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Welcome back to Brooklands! I am very pleased to be able to introduce myself to you as the new head of Brooklands Primary School. Having now been here a week, I have met all of the children and staff and have also spoken to some of you on the playground and around school. Thank you to you all for making me feel so welcome within the Brooklands community.

The staff spent two days at the start of last week preparing together for the new term. For part of that time, we carefully considered the school vision and values, around the school motto, 'A school where everyone shines!' I was very impressed by the commitment and dedication of the staff. Everyone pledged to do their best for the children of Brooklands. Our school is wholly committed to being, 'A school where everyone shines' – you will soon see it prominently displayed around school and in the classrooms. The assemblies during the first week have all been about how we can all 'shine' in our school community. The children know that this means always doing their best, no matter how insignificant it may seem. It also means working together as a team so that we can all help each other, adults and children alike to shine in and around the school.

You will soon notice some changes in school which will support the vision of the school. Every decision made in school, is made in the best interests of the children and with them at the very heart of everything we do. As a parent myself, I do understand that sometimes there may be issues that you wish to discuss with the school. In the first instance, these should be discussed with class teachers. Very often these can be easily resolved by having a quick chat at the start or end of the school day. Teachers will be out on the playground at 8.40 everyday welcoming the children into school. This provides a great opportunity for you to speak to them should you need to. If you need to speak to a more senior member of staff then Miss O'Neill, Miss Hodges or Miss Rogers can be available to speak to. They do all have teaching commitments so you should make an appointment via the office to speak to them at a mutually convenient time. In the unlikely event that the Assistant Headteachers are unable to help, you should make an appointment via the school office to speak to me. I will be happy to meet with you. I will also be happy to chat informally on the playground, so please do come and stop me for a chat.

There are lots of exciting plans already in place for the future. Change is inevitable and the school needs to keep moving forward and developing good practice in an ever changing 21st century society. With this in mind, this will be the final newsletter that will be printed and sent to all parents. In future our newsletters will be published monthly and should be accessed via the school website. Anyone requiring a hard copy can call into school to pick one up from the school office.



We will use our texting service to let you know when the newsletter is going to be uploaded and send out a link for this. We will also 'Tweet' the link to the newsletter on our Twitter feed. The plan is to update our website weekly with photos and school successes! We will also make use of texting and Twitter to alert you of any other issues and to keep you informed of school life. I'm sure you will agree that it's important that we embrace the technology that's available to us to make everyone's life easier.

I have included some other notices on the September newsletter, but please keep your eye on the website and on Twitter, and please ensure your contact number is up to date for our texting service too.

Ms C Hathaway.

twitter  @brooklandsprim1

School Website – The school website is an important part of our school community. We will endeavour to keep it right up to date and make sure that all of the information is current. At the start of the school year there are always lots of updates needed and we are in the process of making these changes now. Please check the website regularly for news and for information. We will aim to ensure that all letters to parents are also uploaded to our website for you to download as necessary. Don't forget our web address www.brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk.

September Classes: This year we decided to name our classes after birds to fit in with the owl on our school logo. Following discussions with the children, the classes this year will be called the following names;

Teacher	Year Groups	Class Name	Teacher	Year Group	Class Name
Miss Mather	Nursery		Miss Hill	Year 3	Kingfisher Class
Mrs Thompson	Reception	Cygnets Class	Miss Leivars	Year 4	Nightingale Class
Miss Plumb	Reception	Puffin Class	Mrs Miller-Rowley/Mrs East	Year 4	Owl Class
Mrs Bezant	Year 1	Blackbird Class	Mrs Hampson	Year 5	Peacock Class
Mrs Harris	Year 1	Sparrow Class	Mrs McHale	Year 5	Heron Class
Mr Langdon	Year 2	Magpie Class	Miss Hodges	Year 6	Falcon Class
Mrs Pickersgill	Year 2	Robin Class	Miss Fellows	Year 6	Kestrel Class
Miss Rogers	Year 3	Hummingbird Class	Mrs Baker/Mrs Miller	Year 6	Eagle Class



Attendance & Punctuality – School starts at 8.45am and staff will be outside 5 minutes before this to welcome you to school. Please could you help your children to be on time for school every day. Just a reminder to call the office if your child is unwell as we need to know that all our children are safe and accounted for. We started off with great attendance for the school. 99.1% on the first day. That's brilliant – let's see if we can keep it up! I wonder which classes will have 100% attendance this term?

