



# BUXLOW

Independent Preparatory School

## Newsletter June 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the Newsletter for the Summer 1 term. It has been an extremely busy term since returning after the Easter break and it has been wonderful to note that the school has returned to a period of normality following the school lockdown. Please be assured that we will maintain the highest level of safety protocols to ensure this continues at Buxlow. There is much to celebrate for the achievements of pupils and staff over the last half term and for exciting plans to look forward to over the next half term.

Our pupils have participated in a Royal Mail competition to design a new stamp celebrating 'Heroes' and a Mental Health campaign run by Fulham FC Foundation, which has been warmly supported by parents – thank you! We also had an internal competition to design a Healthy Eating poster, with the winners and prizes to be announced when we return to school following this half term break.

We have received very positive responses from pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 following their 5 week course of archery, kindly organised by Mrs. Zaman. The school will be exploring other ways in which we can broaden the sporting opportunities for our pupils in the future. There are plans to include the lower school (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) for a suitable activity and those plans will be shared shortly once we have agreement in place with the provider.

Our teachers have also been working to achieve the accreditation of Showbie Educator and I am very proud to announce that all class teachers now hold that certification – well done teachers!

The Buxlow chickens now named as Edith, Clara, Constance, Mabel, Beatrice and Flora are growing quickly and have settled into their environment. They will be 6 weeks old on Wednesday and will be allowed to live in their new home once they are 12 weeks old. It has been wonderful to witness our pupils handling the chicks and showing a great willingness to learn more about them. They have written poetry and used the chicks as a basis for some excellent artwork. I would like to thank staff and particularly Miss Leach for her dedication to ensuring the chicks are well cared for. We are in the process of purchasing their new home which will be replacing the nursery shed to allow the chickens the much needed space for a healthy life without removing any of the playground space from pupils. An enormous thank you for Friends of Buxlow for their contribution to the cost of the new chicken coop with the remainder paid by ILG. We look forward to the production of eggs from September by which time the chickens will be 20 weeks ago, the earliest age for egg laying.

Mrs Zaman and I have closely monitored the parking situation outside of Buxlow and I have written to both Brent Council and Barry Gardiner MP to support the school in requesting an improvement to this issue. I would like to thank Buxlow parents for not parking directly by the school and for not performing manoeuvres such as 3 point turns near the school. My request includes zig zag lines to be painted outside and opposite the school and I am delighted to have received the personal support of Mr. Gardiner who has written directly to the CEO of Brent, Carolyn Downs. The safety of

pupils of both schools, Buxlow and Wembley Primary is at the very heart of this decision and I look forward to action being taken very soon by the council.

Please do continue to regularly check our social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. The school regularly posts updates to facilitate strong ties of communication from school to home and your support in this is truly appreciated as staff work tirelessly to ensure this continuous line of communication. **Please do share our pages with your family and friends!**

### **Next half term...**

I am thrilled to announce that Year 6 will be performing their end of year production of Peter Pan on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July to be performed on the school grounds. Thank you to the support of our Buxlow community with the assistance of a stage, marquee, lighting and sound to ensure our pupils have the basis for a truly professional production. Invitation will be limited to Year 6 parents only as space is limited, but also with the stringent measures in place to protect the school, we will still comply with social distancing. There will be a recording made for any parents that are unable to be in the audience on the day. The nursery graduation will also be held earlier in the day on the 1<sup>st</sup> July and Mrs. Jobe will be issuing those invitations to nursery parents.

We will be holding our Sports Day at Wembley Primary on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Unfortunately, due to restrictions from Wembley Primary and the current variant and fluctuating Covid numbers, only pupils and staff will be in attendance. I am sure that our parent community will appreciate that such measures are only taken to protect their children and the staff at the school. The intention here is to still provide our pupils with a fun day, which they deserve! The school is still in the process of finalising Speech Day and I will be announcing those details shortly as I closely monitor the local circumstances and also guidance from the government.

I will be testing my radio recording skills by recording a series of short podcasts about the history of Buxlow, a subject which is a passion of mine. I am excited about sharing the various exploits of Mrs. Probyn and Ms. O'Donnell and many other stories, some very comical in content, to share with the Buxlow community of pupils, parents and staff. These will be made available on our social media once the recordings are completed. This could be a new career for me!

### **Next Academic Year...**

To prepare our pupils for the increasingly global world they will inhabit and to be the global citizens that we anticipate them to become, we are introducing the teaching of Mandarin within the curriculum for all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 from September 2021. This is part of the forward-thinking initiative of the school to ensure our school is both modern in its approach to teaching and to broaden the education of our pupils. This will be in addition to French and will result in pupils having the experience of learning two languages, a first for Buxlow!

**Breakfast club:** To increase our wrap around care, plans are in place to provide a Breakfast club for all pupils from Reception to Year 6 from 7.30am from September 2021. Breakfast will be included in the cost and full details will be available before the end of term in July.

**EYFS:** Our Nursery and Reception pupils will have the opportunity to join LAMDA as Mrs. Lau will be teaching those year groups in addition to her current teaching from Reception to Year 6. Teddy Tennis will also begin from September 2021, which all pupils have enjoyed as well as increasing their

hand to eye coordination and gross motor skills. We may procure a future Wimbledon winner from the foundation of Buxlow, anything is possible!

I hope that this newsletter provides our parent body with the schools' accomplishments, for which we should all jointly be proud as well as details of future plans for the half term ahead and beyond.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful half term.

Best wishes,

Mr. May