

# BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 38

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we approach the end of another fantastic academic year, with school breaking up this coming Tuesday, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we have achieved together and to wish all our families a wonderful summer break. This year has been filled with incredible learning, growth and memorable moments, thanks to the dedication of the children, staff and your unwavering support. We also extend our very best wishes to the staff members who will be departing Boorley at the end of this term; thank you for your immense hard work, commitment and the invaluable support you have provided to the children during your time with us - we wish you every success in your next ventures.

On a particularly happy note, we would also like to send our warmest wishes to Miss Cook and Miss Batchelor, who will both be getting married over the summer holidays! We wish them a magical wedding day and a lifetime of happiness with their husbands to be. Please join us in congratulating them!

Our deserving house points winners, St Andrews, enjoyed a delightful ice cream surprise prize with Amy in the kitchen today - a well-earned treat for their collective efforts! Looking ahead to Monday, the children will be hosting our dedicated team of volunteers for a special afternoon tea party, a small token of our appreciation for their invaluable contributions throughout the year.

Finally, thank you once again for your continued support, partnership and enthusiasm throughout the year. We wish you all a safe, restful and wonderful summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back, refreshed and ready, for the new academic year in September.



## INSPIRING MINDS

We are delighted to share that once again, the Summer Reading Challenge is well underway. This week, the children have had an assembly all about the Summer Reading Challenge, themed around a Story Garden. It is time to pick up your favourite books, e-books or audiobooks and transport yourself to somewhere magical full of stories or non-fiction facts. If you complete the challenge, your local library will reward you with a certificate and a medal and we would love to hear about your favourite reads when we return in September. You can take part in activities and games online too, at [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)



# NURTURING FUTURES

This week in assembly, we talked about ways to stay safe over the summer holidays. We had a really valuable discussion about different scenarios and potential hazards, including road safety, being safe in busy places and safety in and around water, covering everything from swimming pools to lakes to the sea. The children were brilliant, coming up with fantastic ideas about how to stay safe and be aware of hazards. For road safety, they suggested always holding an adult's hand, looking both ways, using crossing points and not wearing headphones. When it came to busy places, they thought about having a meeting point and staying nearby our grown-ups. With water safety, we thought about not running by pools, looking out for signs that the sea is unsafe to be in and swimming with an adult supervising. It was wonderful to see them thinking so thoughtfully about how to keep themselves and others safe. We hope you have a safe time enjoying the summer activities!



## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

What a wonderful evening we had at the PTA Summer Festival last Friday! Our sincere thanks go to our incredible PTA, whose brilliant organisation and efforts made this event such a resounding success. It was fantastic to see so many of you enjoying the performances from our talented school choir, the Zumba team, having great fun on the inflatables and showcasing creativity at the wand making and face painting stations. We are so grateful for the positive feedback received and thrilled to announce that the funds raised will continue to support the exciting changes to our school environment. A massive thank you also to all the PTA volunteers and staff who generously gave their time to support the event and to everyone who contributed to making this event happen.



The Autumn Term begins for children on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September following two INSET Days for staff only on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September.



# SAFEGUARDING

As our children grow and explore the world and as some of our older pupils start to spend some time out with their friends, it's natural to think about their safety. We encourage you to talk with your children about 'safe adults' and 'unsafe situations'. This means teaching your child to recognise when a situation feels wrong, regardless of whether they know the person involved. You can chat with them about trusted adults they can always go to for help (like family or teachers) and how to identify tricky situations – for example, if someone asks them to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable, or to go somewhere without your permission. If you felt it was appropriate you could practise what they should do if they feel unsure of a situation, for example, saying "no", running to a safe adult, or shouting for help. Empowering your children with these skills helps them build confidence and stay safe in different environments.



## KEY DATES



### July 2025

Tuesday 22nd July – Last Day of Term

Wednesday 23rd July – Friday 29th August – Summer Holidays

### September 2025

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – INSET Days

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September First Day of Term for Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

### October 2025

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Half Term

### November 2025

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – INSET Day

### December 2025

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Christmas Holidays

# Sustrans Kids Holiday Cycling

## Free Ditch the Stabiliser/Learn to Ride Sessions



**Bike It John** from **Sustrans** will be offering some **FREE** Ditch the Stabiliser/Learn to Ride sessions in Eastleigh and Fareham during the Summer Holidays.

These sessions will be 1.5 hours long and are aimed at children from 3 – 8 to help them with their balancing skills using some balance bikes with the aim of helping them learn to pedal a bike independently.

The Sessions will be during August at Cams Hill School in Fareham and The Toynebee School in Eastleigh, you can find out the dates and times on Eventbrite using the link below.

Please use the link below to book your space, bookings will be live soon!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/kids-holiday-cycling-sessions-1016499>



# PTA CORNER

What a Magical Evening! ✨

✨ A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the Boorley Park PTA Magical School Festival such an incredible success! ✨

From the moment the gates opened, the school was filled with smiles, laughter, and community spirit. We've received so many lovely messages and comments — your kind words mean the world and confirm what we already knew... this event was a truly magical hit!

To our amazing volunteers, thank you for your tireless planning and effort behind the scenes. You made the impossible possible. 🙌

To our wonderful teachers and staff, thank you for your ongoing support and energy. ❤️

To our brilliant children, thank you for bringing the magic with your joy and excitement.

Thank you to our local vendors, entertainers, and supporters for sharing their talents and helping to make the event so special.

A special shout-out to the Boorley Park School Choir for their beautiful performance on stage — you made us all proud! 🎵👏

This was truly a team effort and a shining example of what our community can achieve together. Thank you all so much for being part of it. 🏡🌟

The biggest thank you from the whole of the PTA team!





# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

### 1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

### 2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS



Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

### 3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS



Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

### 4 LISTEN ACTIVELY



When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

### 5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS



Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

### 6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

### 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

### 8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS



Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

### 9 PROVIDE RESOURCES



It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

### 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION



It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

## Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®