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09/05/2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We were extremely proud of our Year 6 pupils yesterday as they completed the first day of their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) with a positive attitude and desire to do well. These tests last took place in May 2019 and we recognise that it has been particularly difficult for the children this year due to the disruption caused by two years of the pandemic. However, they have been well-prepared and approached these by demonstrating, in abundance, our school values of resilience and ambition.

The Year 2 children will be undergoing their end of Keys Stage 1 SATs shortly with Year 1 pupils undertaking their Phonics Screening Check in June. For those parents who didn't attend the meeting last term, information shared by Mrs Briggs can be found on the school website. Further information can also be accessed via the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-parents-need-know-about-year-1-phonics-screening-check>

Last week, school were pleased to host a cross-country event for the Sports Partnership involving EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils from different schools as well as our own. The children endured the wet weather and took part admirably. Many thanks to the pupils from Oak Class and our Bronze Ambassadors for helping out with the event. They were praised by the other schools for their brilliant support, including lifting the spirits of younger pupils, who were waiting for their buses, by keeping them entertained.

Since the last newsletter, members of the School Council have been on a 'Bear Hunt' into Ironbridge to choose the Barrow Values Bears. They visited 'Bears On The Square' and 'Merrythought' to look for teddy bears that showed the characteristics of the school values: respect, resilience, ambition, care, teamwork and curiosity. These family of bears were introduced to the rest of the children in last Friday's Celebration Assembly.

A huge thank you to Merrythought and Bears On The Square for being so lovely to the children and for issuing substantial discounts for their purchases. Resilience Bear was given to the school free of charge by Merrythought! We received a lovely email from the owner of Bears On The Square congratulating the children on their exemplary behaviour and good manners. We are extremely grateful to these local businesses for their support and generosity; the pupils will be writing letters of thanks to acknowledge this. Photographs have been uploaded to the school website.

We were delighted to receive a grant of £3000 from the Wynn Foundation towards mental health training for staff and the purchase of resources which support children's social skills and emotions, using therapeutic stories and counselling. Many thanks to the Trustees for their generosity.

Further to the information outlined in my last newsletter, regarding the Community Music Project, I have attached, and included below, a letter from the Shropshire Music Hub, which explains the Project to parents and gives ideas as to how they can help their children to produce the "family" stories and anecdotes of the last seventy years.

If you haven't already done so, please could parents/carers of pupils taking part in the residential visit return medical forms to school by this Thursday 12th May so that arrangements can be finalised and any dietary requirements communicated to the Pioneer Centre.

Census Day is Thursday 19th May. Please be aware that we are having a special pizza buffet menu to encourage pupils to have a school meal on that day.

With more opportunities for outdoor learning this term, please can you ensure that your child has the correct Forest School kit in school.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming the parents of Yew Tree Class into school on Friday 13th May to join us for the Celebration Assembly. This will begin at 2:50pm. Parents and carers should arrive on site from 2:40pm.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson
(Headteacher)

Community Music Project - The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

Dear Parents and Carers,

The three local Primary Schools in Broseley and Barrow will be holding a joint performance to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the afternoon of July 5th at the Birch Meadow Centre.

All of the schools work with Shropshire Music Service and the children are already being taught seven songs by their music teacher; each song representing the music of the last seven decades. Individual schools will be singing two songs and the final song will be sung by all three schools.

Additionally, the schools are using the occasion to help children research into the major events of the last seventy years and link them to memories that any member of the family or friends can remember. We would like the children to "interview" family members or friends of the family to see if they can remember special events and help the children to

record at least one of these memories. This project will allow children to research fairly recent history at first hand and provide them with important skills that are part of their curriculum. It will, particularly, help children to link national events with their own social history. The stories can be quite simple. It is really asking “Where were you? What were you doing? and What impact did it have?” when you tell them your stories. Examples might include:

- Going to see a concert of a famous pop artist – Duran Duran; The Beatles; The Stones, The Spice Girls...
- Watching an important sports event – in person or on the television – for example the 1966 World Cup or the 2012 Olympics
- Remembering what was happening when an important political event happened – for example, 9-11 and the twin towers; the assassination of John F Kennedy; the Queen’s Coronation...
- Remembering “old” technology – first gaming machine or computer; black and white television; cassette recorders...
- ...and countless other memories that you might have which help children understand how the last seventy years have helped create the world that they live in now.

From these memories, it would be helpful if children could be given an idea of how the event was so important at the time. For example – that the first television broadcasts only happened at a certain time of the day; families used public transport more often because fewer adults were able to afford cars; the lack of communication leading to having to rely on the Royal Mail; holidays taken in England because air travel was both rare and expensive...

If the children could then record these stories and bring them back into school, each one will be looked at and the schools will use them in some way – perhaps a school book or a class display. The aim of the children’s research is to provide ideas. They may bring their work in to school as the finished product, but school staff will help those who bring simply bring in a few ideas that need to be turned into an article.

A selection of the stories will be used at the performance on the 5th July as the children’s songs will be interspersed with their readings.

The schools are hoping that this project will help families to remember special events so that children begin to understand the importance of their own part in local and national history. At the same time, the main aim of the performance is to support the excellent work of the community and bring families together to celebrate this special occasion.

Finally, this year’s project is, hopefully, going to provide the children with the skills and enthusiasm to work on an even bigger joint schools’ project based on Broseley’s extremely important role in the Industrial Revolution. More about this to follow...!