



Learning Naturally

at Beddington Infants' School

Letter 1

Wednesday, 4th October '23



Dear Families,

We're delighted to see how quickly the children settled into the school routine. Thank you to families of children in Nursery and Reception for accommodating the slow intake, it really does enable the children to settle very well.

I only write newsletters when there is a reason, as regular emails seems to be a more effective form of communication, so please read all the pages. I hope you find the items included in these letters useful. If there are other things that you would like included, please let me know.

Newsletters will always be numbered so you will know that you have received them all. You will receive a paper copy of this newsletter but please check that you have also received an emailed version. If not, please let the office team know so they can ensure you receive future emails. If your email address changes at any time please let the office team know. If you prefer to have a paper copy please let the office team know.

If ever you would like to talk to me, or a member of staff, about anything, please let us know and we will see you as soon as we can. You can make an appointment via the school office.

Dates for the term: You received these We have included as much as possible, including the end of term Christmas productions. Please keep these dates somewhere safe!

Thank you, Liz Kearney

School Day Timings

The school gates are open between 8.45am - 8.55am.

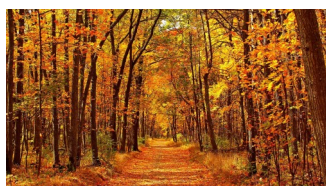
Children will be marked late in the register if they arrive after 8.55am.

Children should be collected between 3.10 and 3.20pm. While we understand that children may arrive late or be collected late on a very odd occasion, where it is more often, it is unsettling for the child and consumes large amounts of office and class-based staff time.

If, on a very unusual occasion, you arrive after the gates have been closed, please take your child to the school office and ensure that you register your child on the electronic Inventory system in the office reception area. A member of staff will take your child to the classroom when someone is available.

Parents/Carers will receive a termly report outlining minutes lost through late arrival or collection across the term, as this can build up very quickly and the impact can be profound.

Our Nursery offers a morning or afternoon session (3 hours each) or 30 Hour Provision i.e. full day.



Morning Nursery	Bear Cubs	8.45am—11.45am.
Afternoon Nursery	Lion Cubs	12.30pm—3.30pm.
All day	Fox Cubs	8.45am —3.30pm (including 45 minutes lunch time).

The Garden Room



This has finally arrived, properly.

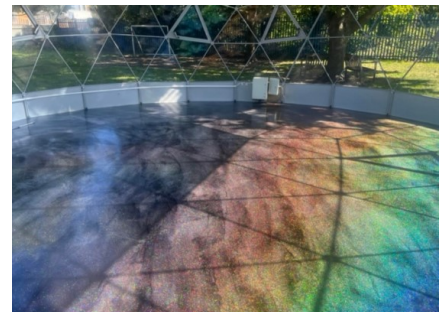
Thank you to Barry Williams, one of our Associate Governors, who ensured that the sub-standard dome was removed and replaced. We were then able to install the floor, wi-fi, lights and a phone, so it is ready for full use. Those of you who were with us last year will know that we had started using the previous dome, particularly as the lunchtime Quiet Area and First Aid Area, but everything is so much easier now that the project has been completed.

The silicone floor includes glitter particles which reflect the light; sometimes patches of colour and sometimes creating a dramatic rainbow.

The colours move as the light moves. A CD of calming

music with nature sounds plays quietly in the background.

Although we have met with many challenges on the way, the Garden Room is finally the amazing resource it was intended to be.



If you, or someone you know, is interested in booking this space for an evening group, please contact the School Office: 020 8647 7813 or office@beddingtoninfants.org.uk.

The Bluebell Room

This is another amazing resource. It is a sensory room, with specialist equipment designed to calm and/or inspire children. This resource is used to support children with particular needs and is also used by all children from time to time.



What does my child need?

Items are available from our school office. Thank you to Miss Smith for making it possible for you to pay using your card at the school office. Items can also be paid for using ParentPay.

Water Bottle



Every child should have a named, clear water bottle at school every day please. Refillable water bottles are on sale from the school office for £3. Replacement bottle tops cost 50p. Of course, your child is welcome to use any clear plastic bottle! Children have access to chilled water dispensers throughout the school to refill bottles as many times as necessary.



Once a term, we ask you to donate a glue stick (any brand but it should be white glue please), a box of tissues and a roll of cellotape please.

As you might imagine, we get through lots of these items, and your donations enable us to allocate saved funds to other aspects of the curriculum. Please do not name these items as they will be available for everyone in the class to use throughout the term.



Parking Outside Schools — Safety Initiative

Thank you to those of you who walk/scoot/cycle/skip to school. For those of you who live further away and need to drive, local police have suggested that we ask you to park in the car park of Beddington Park which leads to a lovely walk through the park and counts as walking to school. Parking wardens and local police monitor parking around all schools.



Book Bag

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should bring this book bag to school every day. Children in Nursery are welcome to choose books from the Nursery Library every day. Book bags are on sale from the school office for £5. They are available in red, blue or purple.

Children should not bring a rucksack to school please, as we do not have space to store them.



Please remember to:

- **name all items** of clothing. We know that it takes time but, as all children are wearing the same uniform it is very difficult to make sure that you get the correct items back otherwise.
- update the office team as soon as possible if your **contact details** or **Emergency Contacts** change.



Thank you to Miss Smith for organising a wide range of After-School Clubs. During the Autumn Term, After-School Clubs are for children in Years 1 and 2. A small number of places are available for after half-term. Please contact the school office if you're interested.



Breakfast Club

Our very popular **Breakfast Club** is run by Mrs Appleton, Mrs Wenham and Miss Dorward in our school hall every morning. Children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are welcome to attend from 7.30am. There are different charges depending on what time your child attends. Having listened to feedback from families, we have introduced a new option of children arriving after 8.15am and not having breakfast.

