



Brookvale Primary School

Newsletter



Messages from Mr Day

Just over four years ago, when I was appointed as Head Teacher at Brookvale, we began a consultation with our children, families and staff about what the future direction of the school should be, recognising in this consultation the importance of working closely with our community and having the highest aspirations for what could be achieved, together. I'm pleased to say that, since the initial consultation, and the work in developing the school after, we have made significant progress across all aspects of the school and have, in some areas, achieved far more than we had originally planned.

Almost a year ago now, we had our Ofsted inspection, which beautifully captured who we were as a school community and the progress we had made. But now, with that phase of our school development concluded, we must again look to the future and begin to plan the next phase of our journey; this time with a greater ambition and a drive towards achieving excellence in all that we do, knowing that there is a secure foundation to build upon and a passion within the team and community to do so. In the coming weeks, it is my intention to consult with all stakeholders, primarily our children, families and staff, about what our school could be in the future and what it should become over the next four years. I would therefore like to invite families to a coffee morning consultation, to capture the important and diverse views held within our community so that these are reflected in the policies and practices that will be introduced in the coming months and years. The first consultation will take place: **Monday 19th February 2024, between 9.00-10.30am.** Come along, share your views and help us shape the future direction and ambition of the school.

Attendance Parameters

A huge thank you to our children and families who continue to recognise the importance of good attendance by being in school, on time, every day. We are now ranked 20th out of 267 schools in Birmingham for attendance, and 10th out of 267 for our percentage of pupils classed as 'Persistently Absent (attendance below 90%)', which is quite the achievement. In addition, many of our year groups are now above our 96% attendance target for year-to-date attendance. Excellent attendance is crucial in securing the best outcomes for children and, as we continue to raise the ambition and aspirations for our school, we are now going to change our school attendance target and expectation from 96% to 97%. We look forward to working with you to secure excellent attendance.

Mr Day

Calendar Dates

- 06/02/24 9.00-10.00am Parent Workshop with Dr Anita Soni** (Educational Psychologist) *'Communicating effectively with your child.'*
- 09/02/24 9.00am Year 4 Class Assembly.** Families welcome to attend.
- 2:45-3:15pm Awards Assembly** for select children/families.
- 3.30pm Work Sharing Evening for Parents.** Come into school and celebrate your child's achievements by looking through their books.
- Break up for half term.**
- 19/02/24 Children return to school.**
- 9.00-10.30am School Development Consultation with Mr Day.** Come along and share your views about the future direction of the school. All families welcome.
- 22/02/24 Young Voices Concert** at Resorts World, Birmingham.

We are caring citizens, shaping our communities.

We are ambitious for our success and the success of others.

Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together.

We are passionate about everything and everyone.

We are the authors of our own lives.

Brookvale Primary School, Mallard Drive, B23 7YB

Tel: 0121 3599973

Email: office@brkvale.bham.sch.uk

Website: www.brkvale.bham.sch.uk

Social Media: @BPS_B23 (X Platform)

Weekly Attendance



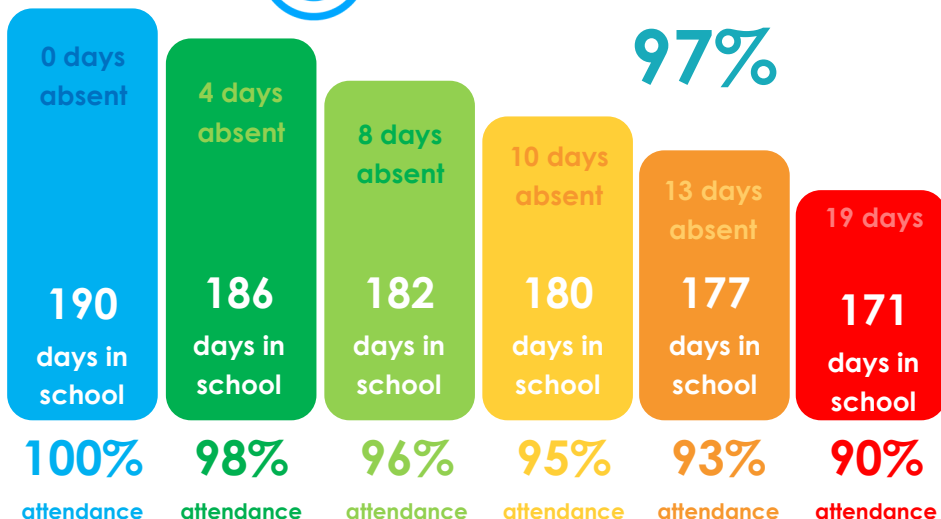
Year-To-Date

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Reception | 92.60% |
| Year 1 | 96.04% |
| Year 2 | 96.06% |
| Year 3 | 96.15% |
| Year 4 | 96.42% |
| Year 5 | 95.87% |
| Year 6 | 96.02% |



Our School Attendance Target is

97%



Attendance Notices

DID YOU KNOW? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%

Next week, I will be writing out to all families to let you know how your child's individual attendance compares with both the average attendance of a child at Brookvale and when compared with primary aged children nationally.

