

Blossom House Newsletter

FOR STAFF

APRIL 2017

KEY DATES

THIS
MONTH:

EASTER

HOLIDAYS!!!!



24th April—
INSET

A note regarding dates from the Admin team:

Each Friday we send a list of reminders for the next week to parents, please can information in the main school diary (Diary 2016/17) be as accurate as possible as that's what we use to do this.

Active outdoor learning

Our amazing new playground provides space for children to expand their imagination and enjoy a variety of physical activities whilst also offering an area for quiet outside learning.

The playground had its official opening ceremony in March.

It has been designed to be a multi-use space. Some new parts have the Forest School activities specifically in mind whilst other areas have plants creating a space for calm activities.

The investment in the play-



ground underlines Blossom's mission to provide children with a holistic educational environment, the versatile space supporting our multi-disciplinary

approach.

Joey opened the Playground at an opening ceremony attended by staff and celebrated with a few drinks.

We're on a mission...

I mention Blossom's 'mission' in the article above, to provide a holistic educational environment is just a small part of this mission.

Our mission statement, cheesy as the phrase sounds, is a great way of summarising what Blossom is working towards and what we are all doing to contribute to this. I thought you might be interested in reading the statement in full:

'We are committed to providing a holistic educational environment where children and young people can grow in knowledge and understanding, working towards reaching their social,

emotional and individual potential.

We aim to support our pupils as they learn to accept the difficulties they may face, alongside knowing how to use their individual strengths to overcome these within school, and within the wider community. In the same way that therapy, in its many forms, is embedded through the curriculum at Blossom House, our curricular, therapeutic and pastoral programmes promote fundamental British values. Our staff are all skilled and trained to ensure that the values of law, democracy, liberty and tolerance are not

undermined, but are upheld and promoted across the age range.

We believe that with the right support, our children and young people can take a positive place within society. To this end the school takes a long-term view on individual progress, whereby the pupils' social and emotional development is as important as their academic scores.

We aim to teach less measurable, but equally important skills such as perseverance, resilience and independence, as part of the individual's learning journey through Blossom House School.'

Hello newbies!

A quiet month for new starters, we welcome you warmly!



Tracey Mills: TA



Sarah-Jane McKay: SpLD Specialist



James Cuddy: TA

Blossom has talent!

An AMAZING event, as Benji Cheshire's Mum said, 'this is what makes this school outstanding.'



Planning for the

2017/18

timetable:

All teachers were recently invited to contribute their ideas towards the planning of the academic timetable 2017/18.



Congratulations to Gabby and Clem for completing the Richmond Half Marathon. If you would like to donate towards Sasha's powered wheelchair log on to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/supportsasha>

LATS the way we like it...

You may have attended some of the fantastic LATS led training sessions held recently?

The topics covered ranged from *Excel* to *Marking: progressively and effectively*. The training sessions were very well received ('I enjoyed Mohammed and Tom's training sessions so much, I'm going to go to Alex's as well!') and more are planned in the future. Well done LATS team!

What is LATS?

The Learning And Teaching Support team aims to build employee capability in order to ensure our pupils have the best learning experience and progress to their full potential.

What support?

The LATS team are continually refining and adding to the support they can offer you to support learning and your feedback is essential in this

process so please do get in touch.

Examples of current support activities in place are:

Mentoring and Coaching
Interactive Training Sessions

Who are LATS?

Tom Richards, Charlotte Hustwayte, Jo Byrne, Alex Ross and Vikki Langford.

Getting in touch:

You can contact any of the team directly or e-mail Learning and Teaching Support.

Blossom babies!



Jessica McMahon's baby Alexander.



Amy Clothier's baby Henry.

Staff portal

Did you know Blossom House now has a staff portal? Jayne updates it constantly so log on each week for news on training, events, social activities and useful links.

Please send anything you'd like to share on the Portal to Jayne Stockdale.

Go to the school website and choose staff portal - password **staff1bhs**.

Coming soon on the Portal, Blossom E-bay & freecycle!