



The Bolham Bullet

ISSUE 901 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of the new year! I think that I have managed to see most of you at the gate, but if not, I hope that you enjoyed a restful, albeit damp, summer break!

It is wonderful to see the children back, full of energy and enthusiasm. Thank you for your efforts with school uniform, we have a very smart school of children.

A special welcome to our new class of Reception children who have settled amazingly well this week, and also to our older new starters who have moved from other schools. You are all very welcome and we hope that you feel part of the Bolham family.

Please can I start the year by reminding everyone of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Our morning timings are as follows:

Gates open at 8.45am

Classes collected by staff at 8.55am

Registers open at 9am

Children arriving between 9.00am-9.10am will receive a Late mark

Children arriving after 9.10am will receive an Unauthorised Late mark, 10 of which instigate a Local Authority fine. We thank you for your co-operation with doing your utmost to ensure children are in school on time.

We have lots of fun activities planned for the year and this newsletter will be where you find out about all of the upcoming dates for your diaries.

As always, we hope to provide the best education that we can for your children whilst keeping them safe and happy. My door is always open and I like to work with parents to try and resolve any concerns that you have at the earliest opportunity.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Mrs Sarah Milne
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

**Start of After School
Football Club Y3/4/5/6 -**
13th September

**Start of After School
Football Club Y1/2 - 14th**
September

Nasal Flu Vaccinations -
18th September

Farmwise Trip (Year 3) -
10th October

Blundell's Trip (Year 5/6) -
12th October

**Harvest Festival (children
only) - 13th October**

Parents Evening - 16th
October

Parents Evening - 18th
October

October Half Term - 20th-
27th October (Non pupil day
Friday)

Tempest Photography -
24th November

**Christmas Performance
(Evening) - 14th December**
End of Term - 15th
December

Spring Term Starts - 4th
January 2024
February Half Term - 12th
-16th February 2024

End of Spring Term - 29th
March 2024

Start of Summer Term -
15th April 2024

May Half Term - 27th May
-31st May

End of Summer Term -
25th July 2024



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RAAC

Dear Parents and Guardians

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in education settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, and we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas. However, we want to take care and to be sure, and are currently working with the DfE to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away.

The change in guidance is precautionary in nature, and only affects education premises where the presence of RAAC has been confirmed. DfE is offering us access to surveyors who are helping us do these checks quickly.

If we need to put them in place, contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on students is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of students and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

Thank you for your understanding.

PARKING

Just a reminder to ALL parents that the bus bay (faint lines between the postbox and the main road) is NOT to be used for parking to drop off children, even if they are getting themselves out. Our neighbours are very patient, but the road blocks easily and the bus bay is only for the bus.

Please park considerately around the village or in the Hartnoll overflow carpark (on the right). We thank Claire for kindly allowing parents to use her facility.



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CLASS 2

Please can children in Class 2 be picked up from the back playground not the side playground to ensure we know where children are.

YOUNG VOICES

We are booked in to the O2, London on 31/1/24 (Year 5/6 only). We would like to combine this with a residential trip and would be very grateful for any thoughts regarding a 2-night stay - approximate cost £200. Parent tickets are available to purchase.

Please can parents of children in years 5 & 6 fill in the Microsoft Form Questionnaire by next Friday, 15th September to help us plan the trip: <https://forms.office.com/e/eAuPQc3UQK>

SNACKS

Just a reminder to provide healthy snacks for children at playtime, ideally fruit or veg.

CLASS 4

WhatsApp group for Class 4, year 6 parents

We're missing a few members. If you haven't already joined, please scan the QR code and get involved!





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CYCLE TO SCHOOL - JOIN US!



Every Friday until half term, weather permitting, we'll be meeting at Moorhayes Community Centre Car Park at 8.30am and cycling the route to school.

It's a fab way for the children to start the day and a great experience travelling as a pack.

Join the WhatsApp group by scanning the QR code to keep up to date with weekly info.

Children need to be accompanied by an adult.

PARENTPAY

We have this week sent home log in details for ParentPay our payment site for all new starters. We use ParentPay to take payment for school meals where relevant, Bolham Bees breakfast and after school club and trips and visits etc.

If you have any problems logging in, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

HAS YOUR CHILD PASSED THE READING CHALLENGE FINISHING LINE?

It's been fantastic to see over 700 children in Tiverton Library this Summer taking part in Ready, Set, Read! Our Summer Reading Challenge. To complete the challenge children must read 6 library books by **4pm on Saturday 16th September**. They will receive a medal, a certificate will be sent to their school to be presented in assembly, and they will be entered into two amazing prize draws as well as receiving their play voucher for Tiverton's board game café, Bridge Troll. The school in the Tiverton area with the highest percentage of finishers will also win an inter-schools shield.

So, if your child hasn't completed yet, please make sure they pass the finish line! Please ring the library on 01884 244644 if you need any support or information.