



Principal's Blog

7th January 2019

Welcome back. We have started the new term with training on the 2nd January on the Knowledge based curriculum and in addition have had further development on teaching essay writing to the children to support their learning in the foundation subjects such as history, geography science and R.E.

Assemblies and rewards

We now have a format for the Monday values assembly which the children are enjoying. The Dog is for the most number of Dojo's awarded on a weekly basis. GTBG (Good to be Green) is counted weekly and converted to a 100% This first week was really good and children from the highlighted classes came up on behalf of the class to accept the class reward. At half term, the top 5 pupils with the most Dojo's will have a Dojo Disco and come into school in their own clothes on that day.

Class	Dojo's	GTBG
Robins	24	100
Owls	22	100
Hedgehogs	60	100
Otters	54	100
Badgers	37	100
Squirrels	32	100
Hawks	38	96
Eagles	38	100
Kestrels	30	97
Falcons	30	100
Beech	45	100
Willow	25	97
Ash	37	100
Oak	40	100

Walking each day gains extra Dojo's daily and completing homework tasks to a high standard as independently as possible also gains rewards in school.

We have discussed as a staff the homework and marking. Generally staff are all aware that pupil's need to know their homework is valued and all classes give out rewards and where they can, display homework. We all enjoy the efforts made to do these tasks at home and the learning on their history, geography and science is important.

Friends of Elstow School

The Christmas Fair was amazingly good – huge thanks to Sam White and the Friends team (including our long serving treasurer Joanna Jameson). We made about £750 in profit and this money is now ready to be used for the benefit of the children. The school Facebook feed is going to become much more active, with a plan to update it with good news from school and ongoing events.

Parking and driving to school

Andrew Prigmore, Road Safety Officer at Bedford Borough, Tim Hill, myself and Jon Shortland the Chief Officer for planning and highways, met to discuss the latest developments in managing the parking and entry to school for drop off and pick up of children.

The plan amongst other things is to pursue the possibility of an entrance to the school on the other side of the building – which would cut out the need to come round the school to the main road.

Cllr Hill wrote the following as a note about the meeting:-

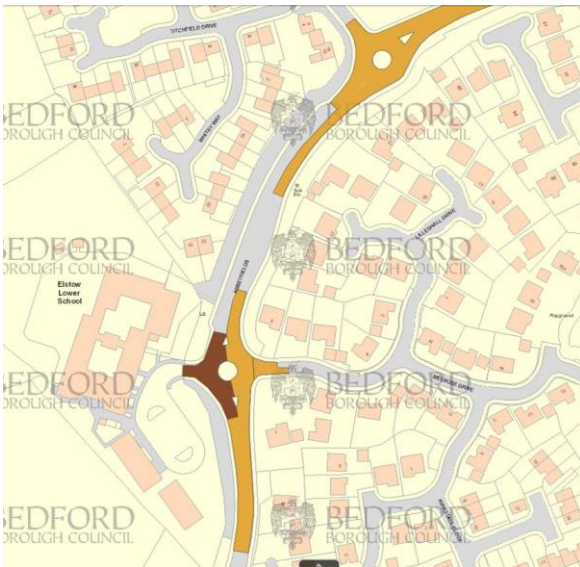
Rear entrance – Agreed to go for a pedestrian spur. Jon has found out that the planning by Sam Whitbread Estates for the land to the back of the school is in Full so it will need negotiation. Jon confirmed the Borough will design a scheme to do the necessary works to the rear entrance. Miss Baxter and the Operations Team from Advantage Schools will need to work with the Trust Estates Manager to get the Rear Entrance gate installed.

Consultation on yellow lines scheme on the Melrose Drive estate to discourage parking both sides/encourage only one side – Andrew will draft some text that has appropriate terminology, send it to Miss Baxter and Cllr Hill will add his and Miss Baxter’s text and share it to check all ok, , Miss Baxter and Cllr Hill to arrange delivery to local residents.

Camera outside school to monitor stopping on the zig zags and blocking school gates– Cllr Hill and Mr Prigmore advised Miss Baxter the camera will be on the lamppost to the right as you come out of the school of the roundabout. It will video offenders for 15-30 seconds

Bus timings – Mr Prigmore to see if the 8.30am and 3.30pm buses can be slightly changed as both are the peak times when the parents need as much space as possible to complete their runs.

The below map indicates where parking enforcement agents will patrol to ensure cars are not double parking. The school will continue with staff patrolling outside (usually Miss Baxter and Mr Brandon the Site Agent) to ensure that any confrontation doesn’t flare up and monitor child safety.



As soon as I have more information about the plans for another access to the school I will let you know.

Best regards

Samantha Baxter

Principal