

Dear all,

Another half term has come to an end and what a busy one it's been at Brooklands. Since Christmas it has been full on and all of the children have been busy learning. Our most recent assessment snapshot shows us that on the whole, the children are making great progress. Each term, senior staff meet with individual teachers to carefully track the progress of each child in their class. This ensures no-one is left behind and that every child is doing the best that they can. There are sometimes those children who we feel are not making the progress that they should. We discuss these children with teachers and look at how we can adapt teaching to best support them. Sometimes, this means that they will have additional support from a Teaching Assistant, but mostly it means that they are highlighted with the teacher and the teacher will put additional support and interventions in for them in the classroom. If we feel there is a more serious concern, such as poor attendance or welfare concerns which are affecting progress, we will contact parents. We want all of our children to be successful learners at Brooklands and that's why we track their progress so carefully.

Attendance Update - Our new attendance policy is in full swing and has had a positive impact on the attendance figures for the whole school, showing that attendance is up on this time last year. The percentage of children coming late to school has also dropped, so we must thank you for your support with our new policy - it is definitely working! Mrs Johnson and Mrs Smith have noticed a few misconceptions about attendance that I would like to bring to your attention.

Our school day begins at 8:45am. Often, there are activities for the children to undertake in the classrooms before official lessons begin at 9:00am. The idea of these activities is to extend and reinforce classroom teaching. If your child misses these activities on a regular basis, they are missing out on valuable consolidation and practise time.

Due to the electronic nature of the class register, this closes at 9:00am automatically. This means that children need to be in the classroom by 8:55am at the latest. If your child arrives at school at 9:00am they are already late. This has been in place for the past few years.

In some cases parents have been opening doors for others who are late. This has serious implications for our safeguarding as children will not have been recorded in the class register nor the late book. If there was a fire or emergency, in the worst case scenario, these children could be missed. Please ensure that if you are late in arriving, you go straight to the office and sign your child into school. Mrs Johnson or Mrs Smith will be happy to take your child directly to their class once registered.

Recently, we have had some parents contact us to report cases of head lice. If your child has been treated using a lotion or shampoo they can come straight back to school after. There is no need to keep your child at home.

Term Time Holidays - We are currently updating our term time holiday policy. As attendance is important to us we would discourage any parent from taking their child out of school to go on holidays. However, we are also aware that there can be circumstances that are unavoidable. Our policy is as follows:

Each holiday request is considered on an individual basis;

-The child's current attendance, and past years attendance, will be considered.

If the child's attendance is below national average (96%) then the holiday will not be authorised.

If a holiday has not been authorised and the child is not in school during the days requested then we will assume that the holiday has been taken. The parent will then be referred to the local authority and a fine may be issued.

Special consideration will be given for religious or cultural reasons. If parents have limited holidays due to work commitments then additional evidence may be required e.g. employer's letter. We are aware of the fluctuation of holiday prices, however our priority is to ensure that all our pupils make progress and achieve.

Thank you for your support – Ms K. O'Neill, Deputy Head

We are very proud of all the **Sports Activities** that are available for Brooklands children to take part in. **Mrs East** does a great job organising competitions and diverse local events for our children to participate in. There are still some opportunities available for children to join our sports clubs:

After school sports clubs - There are still places available on the following after school sports clubs which start after half term:
- Year 3/4 Football club which will on Thursdays 23rd Feb- 6th April 3.15-4.15pm

- Year 5/6 Gymnastics club which will be on Wednesdays 22nd Feb- 5th April, 3.15-4.15pm
Please contact the school office if you child would like to attend.

Girls Year 5 and 6 Football Coaching - There are still places available on Tuesday's football coaching session for girls in Years 5 and 6. The sessions are all run by females who are fully qualified coaches- one of them plays professionally for Aston Villa ladies team! So the coaching is really of a high quality. There are 3 sessions left- 21st February, 28th February and 7th March and the club runs from 3.15-4.15pm. Please speak to the office if your child would like a place.

Dodgeball Tournament - On Monday 6th February, some Year 6 children took part in a Dodgeball Tournament at TLES. We won three of our matches and were even nominated for the Fair Play Award. We had a great time and the children played really well, showing fantastic team spirit. Well done to all those involved! Miss Bisknell

Gymnastics Festival - On Tuesday a group of Year 2 children (am) and a group of Year 3/4 children (pm) took part in a Gymnastics Festival at Erewash Valley Gymnastics Club. The children were given the opportunity to try out lots of different gymnastics equipment to further develop their skills. The children all displayed the Brooklands' values and were a credit to our school. They all showed determination and perseverance and their fitness levels were outstanding. Well done to all who took part. Thank you to Mrs Moffatt, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Cousins and Miss Dunham for taking the children to these events. – Mrs East.

Brooklands Choir - Letters for choir rehearsals will be handed out after half term. If your child wishes to continue singing in the choir, they will need to fill in a new slip. If your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6 and would like to join, they are more than welcome! Mrs Harby.

Derbyshire Money Week – Next week Long Eaton Library will be doing activities for families as part of the Derbyshire Money week. Please see attached for details.

Year 5 Bikeability - A text will be going out today to let you know which day(s) your child will be taking part. Please ensure that they have their bike and helmet in school on the days needed and that they are locked securely in the bike shed. Please can the children bring warm appropriate clothing in a labelled carrier bag on those days? Mrs Harby & Miss Bisknell

Safer Internet Day - On Tuesday as a school we took part in Safer Internet Day. During the day we discussed how we could stay safe and make the right choices when using the internet.

- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 read the Smartie the penguin story, and discussed what Smartie needed to do in different situations. Then we made sock puppets, collaged mini penguin and made images of us based on our interests.
- In KS2 the children were given more ownership of their learning and created posters and short films to persuade others to use the internet safely.

A big thank you to all of those parents who came and supported us during the afternoon. Some parents asked about using Hector the Protector (the on-screen dolphin) at home. He is available to download free of charge from: <http://hectorsworld.netsafe.org.nz/teachers/hectors-world-safety-button/>

If you also wish to set up parental controls for internet use at home, please click on the link via the online safety page on the school website. – Miss Plumb

Drumba - Children in Years 5 and 6 had a fantastic time in school yesterday taking part in a Drumba class! Drumba is a combination of drumming and keep fit and is great fun. – Please click on the link to find out more information <https://www.drumba.co.uk/> <https://www.facebook.com/Drumba-1524011757893607/>



Battery Bank – After half term there will be a small bin in the reception area for you to place your used household batteries. We are keen to encourage children to use recycling facilities and by providing this receptacle all of the school community can recycle the batteries we use.

Headteacher Coffee Morning – During the first week back after half term on Thursday 23rd February, Miss Leivars will be coming to the coffee morning to talk to parents about maths across the school.

We all hope you have a good break over half term. See you all back in school on Monday 20th February. (Don't forget our INSET day the following Monday, 27th February, when school will be closed.)

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:

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- *Friday 10th February – Break up for Half Term.*
- *Monday 20th February – Back to School.*
- *Monday 20th February – Bikeability for Y5 & Balance bikes at TLES for Reception Children*
- *Thursday 23rd February – Head Teacher Coffee Morning (Maths)*
- *Monday 27th February – School Closed. Staff training Day*
- *Tuesday 28th February – Pancake day*
- *Thursday 2nd March – World Book day – come dressed as your favourite book character!*
- *Monday 6th March – High5 Netball tournament at TLES*
- *Monday 6th March – Hockey Tournament at TLES 1-3pm*
- *Thursday 16th March – Rugby Mega-fest at TLES 1-3pm*
- *Friday 24th March – Red Nose Day! Dress up day!*