For many, these will be letters that celebrate your child's excellent attendance; for some, these will be letters highlighting that attendance is becoming a cause for concern and is being closely monitored.

In a few cases, families will be invited into school for a School Attendance Review Meeting. This meeting is explore reasons for absence and how we can support you to improve your child's attendance.

Best chance of academic success and in later life.

Poor attendance - less likely to succeed academically/in later life.

Serious impact on education and reduced life chances.

This week's 100% attendance winners are:

Kashveka (Rec)
Blessings (Year 5)

You each win a new book.
Great job!

This week's Class Attendance Superstars:

Year 2 & 6
(97.05%)

You get extra playtime!

Attendance This Week
94.62%



Attendance Year-to-Date
96.09%

175 days off school per year.

Use this time for holidays, appointments etc.

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Weekly Awards

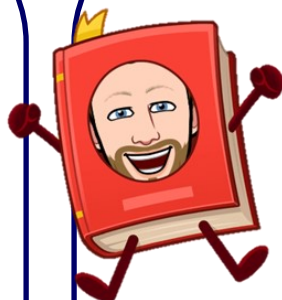
Superstars of the Week



Rec—Niamh Howe
 Rec— Lauren Lane
 Year 1— Lina Idrissou
 Year 1 —Emma Zak
 Year 2— Haadi Rizwan
 Year 2—Abdullah Ali
 Year 3— Nikan Pirouz
 Year 3—Maridyah Olalere
 Year 4— Harry Okyere

Year 4— Inaya Idrissou
 Year 5—Siniyah Malcolm
 Year 5—Adam Mustafa
 Year 6—Bartosz Tabak
 Year 6— Ishmeet Dhesi

Readers of the Week



Rec— Kaya Simeonov
 Year 1—Anna Melnika
 Year 2— Georgia Nicholls
 Year 3— Nathaniel Kuforji
 Year 4—Joshua Rodriquez
 Year 5—Eli Boyd-Douglas
 Year 6—Isaac Clayton



TT Rockstars of the Week

Top 5 Players

1st Mikha'il Mohammed - 0.36s
 2nd Aaron Janjua - 0.40s
 3rd Armand Tikamda - 0.46s
 4th Tyrese Archer - 0.50s
 5th Bartosz Tabak - 0.51s



Local Leaderboard #1

| Rank | Name | Mean Studio Speed (seconds / question) |
|------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Brookvale Primary School | 1.39 |
| 2 | Erdington Hall Primary School | 1.61 |

Reading Plus Stars of the Week

Essa—250k words
 Grishmi—150k words
 Adam 150k words
 Mussa 100k words

National Leaderboard

| Position | School Name | Average Reading Lessons |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Brookvale Primary School | 8.4 |
| 2 | Broadacre Primary | 7.8 |
| 3 | Seaburn Dene Primary School | 5.8 |

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Workshops with

Dr Anita Soni

Dr Anita Soni, our school Educational Psychologist, will be hosting two workshops open to all families.

Workshop 1

'Communicating effectively with your child'

Tuesday 6th February
9.00-10.30am



Workshop 2

'Positive parenting & relationships, including attachment'

Tuesday 18th March—9.00-10.30am

Come along and find out how you can apply powerful approaches to supporting your children's social and emotional development, whilst learning extra tools to support you in parenting.

Sex Education for

Year 6

Many thanks to the families who were able to join Mrs Johnston last Tuesday to review the content and materials used in our upcoming Year 6 Sex Education lessons. Next week, Year 6 parents will receive a consent letter, which will allow you to decide whether or not your child participates in the planned lessons.

We would kindly ask that these are returned by **Friday 9th February**.

If you did not attend the session with Mrs Johnston, but would like to review the materials, please contact the office to arrange an appointment.



Year 4 Residential

We are delighted to announce that we are in the process of planning a Year 4 overnight residential to London for 2024-2025 (current Year 3 children).

The trip would see children sleep on the HMS Belfast (below) before attending the theatre to see a West End production, such as 'The Lion King' or 'Wicked'

At this point, we are looking to gauge interest to ascertain numbers who are likely to attend; we can then calculate final costs but are anticipating this to be in the region of £160.

If you would be interested in your child attending this visit, please email the school office.



New Clubs

Following the February half-term break, Mr Day will be hosting two new clubs; a Gardening Club, which will run every Wednesday lunchtime for 15 children and a Science Club, which will run every Thursday (3.30-4.30pm) for parents and children.



If you would like a space at one of these clubs, please book through MCAS. To ensure all children have the opportunity to take part in clubs across the year, we would kindly ask that you do not reserve a space if your child is currently enrolled on a club.

Parental Safeguarding

(From 'National Online Safety')



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

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Our Week In Pictures

Check out our social media on X (@BPS B23)



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