



Bedford Modern School

Junior

BMS e-shot

Friday 4th September 2009

Issue No: 1

From Head of Junior School - Nick Yelland

Welcome to the first e-shot of the new school year.

Having just re-read last year's first offering I fear that I will be saying much the same thing as I did then but please bear with me as it all needs to be said!

The aim of the e-shot is to keep you up to date with Junior School events and activities as well as providing you with useful information and reminders to help things run smoothly. In addition you should receive the Senior School e-shot to give you the full picture of life at BMS. Regular readers will know that it is a good idea to download and save these e-shots in a folder for easy reference in the future.

Staffing this term

Welcome to Mr Ed Warren who joins us this term as a Year 6 Form Tutor and PE and Games teacher. We also welcome back Mrs Lesley Burton who is now a permanent member of staff and teacher of 4LMB. Mr Paul Whitmarsh will continue in his role as music teacher until half-term after which Miss Farrow will return to the staff. May I also remind you that Mrs Nicholls has moved to Year 3 with Mrs Avery making the opposite journey to Year 5! Mrs Fox has a class this year, taking on 4MJF. All of this has meant some room adjustments so please study carefully the map at the back of the calendar card.

Swimming, PE and Games

After much discussion we have re-arranged the timetable to allow extra time each week for games or key skills in each year group. One of the ways in which we have achieved this is by condensing the time taken over swimming to a single period. This will be managed by taking children down or bringing them back during the morning break slot or afternoon form period slot. If children have a morning swimming lesson please ensure that they have had a

Latest News:

For the latest Junior news click [here](#)



Children on the Bouncy Castle on the Summer Holiday Activity Courses

Autumn Holiday Activity Courses

Booking will open on **Friday 11th September** at 9am for the Autumn Holiday Activity Courses which run from **Monday 19th October - Friday 30th October**. For more information on the courses offered click [here](#)

Autumn Term Events

Junior School Open Evening - 16th September
Open Mornings - 7th & 14th November

Speed Limit on Site - Please do observe the speed limit signs, and lookout for pedestrians when you come onto site at any time of the day.

Accident Reporting - We are reminding all Students of the requirement to complete an Accident Report

decent breakfast as they will not be able to eat their mid-morning snack until after they have swum.

With so much sport going on it is important that children keep their PE kit in school at all times as well as being aware of when their games kit is needed. Once again when it comes to school fixtures we would hope that you will put school first when planning weekend events. We will continue with our practice of notifying you of team selection by email so please remember to check regularly.

Please note Year 3 pupils do not need mouth guards.

Club and Activities

The Autumn Term clubs list will be sent out to you during the first full week of term with most 'in school' clubs then starting in the second full week i.e. week beginning **Monday 14th September**.

Pupils will be told of exceptions to this by staff.

It will then be normal for clubs to run on a weekly basis which they will do unless pupils are specifically told otherwise.

Sports practices and clubs are different and may well start earlier than this. Pupils need to listen carefully to the announcements in assembly and check the notice boards regularly.

As an example of this Synchronised Swimming Club for girls in Years 4 - 6 will start next **Thursday 10th September**. The club runs from 4.00pm to 5.00pm with pupils then being collected from the pool by parents.

Uniform and Games Kit

We have a Uniform Points system in the Junior School to encourage a smarter and more organised appearance. It has now been operating successfully for the last five years. It has been extremely well supported and has shown positive results among pupils who at the end of each allotted time span, if they still have points remaining, are rewarded with a 'non-uniform' day.

As each time span begins each child will have 5 marks made in their organisers (these may vary in appearance from class to class but their meaning will be the same). At any time one of these marks can be removed or crossed out by a member of staff for being improperly dressed in school e.g. top button undone, shirt hanging out, socks pulled down, cuffs undone, forgetting Games/Swimming/ PE kit etc. This gives every child 5 chances to gain a reward at the end of the specified period of time, so please encourage your child to remember kit and be aware of their appearance at all times.

N.B On a separate issue and in the event of warm weather girls are permitted to wear Summer Dresses until the end of September.

Transport

Considerable numbers of children travel to and from school by bus each day. Some of them will be doing this for the first time (certainly without a parent or another adult supervising them). It is very important that they stick to their arrangements. On no account should they decide to walk to a different bus stop or accept a lift from one of their classmates on the spur of the moment. It is equally important that they do not become over-confident about the bus stop and end up missing their bus by messing around. If they need to catch a late bus following a club or activity or because they are in After School Care then they must know exactly what time this bus goes and from where. Please enter these details into the organiser to assist the adults at school. Thank you.

Form within 24 hours (or the following School day) following any incident. Please check and confirm with your son or daughter that a form has been completed following any administering of First Aid, and passed to the Medical Department.

Safe Crossing of Manton Lane - Please impress upon your son or daughter that the Toucan Crossing must be used at all times for crossing Manton Lane. Students are discouraged to cross at any other point due to the dangers and safety risks involved.

Music Lessons – All individual music lessons and ensembles will restart week beginning 7th September.

School Policies

Please note that all School Policies are now available on the website under the 'School Policies' section.

Parents Association Wine and Cheese Evening

Both new and existing parents were circulated about this event last term. Another letter from the PA will arrive shortly but I am alerting you to the fact that the event takes place next **Friday 11th September** so get your replies in quickly if you would like to come. Remember that this is not just an evening for new parents in-fact we would welcome existing parents to come and greet the new ones. See you there! The cost will be £4.50 per head and the BMSPA provides refreshments. Click [here](#) for details.

Modernian Singers

After its first successful season, culminating in a concert in the Howard Hall on 14th June, the choir is now recruiting for new singers (Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass) for this academic year. No experience is necessary, there are no auditions. An evening of good choral music and a pleasant social atmosphere is guaranteed! If you are interested in joining this choir, either contact Geoff Lavery (GeoffL@bedmod.co.uk) or come to the first rehearsal on **Wednesday 9th September**, in the Music Department, BMS (7.30-9.30pm). The evening will begin with a sing through of some of the music we are to perform (eg Haydn's oratorio "Creation") followed by drinks and "nibbles".

Collection of Junior School pupils

At the end of afternoon school you may collect your child in a number of different ways. Some pupils go to the back of the Rutherford building where there is some parking and they are collected there. They are able to wait in a safe location if you have not arrived. A small number go down to the School House exit directly opposite Sainsbury's where parents may also collect having first parked in Sainsbury's car park. Please collect your child and do not encourage them to shoot across the road whatever they may see other people doing! You may also park in the lower car park at the front of school and collect your children from outside the Junior School entrance. Finally those with siblings

Help for Heroes

During the final week of term we held our annual 'Charity Afternoon'. I recall it actually being hot! On the day we raised £500 for Mr Reed's 'Help for Heroes' charity in addition to sums raised on other occasions earlier in the term. Mr Reed once again expresses his heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause.

in the Senior School may meet them by the flagpole and be collected from there. At all times our concern is to ensure that the children are safe and secure whilst minimising congestion. Thank you for your co-operation.

Junior School Security

In order to improve security the doors to the main Junior School entrance will now be locked during the working day. Please ring the bell for attention. Doors will, of course, be left open on specific occasions when large numbers are entering or leaving the premises.