



**Bickley Primary School**  
Nightingale Lane, Bromley BR1 2SQ

*All Different, All Equal, All Achieve*



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6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are enjoying the lovely weather at the moment – long may it continue!

### **Stay and Play After School**

Unlike many schools, we like to make the school field, court and playgrounds available for children to use for a while after school each day. We are very lucky to have such lovely grounds, and allowing children to stay and play encourages exercise, enables parents to socialise with each other, and also makes the most of the grounds – especially for children who don't have a garden.

If you stay after school with your child, please can you supervise them and make sure that they are behaving appropriately. If you are unhappy with how another pupil is behaving towards your child after school, please talk to the child's parent about this, rather than informing school staff.

If you or your child need to use the toilet after school, please use the outside toilets, rather than coming into the school.

### **Staff Car Park**

Please don't park in the staff car park. The barrier was broken during February's storm and we are still waiting for a replacement, so I understand how tempting it must be to drive into the car park. However, cars are parking very close to staff cars and we have had some damage caused by doors being opened by children into the doors of staff cars.

### **The Length of the School Day**

The government's recent White Paper includes a directive that 'schools will offer a minimum school week of 32.5 hours by September 2023.' (In other words, 6.5 hours a day). KS2 (Yrs 3 – 6) currently start at 8:50 am and finish at 3:20 pm, which equates to 32.5 hours. However, Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 currently start at 8:45 am and finish at 3:10 pm, which is slightly under 32.5 hours. Therefore, we will be extending the school day for Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 **from September 2022** by 5 minutes. They will start at 8:45 am and finish at **3:15 pm**.

### **Holidays in Term Time**

I am receiving many holiday requests from parents who give the reason as needing a holiday because they haven't had one for a while due to Covid. We know that holidays in term time are cheaper, and that many families are struggling with increases in the cost of living. However, research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on the work they have missed and most children will find returning to school having missed the teaching required to understand and complete tasks a stressful experience.

I am only allowed to authorise absence in term time under exceptional circumstances. Holidays do not count as an exceptional circumstance.

### **Sending children to school who are unwell**

We are having increasing numbers of children whose parents have told them before school that if they feel unwell during the day, they will come and pick them up. Naturally, most children who are told this then tell their teacher quite quickly that they are unwell and need to go home. If you decide your child is well enough to come to school, it would really help them – and us – if you let them know that you think they will be fine and that they can tell you at the end of the day how they have been. (It goes without saying that if we really think a child is too unwell to be at school, we will ring parents)



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## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Many thanks for those of you who have sent photographs and information about family members who have met the Queen or received cards / letters from her. We are putting up a whole school display in a couple of weeks for the children to see these examples, so if there are any more, we would be really grateful.

We are hoping that the weather stays dry and sunny for our celebrations on the afternoon of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Children will have a 'street party' style lunch outside, and parents are welcome to bring their own lunch and join the children on the field from 12:30 pm. There will be games and activities for children during the afternoon and teachers will supervise the children whose parents need to work to make sure they have a good time.

As you know, school is closed on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The following is from a previous letter:

For the academic year 2021/22, in acknowledgement of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the DfE has agreed that schools can take an additional day's holiday. This is because the two Bank Holidays (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June) fall in the half term holiday.

NEST schools have chosen to take the additional day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022. This means that we will be closed on that day.

## Dates for the Diary

<b>W/b 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 6 SATs week – Good luck, Year 6!
<b>20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Reception Reading Café for parents – 2:15pm
<b>21<sup>st</sup> May a.m</b>	Year 3 and 4 cross country at Crystal Palace
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Young Voices concert at the O2
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	FoBPS Boot Sale on the school field
<b>W/b 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	School closed
<b>10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	FoBPS Quiz Night
<b>W/b 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 6 Residential to Osmington Bay
<b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Bags2School collection
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	FoBPS Summer Fayre
<b>15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Sports Day Reports out
<b>18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Meet the teacher morning New Reception stay and play
<b>19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Yr 6 production 2:00pm
<b>20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Yr 6 production 6:00pm
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	Last day of summer term Year 6 party – 4:00pm – 6:00 pm

Thank you for your continued support.



Miss Blake