



**COMPASSION, ACCEPTANCE, RESPONSIBILITY, FORGIVENESS, TRUST**

Dear Parents and Carers,

4<sup>th</sup> September 2015

We should like to welcome everyone to the start of the new school year - with a special welcome to our new children and their families who are joining us for the first time. This year we once again ask that all children come to school prepared for all types of weather to enable them to still play outside if it is raining (not too hard!). "There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing"! Talking of rain.....

### **School Roof**

A delay by the builders has meant that our new roof for the junior block was not finished before the start of term as originally planned and unfortunately the scaffolding around the school is due to remain for the rest of the term. We apologise on their behalf for any inconvenience caused.

### **School Swimming**

Our School Swimming Programme (Juniors only) will commence on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Giraffe class will be first to commence swimming sessions this year. To cover the cost of the coach and the swimming expenses we shall once again be asking for voluntary contributions of £5.50 per session.

### **Photographer**

Braiswick's will be visiting the school on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to take individual and sibling photographs from 9a.m. A Kent Messenger photographer will also be visiting the school on Thursday to photograph this year's reception children for their First Class Supplement.

### **Clubs**

**Breakfast Club** – is available every day from 7:45a.m. – 8:45a.m. The cost is £2.50 per day for an hours' care and breakfast and it is easy to enrol your child. Please ask at the school office for details.

**After School Club** - is available every day from 3:30p.m. – 5:30p.m. and costs just £3.50 per hour. Children have the opportunity to do their homework, use the computer suite and take part in various fun activities.

May we take this opportunity to remind/inform parents that payment for Breakfast or After School Club must be made either beforehand or on the day/week your child attends please. **We regret that anyone who is more than one week in arrears will not be able to attend.**

**We are in the process of organising our activity clubs for the school year and greatly appreciate all our staff, governors and parents who give their time freely in order for these to be available to our children plus outside agencies who charge a nominal fee.**

### **School Dinners**

**A reminder that Universal Free School Meals are available for ALL INFANT children.** If you would like your child have a hot meal at lunchtime, freshly prepared each day in our own school kitchen, and they are in year R (once they commence full time), Year 1 or Year 2, they may do so free of charge.

The cost of a school dinner for Junior children currently remains at **£2.25** per day and we would be grateful if parents could continue to send in cash payments in an envelope clearly named with their child's name and class the Monday before their child is due to have a school dinner. Alternatively payment may be made as follows:

- by Debit Card by calling the GSPlus dedicated SCHOOL MEAL PAYMENT line on 07970 239 031, Monday to Friday 9:15a.m. - 3:45p.m. (during school holidays 9a.m. – 2:45p.m.) Outside these hours is an answer machine service where parents can leave their name and contact telephone number and GSPlus will call you back during their opening. **This is a payment line only and queries regarding your child's account can only be dealt with by our cash collector at the school.**
- On-line by visiting GSPlus's website: [www.gsplus.org/kent/pay/](http://www.gsplus.org/kent/pay/) and select the online payment facility for Debit/Credit Cards.
- Following the payment link direct from our school website (select 'useful links' from the bottom of the menu bar).

**If you are in receipt of Income Support, Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance, Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit (without working Tax Credit) and an annual income below £16,190, Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) or Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 your child/children may be entitled to receive meals free of charge.** Please ask at the school office for an application

form/further details or collect a form from our main entrance area. A direct link to the free school meal service and information regarding free school meals is available on our website: [www.burham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.burham.kent.sch.uk) (click on 'School Information' on the side menu bar and then select 'Free School Meals'). Meals are only supplied free of charge once authorisation has been received from KCC.

**If you are the parent of an infant child and are in receipt of any of the above benefits could you please ensure you complete the free meal application form to ensure the school receives your child's pupil premium entitlement.** Please ask at the school office should you have any queries.

### Children Absent or Late for School

We should like to thank all of our parents who contact the school to report their child's absence and would be grateful if all parents could continue to do so. Children should arrive at school in time for the start of school at 8:50a.m. Any child arriving after 8:50a.m. must be brought in to school via the main reception. **Registers are checked for absences every morning** once they are returned to the office after registration. The school has to record and report absence and lateness to the Educational Welfare Service and others on request. If your child is absent due to illness, parents are still requested to notify the school in writing once their child returns to school.

### Family Holidays during Term Time

As you are aware Headteachers are unable to authorise family holidays in term time. Please see our attendance policy which is published on our school website. If there is an **exceptional** circumstance for a family holiday during term time please ensure that this is explained to the school beforehand. Please speak to a member of the school office should you have any queries.

### Visitors and School Security

We would like to remind/inform visitors to enter via the main school entrance only. Any parent wishing to see a member of staff should please report to the school office first. Staff can be available after 3:20p.m. **by previous arrangement.** All staff attend a daily briefing meeting at 8:30a.m. and are not therefore available to see parents before the start of school.

Finally, should you ever have any concerns you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Grima  
**Headteacher**

### Dates for Diaries:

#### Term 1

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2015	School opens for children
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Swimming commences for Y6
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2015	Braiswick Photographers (Individual and Sibling Photos)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 to	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2015	Multicultural Week
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2015	Harvest Festival (9:30a.m. Burham Church – all welcome)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2015	Family Time (2:30p.m.)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	KM First Class Photos
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2015	Parent Consultations Y1 to Y6 (1p.m. to 6p.m.) and Year R Open Afternoon)

Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2015	Last day of Term 1 for children
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015</b>	<b>Development Day (school closed to children)</b>

<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to</b>	
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015</b>	<b>School closed (Term 1 holiday)</b>

#### Term 2

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2015	School opens for children
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	Last day of Term 2
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015</b>	<b>Development Day (school closed to children)</b>

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DATES AND FURTHER TERM DATES FOR NEXT YEAR CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE**

### ONLINE SAFETY

*We are happy for parents and carers to take photos and videos at our 'family events' for personal use but request that these images are not distributed or put online if they contain images of other children, adults or staff without consent. This will help protect all members of the community – thank you for your support.*

*Copies of all our newsletters can be found on our school website: [www.burham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.burham.kent.sch.uk) together with guidance and advice for parents on how to keep their child safe when online – please click on the e-safety link found in the side menu bar of our website.*