



Blossom House Newsletter

FOR STAFF

MARCH/APRIL 2018

KEY DATES FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH & APRIL 2018:

12th – 16th March: Science Week

15th March: Animal Handling Workshops

21st March, 2.00pm: Music concert (piano, trumpet, singing, guitar)

23rd March, Year 7 Ballet Trip

29th March, 12.00pm: End of Term

Don't forget!

Friday 20th April is an INSET for all staff.

INSET timetable:

Effective Spelling; 9.30-3.30pm; all Primary teachers, Year 7, 8 & 9 English teachers.

Behaviour Training; 1.30-3.30pm; teaching assistants

Trans Awareness—The Basics; 3.30-5pm; all staff

School Development News

Blossom Behaviour Support Training Course

The School has designed and started running a City & Guilds accredited course in Behaviour Support. Congratulations to the first six candidates to have completed the course this month!

Providing Work Experience

We will start to use the newly purchased café 'Bon Bonnie' to support some of our students in gaining work experience in the near future. Plans include the Food Tech department being involved in supplying one cake a day to the café. We are also hoping that we can set up some sort of ordering system that some of the older pupils can help with, perhaps being involved in collecting pre-ordered sandwiches and delivering them to you.

Mental Health Support

Following a staff survey on current benefits we decided to change our employee assistance helpline provider in February. Please find further details on the service provided by the Education Support Partnership in the article below.

Post-16 provision development

We are busy planning a timetable for P16 non-college students who will be with us for one year full time 2018-19. They will be able to choose an option between Art or Catering and Hospitality (potentially with some involvement with Bon Bonnie).

On-going outstanding provision

Several audits have occurred in the past 2 months that have confirmed that our excellent team haven't let standards drop since our Ofsted inspection! In January Merton conducted a safeguarding and inclusion review for Early Years and concluded that there were no recommendations or actions 'as the school meets requirements and is exceeding them in many respects.' Wandsworth LA visited a couple of weeks later and stated they believed 'that Blossom House is providing a good education to the Wandsworth pupils placed there.' Finally Jill Bainton, our Ofsted standards consultant was very impressed by what she saw during her visit on 27th February. Well done everyone!

Welcome to your Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)

An overview of the EAP

All staff have access to the EAP, a resource that can help manager and navigate personal and professional pressures, helping to achieve a successful work-life balance. This service is available to staff 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It includes access to:

- Face to face and/or telephone counselling (if clinically appropriate)
- Financial guidance on a wide variety of financial matters
- Money management—access to money management specialists



who can provide assistance with budgeting and debts.

- Legal information from qualified and experienced staff.

- Information, signposting and support on work life issues including eldercare, childcare and state benefits.

- Manager assist—support for managers on any employee related issue.

Accessing the service

Telephone: please call **08000 856 148** available 24 hours, 365 days a year.

Online: Please visit education-supportpartnership.org.uk/online-support.

Login: worklifesupport

Password: support1

Any issues or feedback please contact Zelah or Danila.



In Other News

Supporting Learning

The LATS (Learning and Teaching Support) team will be re-introducing training programmes for teachers, therapists and TA's, as well as learning walks and sharing good practice amongst staff in the next few weeks. Any questions please contact Tom Richards.

The weather is improving!

James is pleased to announce that the heating in the corridors is now working!

Book worms

The School raised £802 at the Book Fair, that's a lot of books!

Sue Perkins as the quiz master!

The charity, Parents In Need, that Jamie Bailey's Mum helped to set up is holding a charity quiz night at the Motspur Park School on Friday 16th March at 7pm. There will be a Bar, Auction, Raffle, SUE PERKINS as quiz master and nice food! Teams are in tables of up to 8 and BH staff will be given a ticket discount of £10 per person. If you are interested in going to this or are interested in getting a team together please let Cheryl Rathmill know.



Congratulations to Iwona, TA at Christopher Place, on the birth of her beautiful baby girl.

WELCOME

New starters Feb/March:



Sue Carl,
Teaching Assistant



Jessica Luddington,
Teaching Assistant



Laura Berry,
Teaching Assistant



Harriet Batambuze, SLT
(assistant whilst awaits
qualifications)



Programmes such as Blue Planet have recently raised awareness of the alarming state of our Oceans due to plastic waste. National Geographic states some shocking facts:

- 5 trillion pieces of plastic are floating in the world's seas
- 700 species of animals are severely threatened because of ocean waste
- 90% of sea birds eat plastic trash

What Blossom is doing to reduce pollution and landfill waste

Led by James Stavert and Clare Pauzers, the School will be pushing forward with various recycling initiatives over the coming months. Please ensure you are

familiar with and use the recycling tools described below:

Top Floor Staff Area

- Large blue bins = dry recycling waste only. This means paper, card and dry plastic. They will not have liners in them so that we can try to get the cleaners to cut down on the number of clear and white liners that we are throwing away. This means that it is very important you don't put food waste in them and other food plastics which will leave a mess.

- Small green food bins = for food only!

- Small bins = anything other than dry recycling or food

Small downstairs staff kitchen and Sports Hall kitchen

- Blue bin = dry recycling waste only. No food.

- Small green food bins = for food only!

- Other bins = anything other than dry recycling or food



In April Katrina Chapman's brother Simon will be attempting to run 10 marathons in 10 days and is hoping to raise £10,000 for the Brain Tumour Charity and the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity. Katrina organised a bake sale on Friday 9th March, raising an amazing £137 on Friday plus another £150 in online donations. The box is still in the kitchen and staff are continuing to donate so this total is rising. Thank you everyone!

REUSE REDUCE RECYCLE

A little bit more work will reduce waste considerably

Please wash out yogurt pots, tins and other plastic containers that can be recycled so that they can be put in the kitchen recycling bins. Please try to put all food waste in the food recycling especially in the smaller offices. Any contaminated recycling goes into landfill.

Involving the pupils

This will be rolled out in all other areas of the school including the classrooms. It will be a little harder for pupils as they are unable to wash their plastic containers out. There are sinks about which could be used. Otherwise they will need to put their rubbish in the general waste.

And finally...

- We'll be getting a big clothes recycling bin to raise money for the London Air Ambulance.

- Staff can bring in their lightbulbs to James for recycling.

Any questions or ideas please contact James Stavert.