

NEWSLETTER 1 / 2018-19

21st September 2018

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year! Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff for your well wishes during my cancer treatment. I am very grateful for all the support and delighted to be back at school and fighting fit! Thanks also to Mrs Newall for stepping in as interim Headteacher during my absence.

- **Beginning and End of the Day**

As per last year, the school will be open from **7:45am**. Registration is at **8:55am** as usual. Please make sure your child is in school before registration at **8:55am**. It is very important that your child arrives on time to school as late arrivals distract the class and this is unfair on the teachers and other pupils. Also teaching your child the virtue of punctuality is an important lesson that will help them to achieve well both academically and personally.

Children who arrive late should be taken to Administration. If a child arrives in their classroom after 9:00am they are deemed to be late and this will be recorded on the classroom register. Please send a note via Administration if your child is late for a medical or any other justifiable reason.

School finishes at 3:00pm for pupils in Foundation 1 & 2 only. All other year groups finish at 3:10pm. Pupils who are attending after school activities should be picked up promptly at 4:00pm. **Please collect your child on time.** If you are held up for any reason and are going to arrive late **please inform Administration.** Likewise, please inform Admin as soon as possible if your child is going to be picked up from school by anyone other than yourselves. **General authorisations for people who pick up your children regularly need to be renewed every September please.**

We would like to request that parents **do not to stop on the road in front of the school gate** to drop off or pick up your children as this causes a traffic jam and makes other pupils late.

If Secondary pupils are collecting younger siblings or you wish to collect your child from a point away from the school gate, **we must receive authorization in writing** from parents for this.

As we understand that parking is not easy around the school, access to the vacant lots near the school has been improved. Please refrain from parking in front of neighbours' garages.

- **Teachers/Tutors**

We are delighted to welcome four new members of staff this year. Miss Ho will be teaching Secondary Maths, Mr Manning will teach Secondary Science, Frau Schulz will be teaching Secondary German and Mrs McLeod joins us as the Foundation 1 teacher.

We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Newall has been appointed Deputy Head Teacher, with responsibility for the Primary Department.

Please find a list of teachers per year group below:

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Year Group	Class teacher/tutor	Assistant
Foundation 1	Mrs McLeod	Miss Key
Foundation 2	Miss Dunne	Miss Ambra
Year 1	Mrs Rees	Miss Duxbury
Year 2	Mrs Benjamin (Key Stage Coordinator)	Mrs Robson
Year 3	Mr E. Roberts - Secondary Sport	
Year 4	Mrs Cresswell (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)	
Year 4	Mrs Newall (Thursday & Friday) - Business Studies	
Year 5	Mrs Rose	
Year 6	Mrs Preston	
Primary German	Frau Abbing	
Year 7	Mr W. Roberts (Key Stage Coordinator) English Language & Literature	
Year 8	Mr Tafft – Geography & History	
Year 9	Miss Dieppa - (Spanish Coordinator) Spanish language	
Year 10	Mr Manning - Science	
Year 11	Miss Ho – Maths	
German	Frau Schulz	
Art	Mrs Batsleer	
ICT	Miss Simon	
Spanish	Miss Ajenjo, Miss Cazorla, Mr Borges	

- **Appointments with teachers**

If you would like to make an appointment to see your child's teacher please phone Administration. Meetings regarding pupils **should be made with the Year Tutor in the first instance**; they will have the information available to give you an overview of how your child is doing. If there is a specific problem in a certain subject, they will advise you to make an appointment with the appropriate specialist teacher.

As the Year Tutor will require time to collate information from all of the other staff **please allow one week's notice**. Obviously, if there is a problem that requires immediate attention we will deal with this as a priority.

Please be reminded that it is the parents' responsibility to bring a translator to any meeting and that it is important to be on time!

- **Contact details**

For your child's welfare, it is essential that the administration office has an up-to-date telephone number on which you can be contacted in the unlikely event of any illness, accident or emergency involving your child at the school. Furthermore, this year we intend to send the majority of school correspondence to parents via email. Therefore, please remember to **inform Administration of any changes to your contact details**.

- **Examination results**

We are very pleased with the results of external examinations this year. The **SATs exams**, which are the tests taken in UK schools, showed that BSL pupils are generally performing at a level above their counterparts in the UK.

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The levels achieved in English, Maths and Science at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 were very pleasing, with nearly all of our pupils reaching or exceeding the UK government targets. The end of Key Stage 2 SATs results will be reported individually to parents.

The assessment data is used by the school to inform planning, set targets and monitor progression for our pupils. Well done to all our pupils for working hard to achieve excellent results. I would also like to thank the teachers and the parents for their time, effort and support!

Congratulations also to last year's Year 9 students who achieved very good results in their Cambridge First Certificate in English exams at the end of last year.

Our pupils have once again achieved some excellent results in their IGCSE examinations. Of the 120 grades awarded, 67 were A or A*, which is 56% compared to 20.5% in the UK. The A* to C grades for our pupils was 86%, compared to 66.9% in the UK. Overall, 93% of our pupils were awarded an A or A* grade compared to only 20% of pupils in the UK. They also performed well in their Spanish subjects. We are very proud of their achievements, well done to all of them!

- **Medical issues**

It is vital that school is kept informed about any medical issues relating to your child. If your child has asthma, please ensure that they have their inhaler with them at all times, if they require medicine during the day please bring it to Administration together with a note from the child's doctor with instructions.

Pupils who are unwell should not be sent to school.

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and spread easily from head to head. Please check your child's head regularly and carry out treatment if necessary.

We encourage you to inform your child's teacher of any issues which may affect their wellbeing at school, this may include changes in family circumstances for example.

