



BHJ News Headlines

Academic Year 2023-24

Autumn Term Update No.3

Key School Updates

School Grid

HCL (Herts catering) are moving to a new system after the half term. A huge thank you to the office team who are managing the changeover. They have been in touch with HCL to sort the system issues which hopefully have now been resolved. One of the great advantages will be that parents and children now have the option to select a school dinner any day of the week. The booking process will also help the kitchen in reducing food wastage and significantly reduce admin time for all staff.

Please remember to register before the start of school after half term. No system ever works perfectly initially and we are prepared for the transition after half term to iron out any issues. There are many schools that have successfully implemented this system and our team have been out to see it in practice to help with the transition. For the first couple of weeks, please bear with us if there are any teething issues. Ultimately, no child will miss out on a school dinner – so don't panic!

If you have an issue with the school grid system, please contact the team on either 01506 300310 or email support@schoolgrid.co.uk.

I will make one polite request though. On the whole, support has been positive. However, the office have received some communication, which has not been as positive. Please can I remind parents that our office staff work hard and are always there to help our families. Please bear this in mind when sending the team emails.

SEND Coffee morning

Miss Honeybell has been working hard behind the scenes on further developing SEND across the school and working with teachers and support staff. We would like to invite parents to our first SEND coffee morning for parent of children on the SEND register. During this meeting, we will be presenting to parents about our changes and improvements we have made. This will be on Friday 3rd November at 9am.

To help with knowing how many parents will be attending, we would be grateful if you could register [here](#).

Parent Feedback

As always, we value your feedback. This is an opportunity to be constructive and learn what works well for parents and help us to make improvements for the whole school. Click [here](#) to complete the feedback form on: Parents Evening, Areas of Strength, Areas to develop and Workshops you would like to see for parents.

Attendance

A couple of areas to note. Firstly, we are still having to chase absent pupils. Please ensure that you have notified the school by 9am. You can call and leave a message or email absence@bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk.



Secondly, a reminder about our school expectations. We share our attendance policy with the Infant school (Click [here](#) to see the policy). This policy outlines our expectations of you and what you can expect from us. After half term we will be writing to any families of children with attendance less than 90%. These children are considered 'persistent absentees' and their attendance may be discussed with the Local Authority Attendance Officer as part of our accountability for promoting good attendance. We are aware that children do not need to have had lots of absence in half a term to bring their attendance below 90% and we will take into account children who have missed multiple sessions due to one illness. This is a good time to remind our whole school community that every day at school is important and that children can still come to school with a cough or cold as long as they are feeling well enough to. We will always call you if we think they are not managing. Children must stay at home if they have a temperature and for 48 hours after they have been sick or had diarrhoea. If you have any questions please come and ask.

Secondary applications

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary and upper schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online by the closing date of **Tuesday 31st October 2023**. But we would recommend that parents complete it by **Friday 27th October**, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with by the Admissions Team ahead of the deadline. Parents should apply online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. Any applications received after **Tuesday 31st October 2023** will be considered as 'LATE' applications and are considered after all of the on time applications.

Please also be aware that this information applies to children who are currently being educated outside of their normal cohort, i.e. – those in current Year 5 but are chronologically Year 6. Parents/carers may need to make an application now with a request to delay their application to September 2025 further information is available on the website at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions under 'Children taught in a different year group'. School admission arrangements available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolsdirectory will also outline the application requirements for children educated out of year group.

E-safety and Safeguarding

As always, safeguarding and e-safety are a constant thread through school. Many children have access to mobile phones and/or other online devices. It is of course parental choice on whether you choose to allow your child to have a device and what they use it for. As a school, we cannot control what pupils view or messages that are sent out of school hours but we ask that parents continue to monitor their children's appropriate use of online devices.

Our children are learning how to navigate friendships and how they treat each other. As we say in school, words and actions have consequences and this is even more applicable online where messages, memes and pictures have a lasting impact. We encourage our children to be responsible for their actions. Children have the choice to be part of a chat or remove themselves if they feel something is inappropriate. The online world also creates a grey area between home and school. Therefore we reinforce to the children that they should always tell an adult – at home and/or school - if they see something that makes them uncomfortable.

If you have a concern, you can directly email school on safeguarding@bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk.



Donations

A huge thank for the Lego donations received at the start of the year. We have had a few parents from business ask whether we accept laptops. If your company has laptops (or Ipad) that are still fit for purpose but being replaced, we are happy to have a look and use them to supplement our current supply if they are appropriate. Email the admin team and we will contact you.

Footpath work Marshal Avenue and Seymour Road

Please see attached letter about footpath work over half-term.

<u>Key Dates for Autumn 2</u>	
Monday 30 th Oct – Friday 3 rd Nov	Year 6 Bikeability
Friday 3 rd Nov	SEND parent coffee morning
Friday 10 th Nov	PTA break the rules day!
Friday 17 th Nov	PTA Event: 90's Dance Night @ Pioneer
Tuesday 21 st Nov	Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip
Friday 24th Nov	INSET Day
Friday 1 st Dec	PTA Non-uniform day for Hamper Donation
Tuesday 5 th Dec	Yr 3 & 4 Carol Concert
Friday 8 th Dec	Christmas Hamper Raffle Draw
Saturday 9 th Dec	PTA event: Odyssey Christmas take over
Monday 11 th Dec	Year 5 Production
Wednesday 13 th Dec	Yr3 & 5 Xmas Lunch
Thursday 14 th Dec	Yr 4 & 6 Xmas Lunch
Wednesday 20th Dec	End Of Term (1:30pm)

Have a lovely half-term,

Mr Armoogum

Headteacher