

Dear all,

Welcome back to school! I'm sure that you were all pleased that the children returned to school this week. A special welcome to anyone new joining the Brooklands community. New children, staff and parents –we hope that you will be very happy and successful here! Welcome to our school!

This year will be another exciting year for Brooklands. Staff have lots of learning activities planned and we have lots of events planned. I have reattached the 'Diary Dates' that I sent out in July to remind you of the dates that we have already planned. There is one amendment already. **There is not an INSET day on Monday 26th June.** School will be open as normal on that date. School will be closed for INSET on Monday 3rd July and NOT Monday 26th June. I have amended the attached. I will also mention any additions to these dates in the weekly email.

New uniform – It has been a delight this week to see all of the children in the new uniform. I have had lots of positive feedback from the children, staff and parents about how smart the children look and how proud they feel to be part of Brooklands School. I have reattached the uniform code as there is still some confusion about what the children should be wearing. Please note that the girls do not have to wear a tie with a summer dress! However, some of them were so keen to wear a tie this week that they chose to put one on with their dresses. I was so pleased that the children were keen to wear ties that we allowed them to keep the ties on with dresses for this week. I would remind you also that children should be wearing a Brooklands Logo cardigan or jumper (not plain) and that they should also be wearing a shirt at school with a tie, not a polo shirt. The new school code also says grey (not black) trousers, skirts or pinafores. I appreciate that this year is a transition year, but please bear this in mind when buying new uniform. The uniform code, as published last summer (and on the school website) is attached. Ties are also now available to buy in the school office £3 elastic (Y1&2) and £4 clip (Y3-6).

Ofsted – I have had the draft report from Ofsted and I am hoping to receive a letter to send out to parents from Ofsted next week. Due to the summer holidays the publishing of the report has been delayed, but as far as I know the report should be published very soon and then I will be able to share the outcome with you.

Attendance – Miss O'Neill will be sending out some very important information about attendance next week. Please watch out for an additional email which will highlight some

amendments to the attendance policy. We need to improve our attendance figures and Miss O'Neill will share news of how we plan to do this with you next week.

Safeguarding and on-site safety – Mr. Bacon the School Business Manager has informed me that there are some parents who are coming through the school to drop off children in the morning. Please walk around the outside of the school building so that we know who exactly is in the building at any one given time. It is important that any parent wishing to access the office uses the main reception doors. Please do not use the doors at the back of reception (these will be locked in the morning and at the end of the school day from now on) and please do not walk through the Infant hall or the KS2 corridor. It is all of our responsibilities to keep our children safe. Please support us in doing this by keeping to this procedure.

Homework – A message from Miss Rogers - Over the past year, we have been striving to improve our expectations of homework. During the year we opened our 'Brooklands Homework Hub' to showcase our children's efforts. At Brooklands we want to offer learning opportunities and generate a culture of high expectations. Homework is a vital element of this. Children can learn lifelong skills from doing homework. Successful children at 'A' level and GCSE are those who have developed their independent learning skills, lead learning through questions and ideas and are resilient and resourceful along the way. These skills can be developed by a strong culture of homework.

With the above in mind we have made some improvements to our homework. Children in reception will have a basic skills homework book which will enable them to practise and apply the skills they have been learning at school, such as phonics, number work and letter formation. Children from Year 1 to Year 6 will have Learning Challenge homework one week and maths the next. This will alternate each week and all children will be given a whole week to complete it. Year groups may choose the day they give the homework out on. When we interviewed children about homework, all of the children said that they wanted an element of choice so the Learning Challenge homework does just that. Children will bring home a Learning Grid (Learning Challenge homework) which will have three or four choices. Children will only have to complete one of the tasks. Maths homework will be set in a different book. Most of the time, the homework will be revisiting or consolidating a concept they have already covered in class. Children will continue to have spellings and be expected to read on a regular basis, filling in their reading record each time. Reading regularly may help your child to progress in all subjects so please support by recording their reading in their reading record, even if they haven't finished the book.

Please support your child in this and do feel free to speak to me about it should you have any questions. Miss Rogers.

Maths Club – A message from Miss Leivars – As a result of the success of the KS2 Maths Homework club last year we are starting Homework clubs for EYFS/KS1 and KS2. We are very much aware that some children, and parents, struggle with homework and want to offer them the chance to complete it at school. Your child will be able to do this for either their English or maths homework after school on a Thursday starting from September 22nd. Letters will go out to all children on Monday 12th September. Please reply as soon as possible as places will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Photographs on social media – Letters will be coming out next week to update our records on photographic permission for children. There are quite a few children in school who are vulnerable and who are not allowed to have their photos on publicity material or on social media. When we post on social media we are very careful about who we post as we have a list of those children who, for safeguarding reasons, cannot have their photos taken. This is why we ask parents not to post photos of other children on social media sites. Please complete the permission slip when you receive it and return it to school so that we can keep our records accurate and up to date.

Please remember if you have any issues that you wish to discuss, please talk to class teachers in the first instance who can then pass it on to senior staff if the need arises.

Many thanks for all your on-going support for the school.

*Ceri Hathaway
Headteacher*

*The link to see our 'Stars of the week' for this week is:
<http://www.brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk/news-events/stars-week>*

Amended / additional dates:

No INSET day on Monday 26th June 2017 – school open as normal.