

Update from -3rd March 2017

Dear all,

It's been another busy week here at Brooklands Primary so there's lots to share with you! Let's start with this week's learning.

Year Three – found out this week that the human body is amazing!

We have been studying the human skeleton. We dressed up in bin bags (empty ones), drew the bones and stuck them in the correct place. We found out that babies have more bones than us! During our next session we will be researching animal skeletons and comparing them to humans. (I'm sure I caught them outside drawing diagrams of organs too!)



Year Five – had a close encounter of the telescope kind!



Creative Comets and Awesome Asteroids visited the Malcolm Parry Observatory at Long Eaton School this week. They learnt about the telescope and its features, a bit more about the Sun and Solar System and created their own version of an orrery (a mechanical model of the solar system.) Mr Perkins (who helped arrange the visit) took the time to send an email to pass on his thanks to the teachers and children for their enthusiasm during their time in the observatory. He was impressed by the respect the children showed and by the questions they asked.

Year Six – have been learning to write persuasive letters this week.

Mrs Miller and Mr Bingham had the good idea of cancelling playtime in the run up to SATS in order to have an extra lesson each day. Fortunately, the children's letters persuading their teacher not to do this were so good, the idea has been shelved!

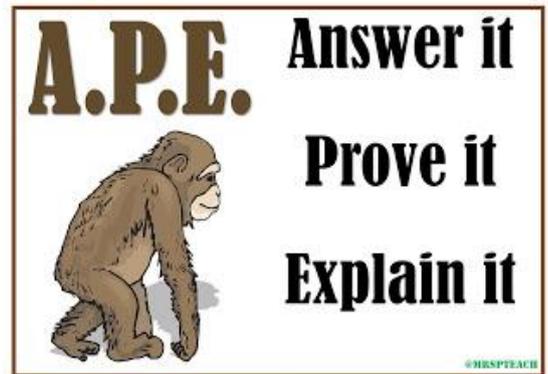
Reception – have been eating pancakes.

This week the Reception children had fun making and eating pancakes. They tasted different pancakes to find their favourite flavour. The plain ones were the most popular, with lemon flavour coming a close second.

Head teacher Coffee Morning – Let's go APE!

Miss Leviers led Thursday's Headteacher coffee morning with the topic of the day being Maths, and in particular reasoning skills. Parents were given an insight into the new maths

curriculum and how Brooklands Primary School facilitates deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. One of the strategies we use across the school is A.P.E. which stands for Answer, Prove, Explain. This strategy helps children to think about the relationship between numbers and how they have come to a particular answer. Miss Leivars PowerPoint is attached so that, if you missed the meeting, you can have a look for yourself. The staff will be happy to discuss with you how A.P.E. is used in their classrooms and Miss Leivars is always available to share her enthusiasm for maths – just ask!



World Book Day celebrations at Brooklands – stories galore!

A parade of book characters arrived at Brooklands on Thursday to help celebrate World Book Day. Children arrived looking spectacular! There were a gaggle of Harry Potters, a smattering of Oompah Loompahs and even the odd Alice looking for Wonderland. A big thank you to all of you who helped by making and buying costumes for the children. Activities such as World Book Day help bring reading to life for children and your support definitely helps make the day a success.

Inset training for staff – Rainbow Grammar all round!

Teachers and Teaching assistants spent Monday in a world of clauses, rainbow sentences and word classes as they undertook training delivered by Jason Wade. The training gave staff the opportunity to work with Jason on building grammar and sentence structures. Our follow up staff meeting, led by Miss Rogers, then allowed staff to build a framework for children and look at teaching strategies for grammar across the school. Parent workshops and more information will be coming soon so watch this space!



Year Two and Six Assessment information –

Some information for parents of children in Years Two and Six has been uploaded to the school website in the appropriate year group page. This gives a guide to the assessment period in May and the testing process in both year groups. It will be helpful for you to have a quick look as the SATs period draws ever closer. They can be found by clicking on the links below.

<http://www.brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk/classes/year-2>

<http://www.brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk/classes/year-6>

PTA – as you are aware we have a busy PTA who are enthusiastically fund raising for the children in school. This term they are collecting **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**. If shop at Sainbury's don't forget collect your vouchers and pop them into the box at the main reception. Last year we were able to exchange the vouchers for cooking and sport equipment. Our PTA are always looking for new members. It doesn't matter if you only have an hour or whether you have a few evenings to spare, Mrs Dunham would love to hear from you.

Pupil Premium Funding – We are always reviewing the provision we make for the children in school and many of you will be aware of additional funding we receive called, Pupil Premium Funding. This funding is allocated to the school for children who qualify for free school meals, or who have qualified for free school meals in the last six years. We are aware that personal circumstances often change and so if you think that you might qualify for this funding, please call into the school office where we will give you a form to complete. If we do receive additional funding for your child, we may be able to offer your child additional support in school and also additional financial support for school activities. (Eg trips, breakfast club etc.) There is more information for parents at on the following link: <http://www.theschoolrun.com/pupil-premium-explained>. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask at the school office.

Miss Fellows – a fond farewell!

Sadly, Miss Fellows – who many of you know as a wonderful teacher – will say goodbye to Brooklands Primary School next week. She has been a valued, highly skilled member of the teaching staff at Brooklands for almost eighteen years and now feels that the time is right to embark upon a new challenge. I know you will join us in wishing her all the very best in her new ventures and look will forward to hearing about her success in the future.



Kindest 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.