

# The Berkeley Academy

## Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2023

### Headteacher's welcome



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year! I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all in the coming weeks and months, and am very excited about welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 5th September. The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on some projects which have been happening during the summer holidays, and to support your child in returning to school successfully. I am aware that returning to school, or even starting school for the very first time, can create a range of different feelings for our children and I would like to reassure you that as a team of adults we are ready to support where needed.

We welcome Mrs Fowler to our EYFS teaching team this year. Mrs Halliwell, an experienced EYFS and Speech and Language specialist teaching assistant will also be joining the EYFS team. We also welcome Miss Raiswell to the team, she will be supporting a number of children (and classes). I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to the team.

We have lots of exciting activities planned for the year ahead which will be shared with you later this week once finalised with all staff. We look forward to you being part of your child's journey.

Please do not hesitate to come and speak to any of the team if you have any concerns or worries.

Many thanks

Mrs Gohr

### Parent Handbook

Can we please remind you that we have a Parent Handbook on the school website which can be found following this [link](#). The aim of the handbook is to outline routines and expectations for children attending The Berkeley Academy. Can we please encourage you to read this and share aspects of it with your child.

Please remember that timings for the start of the school day have been adjusted since last year.

New timings	Staff open doors	End of day
Nursery	8:40am – 8:50am	3:15pm
Classes 1 to 6 (Reception & Key Stage 1)	8:40am – 8:50am	3:15pm
Classes 7 to 14 (Key Stage 2)	8:45am – 8:55am	3:20pm

## Staying Healthy - reminders

- Only water in water bottles please.
- Healthy snacks to be sent in for breaktime please.
- No nuts please due to allergies.

## Uniform and High Expectations

- Please NAME all items of clothing.
- Please follow uniform expectations.
- No make-up or nail varnish and only small stud earrings please.
- If children need to bring mobile phones into school they must be handed into class teacher at the beginning of the day for safe keeping. Children must **not** use their phones whilst on the school premises.
- PE kit to be worn to school on PE days.

### PE LESSONS – AUTUMN 1 TERM – 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 – 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>YEAR 2 – INDOOR PE</b>	<b>YEAR 4 – OUTDOOR PE</b>		
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>RECEPTION – INDOOR PE</b>	<b>YEAR 1 – OUTDOOR PE</b>	<b>YEAR 5 - SWIMMING</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>YEAR 2 – INDOOR PE</b>	<b>YEAR 3 – OUTDOOR PE</b>	<b>YEAR 6 – OUTDOOR PE</b>	
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>YEAR 3 – OUTDOOR PE</b>	<b>YEAR 4 – OUTDOOR PE</b>	<b>YEAR 5 – OUTDOOR PE</b>	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>YEAR 1 – OUTDOOR PE</b>	<b>YEAR 6 – INDOOR PE</b>		

## School Site

### New Toilet Block

We have had a new toilet block built for the youngest children in school over the summer. Can we please ask you to be patient with us over the next couple of days so we can see what the 'school traffic' at drop and pick up looks like in order to create the most efficient and safe way of seeing children in and out of school.

If you refer to the handbook it does indicate which entrance would be most appropriate for you to access your child's classroom.

If you park on the parent car park and wish to gain access to the main playground can we please ask you to walk through the EYFS outdoor area. Can we please remind you that staff will have spent time setting up learning activities for the day ahead and children must not use this area prior to the school day starting. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Garden Area



We have been working with local businesses to develop the garden area, and hope that you agree that it looks so much better! Special thanks to FOBS, B&Q at Crewe who have donated many plants, and also to Cheshire Landscaping Supplies who offered a first-class service in delivering and helping move the gravel. We are looking forward to making use of this area to support our curriculum delivery.

If anyone would like to offer any time to support maintaining or developing our garden please do let us know.



Given the number of children who attend our school, parking is always going to prove to be a challenge. Can we please ask you to be mindful of the safety of our whole school community during drop-off and pick-up times. The staff car park should not be used by parents in the morning. Thank you.

## FOBS - Meeting

On Thursday 14th September at 6pm, we are inviting all parents to join us for our first Friends of Berkeley School (FOBS) meeting which will be held in the school hall. FOBS do a lot for the school and in order to ensure that this is sustainable, we need support from all parents. We look forward to seeing you at this event.



## Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub. I hope that this offers reassurance.

## Applying for school places – September 2024

### September 2024 entry

Status	Primary schools	Secondary schools
Online application forms available	1 September 2023	1 September 2023
Closing date for applications	15 January 2024	31 October 2023

If you have a child due to start at Secondary School or Reception **next September (2024)** the application window is now open. The link for Cheshire East Admissions can be found [here](#). Please remember even if you have siblings at the school you are apply to, you still need to complete the application form.

## Dates for the diary



Later this week, we will be sending you a number of key dates for your diary which will allow you to be part of your child's journey at The Berkeley.

## Contact Us

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