

Dear all,

Wow – doesn't time fly when you are having fun? It is hard to believe that we are already at half term, isn't it? With a chill in the air – it sure feels like autumn!

Some children in school have come to the end of their first Learning Challenge topic for this academic year and it has been great to see children and teachers celebrating learning in a variety of different ways.

Year One's Royal Tea Party: Thank you to all of you who attended this week as Year One celebrated the end of their Learning Challenge by holding a Royal Tea Party. Children made their own food (sandwiches and shortbread) by combining their reading skills to follow instructions with their Design Technology skills. Art skills were used by the children to create crowns and centerpieces for the tables. The children made invites and thoroughly enjoyed having family and friends together for the afternoon. Well done to all the Year One team for organizing a fantastic afternoon which enriched the children's learning.

Attendance update: As you know we have been running our new Attendance Policy for the past half term. We are very pleased to say that monitoring shows that our attendance figures are above our target and stands currently at 97.1%, an improvement on this time last year. One of our concerns has been late arrival at school, and again our monitoring shows that this is decreasing. We understand that there will be times when your child is ill and cannot come to school, however with better communication between home and school we can ensure that your child has the support they need to shine. Thank you for your positive response to our Attendance Policy; it's fantastic to know we have your support.

Attendance Certificates: Children who have achieved 100% attendance for this half term will be presented with an Attendance Certificate today in their classroom; an idea which originated in discussion with parents at the last Head teachers Coffee Morning. Each half term there will be an opportunity to celebrate good attendance in this way. Therefore, there will be six certificates that children can collect through the year. This helps us raise the profile of good attendance for the children and give more opportunities to celebrate their efforts.

Maths – TT Rock Stars: This week has seen the launch of TT Rock Stars in Key Stage Two (Key Stage One coming soon!) which we have purchased to support your child's mathematical development in times tables and corresponding division facts. Your child has been given a username and password so that they can log on over the holidays and try out the site for

themselves at www.ttrockstars.co.uk. Some have already given it a go during their IT lessons and during our weekly homework club tonight.

Once logged in children can start testing their times tables and win coins as a reward. These can be used to buy things for their avatar and upgrade their profile. There are four areas to play in:

Garage is a zone for practicing their times tables set by their teacher

Arena they can play against their classmates

Festival they play against the whole world

Studio is a zone for testing their speed.

For full details about the package please look in the 'Guides' and 'Getting Started' section on the Times Table Rock Stars website. You can access it on any computer or mobile phone and also through downloading the app on iOS and Android tablets. If you have any questions or queries please speak to Miss Leivars.

Message from our Governing Body: A warm thank you to all the parents who applied to be Parent Governors. We were overwhelmed with the interest you showed in developing the Governing Body and to help drive the strategic vision of our school.

As you will be aware, we held the elections earlier this month due to the number of applicants far outweighing the positions available. We are pleased to inform you that, as a result of your votes, we welcome Tim Cuthbert and Lynn Tannigawa onto the Governing Body. We look forward to working closely with these new parent governors to make our school an even better place for children to learn.

PTA: School was a scary place this week with children arriving in fabulous fancy dress to attend our PTA Hallowe'en Discos. Children thoroughly enjoyed the fun and frolics (and scaring me!) on both evenings. Congratulations has to be sent to the PTA for their fantastic organisation. Well done! Don't forget the PTA are always looking for extra support, even if you can only spare an hour or two, you will be warmly welcomed. If you wish to find out more about the PTA and its purpose please contact Mrs Dunham who will be happy to talk to you.

And we can't leave this week's update without mentioning how proud we are of our all our sporting teams that have represented Brooklands lately in interschool events. It has been wonderful to see the team spirit, sportsmanship and effort that our children have demonstrated. A huge thanks has to go to Mrs East, who gives up much of her own time to

organise and support our young sports people, and to you for attending the tournaments and cheering our children on.

Warm wishes for a fabulous half term holiday. We are looking forward to next term with the run up to Christmas extravaganzas and more lovely learning.

Kind Regards,
Kirsten O'Neill
Deputy Headteacher

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

Also, please don't forget to keep up to date via Twitter @brooklandsprim1 or on Facebook.

Amended / additional dates for the first week back:

Monday 31st October – Return to school.

Wednesday 3rd November – Year 3/4 Futsall at Long Eaton School.

Thursday 4th November – Rain forest Roadshow Year 4.