



Headteacher: Mr Greg Sorrell B.Ed (Hons), M.Ed, Dip SEN

Half-term newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

I know that I've written to you earlier this year, but this is the first Newsletter of 2018 and I'd like to mark the sad news of Dr Drew Anderson's passing before Christmas. Although he wasn't here for very long, I know that the children and staff became very fond of him. As an act of remembrance, the student council have requested that the school buys a playground bench and names it in his memory.

It has been a very busy start to the year!

Thank you for your understanding a couple of weeks ago when we lost all power. The big power cut meant that I had to close the school, sadly I couldn't give you any more notice. We were promised an engineer would arrive at school sometime in the evening but instead, they came around mid-morning on that Friday. We also had a specialist team who restored our fire alarm systems. The actual repair, a new fuse, took less than a minute to fit!

The staff really worked hard to get in touch with you all. That would be difficult enough with power but I'm proud of the way everyone rose to the challenge. We always try to learn lessons from problems and we now have a text service to keep you informed. If you haven't received a test text yet, you soon will.

Thank you also for your support for the timing change to the end of the day. We have contacted the local authorities and transport departments so everyone will be ready for the change.

From Tuesday, April 17th we open for pupils at 8.45am and close at 3.05pm.

I'm gradually getting to meet parents and carers attending Annual Reviews and I enjoyed meeting many of you at the coffee morning. Parents raised several points that I have been sharing with all staff. You told us that you would like more information about subjects, options, exams and colleges. Many parents said that they were really happy with school contacts but there is still room for improvement. I hope you are starting to see improvements. You will shortly receive our revised Home School Communications Policy.

We also shared the architect's plans for the addition of new classrooms on site. We have had recent meetings with the managers of this development and will keep you informed.

I will be writing to you later in the year about initiatives to raise all our expectations about pupils' levels of independence and responsibility.



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Keeping Safe

Educating our children and young people in keeping safe is an essential thread that runs through our curriculum here at Baston House. This half term we have been busy upgrading our whole school displays and using these as tools to raise awareness of themes such as 'Safeguarding', 'E Safety' and 'My Amazing Body'. As a school, we celebrated Safer Internet Day, a national campaign to fully educate young people on keeping safe in today's digital world. During this week, learners explored a range of topics including cyberbullying, the use of Emoji's, password protection and more. We hope you found the 'Conversations Starters' information page a useful tool in opening up dialogue with your children about these topics and we look forward to your continued support in keeping our young people safe!

Staff Leavers

We wish Mr Fred Longdon well for the future.

New staff

After half-term, we are pleased to welcome a new teacher, Mr Kwadjo Amponsem to the staff. He will mostly be working in the secondary department. Ms Eliverta will replace Mr Fred Longdon who has been teaching Mathematics and Business Studies to pupils in Key Stage 3 and above.

We have a new Therapy Team, we have already welcomed, Alison Lavender, senior specialist speech and language therapist; Anna Fox, Senior Specialist Occupational Therapist and Lili Burr who has been with us as a Teaching Assistant now joins the therapy team as a therapies assistant. The recruitment process to find a new Clinical Lead is well under way and we hope to announce an appointment in the near future.

Mr Paul Whiffen, our site manager, will soon have an assistant, Mr Louis Mears.

Dates for diary

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Open Evening on Wednesday 21st February; please return your appointments letter as soon as possible.

There will also be an opportunity for you to attend a coffee morning with Bromley Careers, letters will be sent with confirmation of the date and times shortly.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break.

Greg Sorrell