School Uniform – At Brooklands we are proud of our children in their uniform and we are very keen to maintain high standards in all that we do, including the way we look. I spoke to the children this week in assembly about the importance of always being 'ready for learning'. Part of the discussion was about looking 'ready for learning'. All children should wear a navy blue (not black or grey) sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan with or without the school name on. They should also wear black, grey or navy trousers or skirts / pinafore dresses with white or pale blue polo shirts or shirts. All children should wear sensible, black school shoes. Trainers should be unbranded and black. Children are now asked to tuck in shirts and not to wear sweatshirts and jumpers round their waists in school. I have also explained to children that it is not safe or appropriate to wear large jewellery for school. Only small studs in the ears please and a wrist watch if necessary. Headbands should also be discreet and in school colours. Thank you for your support in helping to maintain high uniform standards.



Healthy eating- We encourage the children to only bring healthy snacks to school. This means fruit or vegetables, cereal bars or healthy biscuits. Children are not allowed to eat chocolate or crisps at break time. Children in years EYFS and 1 & 2 are provided with fruit every day. Lunch boxes should also be healthy – I've already spotted lots of healthy lunch boxes in school this week. Well done! Another reminder is that we encourage children to bring in water bottles from home for in the classrooms. Juice is only for lunchtimes please. Water is the best thing to drink during the day and is great for helping the brain to function effectively!

Car Parking – Residents on Clumber Street have raised concerns about parents /carers parking and blocking driveways. This is making it difficult for residents to leave and access their properties. Please be mindful of this in the future.

Welcome! – I am keen to encourage parents into school as often as possible, but it is important to understand that the school has a duty to safeguard all of the children. With this in mind, I would ask that all parents who wish to access the school office enter school through the main reception doors and do not walk through school. Also, please leave prams and pushchairs outside of classrooms while dropping children off at the start of the day. I appreciate your co-operation with this. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

There have been a number of open afternoons planned for parents in addition to parents evening for this term. We would love to see you come along. Dates are on the following page and we will send out reminders by text and through Twitter nearer the time. Please do come along to see what we do in school! You are all very welcome!



Letters are now starting to come out for the clubs we have in school. There are lots of opportunities for after school activities. There are sports clubs and music clubs, some of which are after school and some of which are held at lunchtimes. Please look out for letters if you haven't received them already. Mrs Harby also has a few vacancies for instrumental music lessons. Please ask her for more information if you would like your child to benefit from music lessons in school. It's a great way to have fun!

Breakfast club – The Brooklands breakfast club has been a great success so far. The first term went really well and the breakfasts are amazing! There are still vacancies in breakfast club which runs from 7.30am to the start of school every day and costs just £2 per day per child. You can choose which days to come if that suits you better, but whatever you decide you should reserve your place soon as places are limited to a first come, first served basis. A good breakfast is the best way to get the brain alert and prepared for a great day of learning in school!



Other Important Dates for your Diary



Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October - Math's Afternoons with Miss Leivars

Wednesday 21st October - Open Afternoons – Learning Challenge Reviews 2.30pm – 3.15pm
(More details will follow)

Friday 23rd October – End of Autumn Term 1

Monday 2nd November - Back to School

Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th November - Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6-30pm

Friday 27th November – INSET DAY

Tuesday 8th December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 2.00pm

Thursday 10th December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 5.45pm

Thursday 17th December - Canal carol singing 5.00pm

Friday 18th December – End of Autumn Term 2

Monday 4th January 2016 – Back to School