



Welcome to the October edition of the newsletter. Thank you to you all for making me feel so welcome at Brooklands. I can't believe that half term is nearly here and that Autumn is well and truly upon us! I am aware that there have been a few changes this year for everyone in school. Thank you all for being so patient and for understanding that any changes that we make are done with the best of intentions and with the best interest of the children at heart. One of the biggest changes is that we haven't been sending out a weekly newsletter to parents. Instead, we have been aiming to update our website and our Twitter feed more regularly. We also have a new Facebook page for Brooklands where we can upload information and images instantly so that you are always up to date with our latest news. There are lots of things to celebrate at Brooklands and we want to share things with you as soon as they happen rather than waiting to put it into a newsletter at the end of the month. However, we are still planning to write a monthly newsletter, like this one, but as you know, this is now available for you to download. Of course, if you still wish to have a hard copy you are welcome to call into school to pick one up.

It has been lovely to meet some of you and say hello on the playground at the start and the end of the school day. I aim to get outside as often as I can and to meet with you for a chat. Thanks for all of your ideas and suggestions. Although I can't promise to act on all of them, it's great to know that we have interested and supportive parents at Brooklands. On that theme, the following newsletter contains news of our forthcoming PTA events and also news of how the children have decided to spend the money raised from the Summer Fayre last term. It's all very exciting! Great things are happening at Brooklands Primary and I look forward to the weeks and months ahead!

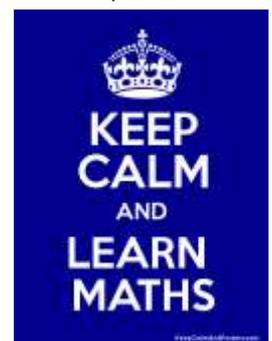
Ms Ceri Hathaway



Maths Curriculum development: Maths is one of our priority areas for development in school this year. Our end of year results in maths last year were a little disappointing, so we have decided to really focus on the teaching of maths and maths skills at Brooklands this year. Each class now has a daily session of 'fluency' sessions in maths. This is where the children have the opportunity to practice maths skills and problem solving. The idea is that if they practice 'little and often' they will become gradually more confident and skilled so that when they are applying skills to problems in maths they will be able to work out calculations more quickly and with more confidence. We will review the success of these sessions shortly to see if we need to make any adaptations to make them even better.

Many thanks to all of you who completed maths questionnaires at the start of the term. We had quite a few responses so we have a better idea of what you feel you would like to see as part of the maths teaching at Brooklands. Miss Leivars has looked carefully at the responses and has consulted with the staff to formulate a written response to the questionnaires which is posted on the school website. We have tried to answer your queries and questions and you will see how we intend to respond to your suggestions by reading the response on the website. Please take the time to look at the website. I do realise that although the website isn't perfect at the moment there are still important documents on it and it is still a vital way of communicating with parents.

Still with maths, Miss Leivars has asked me to pass on that she will soon be sending home booklets to parents which set out the new National curriculum end of year expectations for each



year group. This information will enable you to look at where your child should be in maths at the end of each year. By reading what they need to know by the end of the year, it will help you to understand what we are aiming for and what we are teaching over the year. Look out for the booklets coming home soon. Of course we will also send the link to the website so that you can download them too.

And finally for maths, you will be aware that we decided to postpone the planned maths workshops/open afternoons for parents. When this was discussed with staff it was decided that the children would benefit from more time with their teachers before parents came to see them. So we have moved the maths afternoon to November so that we can get the most out of them and so that you can see the most up to date and relevant teaching for your children. Watch out on Twitter, Facebook and texts for the new dates.



Reading challenge – Congratulations to everyone who took part in the reading challenge at the end of last term. At our celebration assembly on Friday last week we had a visit from the co-ordinator, Cathy Peterson. She told us that Brooklands' children accounted for 30% of the whole participation. This included all of the other Long Eaton schools. So well done to all of our children who took part! They were rewarded with medals and our 'Reading Ambassadors' all received a free book as a prize. Let's see if we can do it again this year and keep enjoying our reading together!

Open Afternoons: During the last week of this half term we will be opening our classrooms for you to come in and share our learning. On Wednesday 21st October, you are all invited into school at 2.30pm to come and see what we've been learning so far this year. You are all most welcome. In order to access school you will need to come in through the main reception so that we can sign everyone in and know exactly how many people we have on site. Please do not try to enter via classrooms as we will be unable to let you in to school this way. Also we are unable to allow children to leave school early before the end of the school day. Please come along and see us enjoying our learning. Everyone welcome!

PTA Halloween Disco: The PTA have organised Halloween Discos for the end of the half term. They will be held as follows:-

Reception on Tuesday 20th October from 3.30pm to 4.30pm – Cost £2.50 per pupil

Years 1 & 2 on Tuesday 20th October from 5.00pm to 6.00pm – Cost £2.50 per pupil

Years 3 & 4 on Friday 23rd October from 3.30pm to 4.30pm – Cost £1.50 per pupil

Years 5 & 6 on Friday 23rd October from 5.00pm to 6.00pm – Cost £1.50 per pupil

Tickets are available now by returning your slip to either the School Office or to a member of the PTA. Fancy dress is optional but it would be great to see you dressed up!



Summer Fayre Funds: Following the huge success of last year's Summer Fayre, we have a significant amount of money to spend for the school. The new school council met last week for the first time this year and part of their agenda was to discuss what they would like to spend the money on. After much discussion, they have decided that they would like to have some laptops and tablet computers in school. This is a great idea as at the moment we do not have any mobile technology available to support the children's learning in school. Children can only use PC's currently, either in the ICT suites or in the corridors. Purchasing laptops and tablets will mean that the children can use them to support their learning both inside the classroom and around school. It will also give them better access to movie making software, camera software and other presentation tools. We are currently receiving quotations for the best machines that will best function as we need them to. We will make sure we can buy the most up to date hardware that we can afford and also some storage trolleys where the machines can be stored and charged. Thank you to everyone who made last year's summer fayre so successful! I will let you know when the new equipment arrives in school.

Lost Scooters: Several scooters have been left in school and have not been claimed. If anyone has lost a scooter in school, please let the office staff know and they will pass the message on to Mr Baker our caretaker. He will then return the lost scooter to you. Any scooters not claimed by the end of the term will be donated to charity.

