



*Update from -16<sup>th</sup> December 2016*

*Dear all,*

*And so we reach the end of another term and another year. 2016 has been quite a year for Brooklands! The highlight has to be the result of the OFSTED inspection in July. We were all delighted and overjoyed with the news that we had improved the school so much that we could now be awarded a 'Good' grading from OFSTED. What an achievement for the team and of course the children – well done to all! In September we started wearing the new uniform. I have heard many comments now from within school and within the local community about how smart our children look. They are a credit to you as parents. Thank you for committing to the new uniform standard, I have really appreciated your support.*

*We have also seen staff come and go. As I mentioned last week, we are also due to see some of our former staff return in January. We are delighted about this and welcome them back warmly into the Brooklands family. We are sorry to see Mr Leach leave us after a very short time at Brooklands, but wish him all the best for the future. We also wish Mrs Bezant every happiness as she leaves us today to start her Maternity Leave. We wish both her, and Mr Bezant, lots of luck for when their new baby arrives. We hope that they will really enjoy being new parents.*

*In 2016 our PTA and Breakfast Club has gone from strength to strength. We are delighted with the support the school receives from the PTA. The Christmas Fayre was a great success, raising nearly £900 for PTA funds. It is due to this great fundraising effort that we can afford to treat children to theatre visits and extra-curricular activities in school. Many thanks on behalf of the PTA for the support that you, as parents, give to them. Look out for their smart new T shirts too – they really 'Shine' in them!*

*The Breakfast Club is now welcoming almost 50 children per day, which is brilliant. Thank you to all those of you who support our breakfast club! You will remember that we asked for your views on after school care too. We have taken your views on board and we are hoping to launch Brooklands'*

after School Club in 2017. We will keep you informed about how to book to use this facility; So watch this space!

**Buildings Update** – Over Christmas we will be having some improvements done to the school. Those of you with children in Year 1, will know that we have had a problem with the drains in that area. We have been liaising with Derbyshire County Council and with local firms to ensure that this essential repair work is carried out over the Christmas break. I am confident that once the problem has been solved the classrooms will soon be back to normal and more comfortable for both the children and staff. We are also having some other refurbishments done to the building over the Christmas break, all of which will make Brooklands a better learning environment for the children.

**Homework Club** – Homework club was launched this term and has been a great success. We would like to continue this throughout the spring term. If you would like your child to join the club it will be starting up again in the week commencing January 9<sup>th</sup>. Further information will be sent out after the Christmas Break.

**Website Survey** – Please don't forget to complete our online survey for the website. Here is a link for a quick online survey for parents. We would appreciate your opinions and will tell you the result of the survey. The survey is available now at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WN7FK9M>

**Sporting Success** - On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, six year 6 children entered a Basketball Tournament. The children came top of the group (after winning all of their games) and played in the final against Grange Primary. They only lost one nil in that final game and overall came 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 8. The children were brilliant! Additionally, at the end of the tournament the children were awarded the fair play award as the event organiser noticed that as soon as the final was over, our children went up to shake the other team's hands and said 'well done'/'well played' etc. We are really proud of the team, not only for doing so well in the competition, but also for showing the Brooklands' values in the community. The winning team was: Rocco F, Joel D, Harry G, Reuben K, Jayden K & Amie G. Well done to you all!

**Staffing update** – We are sorry to say goodbye to Mr Leach today as he leaves us for pastures new. In January, Mrs McHale and Mrs Miller-Rowley will be teaching the Marvellous Martians Class. Also, as I have already mentioned, Mrs Bezant commences her Maternity leave today. Miss Mather will be teaching her class from January. There will also be a change of staffing after February half term when Mrs Hampson starts her Maternity leave. Mr Bingham (Y4) will be moving to Year 6 and we are currently advertising for a replacement Year 4 teacher. We are hoping that Miss Leivars & Miss Mather will both be well enough to return to school after the Christmas break.

**Safety Notice** – Please do not allow children to climb on the boiler house roof at the end of the school day. It is very dangerous and could be the cause of a nasty accident.

**'Treecycling'** – Please see attached information about a service in the local area for recycling Christmas Trees following the Festive Season.

**Christmas Jumper day** – Thank you to all of you who gave so generously for our Christmas Jumper day today. Brooklands raised approximately £250 which we will send to Save the Children.

**Attendance Update:** We are really pleased that our new attendance policy is impacting positively on our attendance figures. Currently, our attendance rate is 96.1% whereas this time last year the attendance stood at 95.6%. Thank you for supporting the

**And Finally...Congratulations!!!** – Many congratulations and warm wishes to Mrs Beverley Smedley, one of our kitchen staff. Mrs Smedley has recently received her long term service award from Derbyshire County Council. She has been at Brooklands for 25 years as she started working here in 1991. During this time, she has worked with 5 cooks, 4 headteachers, countless teachers and thousands of children! Well done Mrs Smedley. Here's to the next 25 years!

On behalf of everyone at Brooklands, I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Wealthy New Year!

Best Wishes,

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>

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

*Amended / additional dates:*

**2017**

- *Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Back to School.*
- *Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Junior Chef's Workshop Academy in School*
- *Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Head Teacher Coffee Morning (Miss Hill – SRE)*
- *Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Full Governor's meeting.*
- *Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Break up for Half Term.*
- *Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Back to School.*
- *Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Head Teacher Coffee Morning (Content TBC)*
- *Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February – School Closed Staff training Day*