The children enjoy a healthy breakfast and then choose from a wide range of activities to enjoy with their friends.

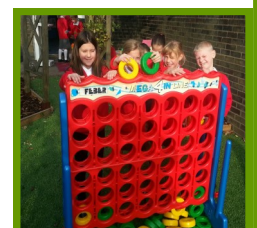
Once your child is registered s/he can attend any day without pre-booking as long as your child is registered. There is a reduction in cost if you are able to book in advance. Please contact the office to book.

At 8.45 the Year 1 and 2 children are taken to the playground (or hall if it is raining) and Reception children are taken to their classes to meet the other children who will have started coming through the gate. Please ask at the office, or put a note in your child's Home/School Book requesting a registration form if you are interested.

Breakfast Club

Timings and Daily Charges

From 7.30am	£5
From 8am	£4.50
From 8.15am	£2
without breakfast	



Traditions of Beddington Infants' School



The Bell Tower

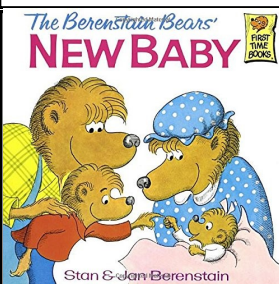
Tradition is very important to us at Beddington Infants' School as it gives us a meaningful link with the past. The bell tower at the front of the school may seem unusually placed, until you understand its story...

For those of you who don't know, the original Beddington Infants' School stood at the front of the school, where the grassed area is now. This is why we have this beautiful space which is used for learning during the school day, but also provides a very nice space for children and families at the beginning and end of the school day.

In 1974, the Key Stage 1 school was built behind the original school to avoid loss of learning time. The Nursery and Reception blocks were added years later as the school expanded. The original school had one form of entry.

On completion of the new build, the members of the Parent Teacher Association were asked to choose one thing from the old building to keep as a memento. They unanimously chose the bell tower and it now stands on the ground, marking where it was on the previous building.

As per the Beddington Infants' School tradition, the children ring the bell on the last day of each term. Sadly the bell was stolen in 2012. We commissioned a new 'Olympic' bell, which is installed on the last day of term and taken out of the bell tower when we have finished ringing it to avoid it being stolen again. It is incredibly heavy!



Beddington Infants' School Gift Box

As many of you know, for many years Beddington Infants' School has continued a tradition called 'The Gift Box'. Children bring a coin or two to school during the week and put it into a money box in the classroom. If it's easier, you can make a small donation for the term on ParentPay or at the school office.

On Friday the money boxes are taken to assembly where we thank everyone and, from there, they go to the office where the money is counted and banked. This money is then used to buy little gifts for families.

Your family will receive a gift

- to welcome a new baby to the family
- if a child in the school, or a member of a child's immediate family is in hospital over night

Your child would choose a gift from the Gift Box and then, with a friend, make a card from everyone at Beddington Infants' School. This is a very nice way for your child, and the school community, to be able to mark these occasions. Families have often commented that this simple act has been very important and special for their children, especially when a family is going through a particularly exciting or difficult time. We hope to be able to continue the Gift Box tradition, but can only do so if families support it.

From time to time we donate the week's Gift Box collection to a charity. We will always let you know in advance so that you can decide which charities you would like to support across the year. This information will be on the Term Dates which you received at the beginning of term. If you would like another paper copy please put a note your child's blue Home/School Book or ask at the office.



Eco School

We are very proud of the fact that we were the first school in Sutton to be awarded the school's Eco Award in 2006. The award is known as The Green Flag. Every year we are reassessed to check that we are continuing and improving. We are fully committed to the principles underpinning the Green Flag Award. If you have any ideas for how we might be more sustainable, or you would like to get involved please let us know!

In the meantime, all year groups would welcome any keen **gardeners** – no specialist knowledge necessary! While the children are involved in the maintenance, it's a big site so they need some help from adults from time to time.

Please talk to the staff in your child's class or drop a note into the office or via the book bag. Thank you!

We help the children to consider the environment at every opportunity. Adults and children will be collecting leaves as our trees prepare for winter. The children will be reminded that the compost they create will be used when we garden.

The RIDAN Composter (which composts cooked and uncooked food) provided most of the compost we needed last year. We are very grateful to Caterlink and Tesco for giving us grants to buy it.

As a school, we make good use of the outdoor learning environment as part of the daily provision, enabling children to experience the seasons in a meaningful way. Children are encouraged to look after resources to avoid waste eg to use both sides of a piece of paper, as appropriate.

E mailing documents, such as this newsletter, saves a lot of paper.

We have recycling bins in each classroom and office.

We grow flowers and vegetables and water them with water from our water butts. Children are encouraged to think about when we should turn off lights, computers etc. We save a significant amount of electricity by turning all electrical equipment off at the wall overnight. Our taps and LED lights turn themselves off. We have plastic strips on the doors to retain heat while the doors are open during the school day.

Again, please let us know if you can see where we can develop further.



Recycling for Families

Ink Cartridges



Mobile Phones



Glasses



Batteries



Shoes



Stamps



Clothes



Where do I recycle these items?

Shoes (in pairs) and clothes should be in supermarket size carrier bags (bigger bags get stuck) and then 'fed' to Berty Bank (the big blue bin with eyes at the front of the school).

If you would like to recycle any of the other items at any time please bring them along to the school office.

Not only will you be helping the planet, we actually get money for recycling clothes and shoes. Thank you!



Promotional Leaflets

As an Eco School, we will not put 100s of leaflets in your child's book bag. Apart from a waste of paper, giving leaflets out to each child was a waste of learning time.

If sports coaches, dance teachers, or similar, bring leaflets to the school, we keep a few copies in the office so that people who are interested can pop in and ask for one.

