



Brookvale Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I would firstly like to extend a welcome back to Brookvale Primary after a long, and possibly restful, 6 weeks off. As a parent of two young children, I can assure you that whilst mine was not at all restful, it was a great time to spend with family, something I hope you all had a chance to do as well.

And so we return to begin another action-packed year at Brookvale! With the parent calendar already sent out, be sure to look out for our many events for you to celebrate with your child, whether it be upcoming class assemblies, work share and parents' evenings or the fantastic variety of trips planned. These experiences and opportunities are treasured by our children and make memories which last a lifetime.

Before the academic year started, some of our pupils had already captured the limelight at the ATLP Staff Conference Event. I was immensely proud to witness members of our Brookvale Primary Choir, coached astutely by choir master extraordinaire Miss Willars, lead a packed auditorium at the Birmingham ICC in a stirring musical rendition. What a wonderful way to celebrate the excellent Arts opportunities offered to our talented children. For them, I am sure it will be the first of many sold-out events; perhaps we even have a future Glastonbury headliner finding their voice at Brookvale!

I am also delighted to announce that Brookvale Primary has already bagged their first award of the year! It may only be September, but that doesn't stop our team from pushing for the best for our children. It is with great pride that I announce Brookvale has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark, to denote the excellence in teaching and learning of Science across school. Our resident science lead and expert, Miss Humphrey, has been the catalyst for this great achievement, underpinned by our fabulous teaching teams and, of course, our science experts of the future - the children of Brookvale!

Thank you for your continued support

Mr Mills

Upcoming events

01/10/24	8.45—10.30 am EYFS/Year 1 Parent workshop—Phonics
04/10/24	9—10am PTFA Coffee morning - inviting all parents to support the PTFA
08/10/24	9—10am SATs Parent workshop Y4 & Y5 ONLY Individual and sibling school photo Pre school children 3-3.20pm only
09/10/24	Individual and sibling school photo (NOT Y4 or Y5) Pre school children 8.30 –8.55am
10/10/24	Y6 Secondary application support coffee morning
11/10/24	3.30 –4.15pm Work sharing Evening for families and Uniform Swap Shop in the hall
14/10/24	Y5 trip to London

Letter from Dr Clarke



Dear Parents and carers,

Letter of Introduction

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Dr Beth Clarke, and I am writing to introduce myself. I am the Head Teacher at Hill West Primary School in Sutton Coldfield, part of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership, and I have worked at Brookvale in a leadership capacity previously, albeit for a short time. During Mr Day's absence I am delighted to be working alongside Mr Mills, and the dedicated staff team, to provide some additional capacity at school.

Mr Day and I worked together for a significant period of time before he joined Brookvale as Head Teacher. Our collaboration has allowed me to understand his vision and commitment to fostering a nurturing and inspiring learning environment. I am excited to bring that same ethos to Brookvale while we await his return.

My priority is to ensure a smooth continuation of the school's progress. I will be meeting with Mr. Mills early next week to identify and prioritise our development goals. I will spend time with your children and get to know them a little, celebrating their achievements and accomplishments. Together with the talented team of staff, we will ensure the best possible educational experience for your children.

I know that Mr Day would like to join me in thanking you for your continued support and understanding at this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Dr Beth Clarke
Hill West Head Teacher

Weekly Attendance



Our School Attendance Target is

97%

24/06/2024 to 28/06/2024

Reception	96.90%
Year 1	93.67%
Year 2	97.64%
★ Year 3 ★	100%
Year 4	97.24%
Year 5	97.97%
★ Year 6	98.75%

Best chance of academic success and in later life.

Poor attendance—less likely to succeed academically/in later

Serious impact on education and reduced life chances



Attendance This Week

97.56% 

Attendance Year-to-Date

★ **97.90%**



This week's 100% attendance Winners:

Rumiha Y6 and Murtaza Y2



You each win a new book.

Great Job!

175 days off school per year.

Use this time for holidays, appointments etc

This week's Class Attendance Superstars

Y3

A Brookvale Blue winner

100%



In celebration of the fantastic attendance this week, all classes have enjoyed extra play time today.

Well done Brookvale

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News Items



PSQM

Primary Science
Quality Mark

PSQM

Valid 2024 – 2027



Litter Picking



Brookvale Primary are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark, denoting the excellent level of Science teaching and leadership at Brookvale!

A special congratulations to our Science Lead Miss Humphrey, who put in the hard work and led the school magnificently to achieve this award.

PSQM is a comprehensive evidence-based professional development programme that effectively develops science leadership, ensuring teachers have the knowledge, capability and support they need to transform science education and shape future generations.

