



BUILDWAS ACADEMY

Acting Head of School: Mr J Millington
Buildwas Road, Buildwas, Shropshire, TF8 7DA
01952 387827

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www.buildwasacademy.com

Executive Principal: Mr S Tilley

Dear Families,

Message from the Head of School:

Hi everyone,

This week the letter is a response letter to many questions that I am being asked.

Behaviour:

I am receiving a massive number of emails and messages about behaviour. I do my best to answer email queries directed towards me I cannot respond within some of the timescales that you outline as this is an impossible task. On Tuesday morning I wrote four responses to parents that were sent in overnight; this took me all morning and I had to push other things back because of this. When I was interviewed for this position, the children who sat on the interview panel asked me if I would be a head that sits in the office all day. I told them I would be out and about in school and in classes as much as I can and at the moment, I am struggling to find the time to live up to that promise.

From this point forward, please do the following:

- 1) If it is a behaviour concern, please make contact with the class teacher at the earliest opportunity. If you are emailing this in, please make the email for the attention of the class teacher
- 2) The Class teacher will provide you with a response and how it was dealt with
- 3) If you are not satisfied with the response, you can book a meeting to discuss it further with the class teacher
- 4) If you are still not happy with the outcome, please contact me and we will discuss the matter further

One of the things I am working currently is our behaviour reporting systems. Reporting will move online to our online system Bromcom where in the future you will be alerted about the behaviour through MCAS. This is in development and there are a few bugs in the system, but I am hoping to roll this out to staff over the next couple of weeks. As a staff, we have also been working to simplify the behaviour policy so that it is clearer for you. I am currently rewriting a couple of sections but will be up on the website next week. Please can we also be clear on what Bullying means (see previous letter) and the difference between Bullying, and getting on and falling out as there is a huge difference.





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Beech Class:

The other area where I get a lot of emails is about Beech Class. I have been in a number of times to Beech and have spent time looking at books and I will say that I am pleased with what I am seeing. I know that a few of you are frustrated about parents' meetings, but I have made the decision about a report going home and that decision stands and I will not be changing my mind on this matter. When there are any forthcoming changes in Beech or any other class, I will communicate that out to you all.

First Aid arrangements:

I have a number of questions about first aid, and when and what school should be reporting to you. First aid arrangements are improving as we speak as I have just ordered some new first aid books which will produce carbon copies. Once they arrive in school, the child receiving first aid will be given a copy of the slip for your records and school will keep a copy for their own records. We will only phone you if the first aid is very serious e.g., broken arm or if the is an injury to the head.

Parking:

I have been taking calls this week from residents of the local community and staff complaining about parking. Please can I ask you to be considerate about where you are parking, and could I also ask you not to park on the school car park particularly if you are coming to breakfast and after school club as it is causing problems when staff arrive at work. I appreciate your support with this matter.

Coming on to the playground:

It is now Spring Term so I should only be seeing Pre-school parents coming to the playground. The only other exception to this rule is if an agreement has been reached with the Class Teacher.

Booking dinners and clubs:

Telford and Wrekin have contacted this week to complain about the amount of food waste the school kitchen is experiencing due to inconsistency in dinner numbers. If you are booking a dinner and change your mind, please let us know via the MCAS app. There are a number of outstanding debts for school meals, can you please settle these debts as soon as possible as it will mean that your child won't receive the meal that you were expecting.

For clubs we must work to strict ratios, the younger the children, and the greater number of children again the more adults we potentially need, and I need to give advanced notice for this to happen. This is set out by law to ensure that your children are safeguarded when in school. Please don't just turn up to a club without booking as we may have to turn you away and that wouldn't be a very nice experience for





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you or the school. If you know you that need a place, please book via the MCAS app or if you don't need a place, please make that change again on the app. Cut off times are:

- 1) Breakfast club – 6 am on the day
- 2) After School club – 2 pm on the day
- 3) Dinners – 9.30 am on the day

After half term, unless there is a problem with the app, we won't accept bookings after the cut off times. Also, after half term Friday afterschool club will finish at 4.30 pm due to lack of booking and rising costs of business rates for gas and electricity; it is no longer financially viable to run the club after this time.

Please remember that after school sports clubs are free for children and can be booked in the usual way.

Safeguarding:

As a Designated Safeguard Lead for the school, I have witnessed parents entering the buildings without signing into the school. You must come to the office first to sign in and then wait in the entrance (we have a seat now for you 😊) and wait for an adult to escort to your destination in school. I know it is tempting to just enter a classroom or the main school building, but please can I ask you not to.

In other news:

On Monday this week, we had a special visitor leading assembly. It is always lovely to find opportunities to get together in the school hall; COVID has certainly changed how schools work. Our special visitor was Reverend Chris who is no stranger to the school, and she commented on how well the children listened and responded to her questions. I am really proud of the way our children behave in school and it is always wonderful to hear such positive feedback from visitors. I am keen to build links with our community and plan to work with Reverend Chris where we can do just that so watch this space.

Buildwas Rocks:

In **Willow class** this week we have been continuing to look at the Circus. In art we used chalk to draw our own clowns, in literacy we read the story 'Molly's Circus' and made lists for a picnic. In maths, in Reception, we have been looking at the composition of the numbers 6, 7 and 8, whilst in Preschool we have been looking at the numbers 1-5 using songs and lots of practical maths fun including making some very nice 5 t shirts using sparkles. In our Understanding of the world session we had a geography focus looking at maps. We looked at where certain circus animals might come from, whether a hot or cold country and where those countries would be on the world map. Finally we have finished off looking at How Christians believe God made all the animals including insects and





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how we should look after and respect them. We made some lovely collage bugs. This week we have looked at the Makaton sign for 'snow', just in case we get some in the near future 😊.

We have had a very busy week in **Beech Class** this week. We have continued to love learning about the Great Fire of London in theme. Mrs Poole found a fantastic game for us to play on the whiteboard which taught us how to tell if historical sources were reliable! We loved this game so much we asked to play it at the end of each day! We've also been very busy in design and technology. Since we had the whole school to ourselves on Wednesday, we took advantage of any extra grown-ups in the building and had nearly a whole day making our fire engines! We really enjoyed thinking of ways to keep our wheels from falling off of the axels and as a class we thought of some very creative ways.

Oak class have welcomed another new grown up into our class recently. Miss Humphreys has come to work with us for 9 weeks, before she finishes her teacher training and gets a class of her own. This week it has been wonderful for each year group of the class to have a teacher of their own in maths (with an extra teacher still on Thursdays and Fridays when Mr Reid comes to work with a group too!). We have really enjoyed being able to talk with each child, hearing their explanations of how they solve mathematical problems and watching them demonstrate their maths knowledge using concrete resources.

The children are becoming faster and faster at their mental maths skills too and we have been so impressed to see how many of them have been practicing and improving these by playing numbots and times table rockstars at home. Keep up the great work Oak class!

This week, **Holly class** have enjoyed learning about how the heart works. They have explored the different parts of the heart and the circulatory system. Again, we have all enjoyed our weekly swimming sessions!

This week our class attendance is:

Willow	100%
Beech	88%
Oak	82%
Holly	78%

Take care,

Mr Millington