- **Uniform**

Please ensure that your child attends school with the correct school uniform. School shoes for pupils from Year 1 should not be trainers or canvas shoes. Sports trainers are white, this is a school requirement and pupils should not wear brightly coloured or fluorescent trainers.

As the weather gets cooler, pupils may need to wear a coat to come to school, but outside garments, including scarves are **not permitted inside** the school building. For those children who feel the cold, there is a navy blue fleece top with BSL logo available from Globalo as part of the BSL school uniform.

Please be reminded that boys' hair needs to be **above the collar line and out of their eyes**. Girls' hair needs to be kept tidy and **tied back** and any artificial colours must be kept within the natural colour range.

Children may wear a watch to school and one set of stud earrings (girls only). No other item of jewellery or adornment is permitted in school.

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- **Sports**

Parents of pupils in Year 1 to Year 11 will have received timetables by now, so should know which days your children have sport at school. Timetables will also be available on our school website. Pupils should **wear their sports uniform to school on the day they have sport**. In addition, please provide sun cream and water for pupils attending the sports centre in Arrecife.

Pupils from **Year 7** are required to have **swimming** as part of the sports Programme. Pupils will have a swimming session at the municipal pool in Arrecife, for these sessions pupils will need to bring **swimming costume or trunks (not bikini or shorts), goggles, hat and flip-flops/pool socks and a towel**. Please make sure that you mark your child's swimming sessions in your diary and that swimming things are not forgotten on those days. Participation in sports and swimming is part of the national curriculum and therefore obligatory.

Pupils who are unwell should not be sent to school. If your child is well enough for school but cannot participate in sports due to medical reasons, please send in a note from their doctor. Pupils not participating in sports on a Wednesday afternoon will go to the sports centre with their classmates to watch the lesson.

- **Patio Time**

Snacks at Patio Time for pupils in Year 1 and above should **not include sweets, or nuts (including any products which may contain nuts), or fizzy/canned drinks**. (Please note that this rule also applies to packed lunches). Please can you provide your child with a sensibly sized snack as some pupils are not eating their lunch because they are still full from Patio Time!

Occasionally, during the year, sweets and drinks may be on sale during patio time as part of fund raising initiative led by pupils. Parents will be informed beforehand if this is to happen and participation is optional.

May I also remind you that pupils in Years 1 & 2 can bring **ONE** toy only for use on the patio, although we accept **NO** responsibility for these.

- **Electronic Equipment**

Mobile phones, I-Pods, PSPs, etc., **are strictly forbidden** in school at any time. The journey to and from school is a good time to chat with your parents and/or siblings, **NOT** playing on your phone!

If a pupil needs to have a mobile phone for use after school, for example to contact parents to arrange to be picked up, the phone must be left in the mobile phone box at the beginning of the day.

If pupils are found using any item of forbidden equipment at school it **will be confiscated until parents collect it at the end of the week**. The school reserves the right to search bags if we feel that this rule is not being observed.

Tablets, notebooks and laptops may be used for study purposes only but no responsibility can be held by the school if students bring these in.

- **Homework**

This year's homework time-table for Keys Stage 1 & 2 is attached to this Newsletter. It indicates when your child may expect to receive homework. These are guidelines only and we reserve the right to set homework whenever we deem that it is appropriate.

Pupils in Key Stage 3 & 4 will receive homework from subject teachers depending on the current topic and the exam requirements. Generally pupils in Key Stage 4 should expect to do homework or study every day during the week and for 3 to 4 hours at the weekend as a minimum.

Homework if set, is as important as school work and should be undertaken with the same commitment and care as classwork. **School homework should take priority over out of school activities and clubs. Attendance at these will not be accepted as an excuse for homework not being completed on time or to a satisfactory standard.**

Parents should **check homework is completed and sign the homework diary regularly** if appropriate. If pupils in Secondary (Year 7 to Year 11) fail to complete homework to an acceptable standard they will be placed on report and their homework will be checked on a daily basis. Parents will be contacted and asked to come in to school if a pupil's overall work, attitude or behaviour fails to meet expected standards.

- **Text books and reading books**

All text books and the majority of reading books are provided by the school, however these books are school property and it is important that they are kept in good condition and are not to be written in in pen by the pupils. Any book that is lost, damaged or written in in pen will need to be paid for by parents.

- **Siblings**

May we remind parents that although siblings have a priority for admission at BSL it is essential that we receive a completed Pupil Information form for your child **BEFORE** the Matriculation period in March.

- **Class Meetings and Open Evening**

Thank you to Year 11 parents for attending their meeting this week.

We look forward to seeing the rest of the parents at the open evening on Thursday 27th September from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

- **After School Clubs**

Dance and Yoga clubs will be available as in previous years for children in Key Stages 1 y 2. Mr Rose will also be running the chess club for pupils in Year 5 & 6. You will be notified of other clubs in due course.

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- **Recycling**

We will continue to participate in 'Lanzarote Recicla's' school programme. Some new initiatives will be announced soon. In the meantime, please keep sending plastic bottle-tops and old batteries to school, as well as old pens and felt tips which are to be recycled separately as part of 'Proyecto Arbol'.

- **Pupil's Achievements**

We would like to encourage our pupils and parents to inform us of any activities, events and/or achievements that we can recognise our pupils for. We would love to celebrate all your successes with you! Please let us know what you have been up to and we can display photos and certificates etc. in school!

- **Speaking English**

And finally, please encourage and support your children to speak, read, and watch films in English as much as possible. This will really help them to achieve success in their exams.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Rogers
Headteacher