‘By enabling effective science leadership, PSQM is powering the potential of all children to see the relevance and importance of science in their lives, now and in the future. Schools that have achieved a Primary Science Quality Mark have demonstrated a significant commitment to science leadership, teaching and learning and the profile and quality of science in each accredited school is very high. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, headteachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud.’

Helen Sizer, PSQM Co-Director



For science week the children have been growing beans. They are going to choose to keep it in a light or dark area. I wonder which will grow ones and grow? *emma123*

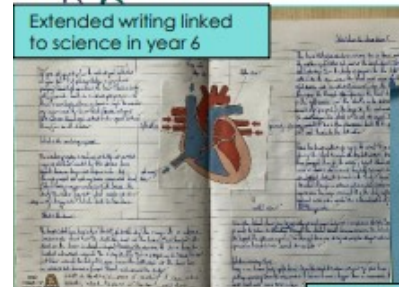
Observation of invertebrates, observation over time of Butterfly Cycle/growing beans



Pupil voice: 'We weren't alive during the Jurassic Period so to be able to see different bones and teeth from extinct creatures was cool! It helped me understand fossils because I was able to see one.'



Local park for walks



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Individual and Sibling Photo's

Children will have their individual and sibling school photo on the 8th and 9th October, due to Y4 and Y5 attending swimming.

On Tuesday 8th October Year 4 and Year 5 will have their individual and sibling in school (if they have any) photos taken. If they have a pre-school sibling please inform the office as these photos will be taken from 3pm ONLY.

On Wednesday 9th October All other year groups will have their individual and siblings (if any in school) photos. All children with pre-school siblings can come into school from 8.30 to 8.55am for their sibling photos to be taken.

Please note ALL children should come to school in their full school uniform including their school jumper on both days. Y2 do not need to wear their PE uniform on the Tuesday due



SCHOOL FUND

At Brookvale Primary School we wish to give our children the best opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of experiences both academic and social.

Every year we ask for a voluntary contribution of £10 per child to cover curriculum enrichment (Due to the constant cuts to school funding, schools are no longer able to provide curriculum enrichment) throughout the school year.

Last year SCHOOL FUND was used for:

Prizes
Class Parties
Carol Concert and Summer Concert
Gifts for children
Art week resources
Cooking in school
Additional resources for topic work
Workshops and Clubs

Again, we have plans this year to create enjoyable experiences for children and families. Unfortunately, without the support of your donations, we will be unable to meet our ambition of providing memorable experiences for the children for this academic year.

To make a contribution please log onto your MCAS and Clubs, if you need support with this please call the school office.

REMINDER
Return the Flu Vaccine Consent Form by Monday 7th October

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in all things – including diversity of opinion – means people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good – and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall.

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Your PTFA needs you!



Brookvale PTFA

As part of our Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA), we have a fantastic, but small, group of parents who regularly volunteer to organise and host events for our children and families to enjoy.

These events, which include school discos, Christmas and Summer Fayres, school concerts, and coffee mornings, are often well attended by children and families alike, with money raised going towards things that enhance the children's school experience.

We are exceptionally grateful to the 5-6 parents who consistently volunteer to make these events wonderful for our children and families. However, we need more parents and family members to support. If all families could volunteer for 1 hour across the year, we would have over 140 volunteering hours that could be used to support the set-up or running of an event. Simply put,

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Without the support of our community, these events will become difficult to arrange.

We will be hosting a PTFA coffee morning in the school hall on

Friday 4th October 9am – 10am

and invite parents and carers who would like to help and support at future events such as:

Halloween Disco on 24th October

Christmas Fayre on 4th December

Please do come along and show your support – pre-school children are welcome to attend.

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A vibrant Halloween-themed illustration for a party poster. At the top, several pumpkins are shown, with the largest one in the center having a carved, smiling face. Below the pumpkins, the words "HALLOWEEN PARTY" are written in large, stylized letters. "HALLOWEEN" is in green and "PARTY" is in orange, both with a white outline and a slight shadow. The background is a dark purple night sky with a large, bright white full moon. Several black bats are flying around the moon. In the foreground, a group of seven children in various Halloween costumes are standing. From left to right: a boy in a white skeleton suit, a girl in an orange pumpkin costume, a boy in a purple wizard's robe and hat with a white beard, a boy in a green Frankenstein costume, a girl in a purple witch's dress and hat, a boy in a black vampire costume with a red cape, and a girl in a red dress. There are also two jack-o'-lanterns in the foreground, one on the left and one on the right. In the background, there are grey tombstones and a yellow cross on a brown mound. The overall scene is festive and spooky.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

**£1.50 a ticket to be purchased via
MCAS**

**(Ticket sales will close Monday 21st October in order to confirm
numbers)**

PLEASE NOTE children CANNOT wear any type of mask as these do scare younger children.