**Maybury Primary School May 2023 Newsletter**

**Congratulations Year 6!**

A huge congratulations to all our Year 6 children who sat their SATs test last week. The papers were some of the hardest that we have seen and we are sure that you are aware of the press coverage regarding the difficulty of the Reading Test paper. We are proud of all the children; each and every one of them worked exceptionally hard and really did do their best and we send them our congratulations for this. They can now enjoy their last few months of primary school. Well done Year 6!

**Holidays in Term Time**

Recently we have had a number of requests from parents and carers to take children out of school during term time for holidays; we are not able to approve family holidays.

Children of compulsory school age who are registered at a school must, by law, attend that school regularly. In previous regulations, headteachers were able to grant leave of absence for term-time leave, or a family holiday in 'special circumstances' and for extended leave in exceptional circumstances.

Amendments to these regulations have removed references to family holidays and extended leave. The amendments state that headteachers may **not** grant any Leave of Absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.

An exceptional circumstance does not cover situations such as availability of cheap holidays; availability of desired accommodation; parent/carer work commitments; poor weather experienced during school holiday periods; overlap with the beginning or end or term, half term.

* If your child is registered at a school you must ensure that they attend regularly
* The regulations make it clear that parents/carers do not have any right or entitlement to take a child out of school for the purposes of a term time holiday
* If parents/carers take their child on holiday in term time, this will be counted as an unauthorised absence. This is the same as truancy and you may be at risk of a penalty notice fine being issued or prosecution in the Magistrates court

Our Attendance Policy reflects these regulations and these are the regulations that we work within. Our Attendance Policy is available on our website or a hard copy may be obtained from the school office on request. The Attendance Policy includes our Term Time Leave of Absence Procedure. This contains the application form for a Leave of Absence in term time under exceptional circumstances.

However, it is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term-time. There are 190 statutory school days in one year. There are 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays which would not have a negative effect on your child’s education.

If you are in any doubt about an exceptional circumstance, then please make an appointment to come and talk about it with us.

** Choir Success!**

We are very proud of the children who take part in the various musical groups in the school. In April, our choir were honoured to sing at City Hall for the opening ceremony for the International Choir Competition. They joined with choirs from four other primary schools and sang to huge applause from the competing choirs from across Europe.

In March, the choir, alongside the Brass Band, Guitar Group and Percussion Ensemble performed at the Music for Youth Regional Event held at the Albemarle Music Centre. We are proud to announce, that as a result of this performance, the choir have been invited to perform as part of the Music for Youth National Event which is to be held in Birmingham in July. We are very excited about this!

** Bikeability**

Congratulations to our Year 5 children who recently completed their bike ability training. They were commended for their great listening skills and sensible behaviour while out on the streets with the instructors. Well done Year 5!

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**School Holiday Dates**

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| **2022-23** |
| **Friday 26th May** | School closes for half term break |
| **Monday 5th June** | School opens for Summer Term 2 |
| **Friday 21st July** | School closes for summer break |

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