who take regular days off, that are recorded as 'unauthorised'. In such cases, all too often Friday is dismissed as 'half a day', but should children not be in school on a Friday morning they will be marked as absent for the full day. Similarly, should you child/ren arrive after 9.20am any day of the week, they will not only be missing out on important 'core' lessons, they will be also be marked 'late after registration' and recorded as 'absent' for the morning session, which will impact on their overall attendance.

In addition, there have been an increasing number of late collections, particularly on a Friday afternoon.

Arrangements are having to be made to look after children left in school when staff are due to take a lunch break prior to their PPA time. If this situation applies to you, please ensure this is addressed immediately to avoid any charges being made for unplanned child care.

Where attendance and/or punctuality are seen to be ongoing issues, parents will be asked to meet with Snr. Leaders on our return, to discuss concerns / a way forward, prior to us initiating the first steps of a formal process.

Children's well-being

Addressing childhood illness, Gov.uk has provided **'A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school year'**, which can be accessed online. Emphasis is though placed on good hygiene as a means of stopping infections from spreading, and consequently, disrupting learning time. It asks parents to teach children to wash their hands properly for 20 seconds, use tissues for coughs and sneezes, and stay away from others when sick. Opening a window and letting in fresh air is also recommended to reduce the spread of airborne viruses. Please help us manage illnesses within school by adhering to these guidelines.



<https://bvcs.eschools.co.uk>

While looking after a child's physical well-being is important, the MAT is also working hard to support the large number of children who need help with their mental well-being. As such, we are looking forward to working with Compass Birmingham Mental Health Support Team who offer free, and confidential support to children, young people and families with mild to moderate emotional health and wellbeing needs. They will be joining us for a Parent / Carer Coffee Morning on Wednesday 26th February so please come along and discover a little more about the support they can offer.



Being there for someone, listening to them and showing kindness and empathy can never be underestimated. When we help, we want every child, young person or family member, or indeed member of a partner organisation to feel valued and supported and that they have gained from our time and expertise.

We are also very excited to be working with an experienced Play Therapist - Tracey Galonis – who, after half term, will be in school on a weekly basis to offer additional support for a small number of identified children.

Impact of excessive screen time on speech and language / children's behaviour



Following on from conversations during Parent/Carer Consultations, especially in the Early Years, it is worth sharing some research in the media this week – **Pre-school children's screen time at 'crisis point'**. Studies have found that an average three-year-old spends 2hrs 52mins per day on screen. During this time however, they are missing out on 1,139 adult words and 194 conversational turns - something that is held to be the reason for the significant rise in referrals for 2 – 5-year olds to Speech and Language. In addition to this, the studies are though, showing that giving a child a device to calm them down, means they don't learn to regulate their own emotions and actually leads to behaviour problems. As a result of these findings, Health Professionals for Safer Screens suggest children 0 – 2 should not be on any screen at all and those age 2 – 5, for a maximum of just **30 minutes per day**. This gives us all something to think about!

In response, we hope this half term, all families take the opportunity to engage in hands on activities and physical interactions with your child/children. Switch off the devices and go to the park, work together to complete simple chores around the home, visit the supermarket, borrow a book from the local library, for those with gardens – dig the soil and find the minibeasts hiding there, or if finances allow, get on a bus or the train for a day out / time away from the family home. All are ways of getting that valuable interaction with your child/ren without having to make new time. The benefit of this is that the activities get them moving, and gives their eyes a rest from screen glare!

The school will close on Friday 14th February for the half term break and return on Monday 24th February 2025.

Term time dates are again included below to support families planning holidays later in the year.

We hope you enjoy the week ahead and look forward to seeing you very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Rubina Darr

R.Darr (Mrs)

Senior Executive Leader

Term time dates

Monday 24th February - Friday 11th April – Spring Term (ii)

Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April – Easter Holiday

Monday 28th April – Friday 23rd May – Summer Term (i)

Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May – Half Term

Monday 2nd June – Thursday 17th July – Summer Term (ii)

Friday 18th July – Wednesday 3rd September – Summer Holiday