



Brookvale Primary School Newsletter

Dear Brookvale Parents

I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little about me, now that you have welcomed me into your school temporarily, in Mr Day’s absence. I am currently spending all day Monday and all day Friday at Brookvale but am contactable throughout the week and am in regular dialogue with Mr Mills who is, as you know, out of class on the remaining days.

I have been a primary Head Teacher for over two decades, having fallen in love with teaching in the late 1990s. I have worked in three Birmingham schools in substantive positions; my current school in Sutton Coldfield, a previous school in Aston and my first ever school in Kingstanding. I have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience working with the children and families in those communities but have gained a wider appreciation of teaching and leadership from working closely with schools across the ATLP family and beyond. Teaching has been a vocation for me and I began to study for my Masters Degree in 2000 which I was awarded in 2003. Passionate about education and improving the life chances of all children, once appointed as Head Teacher at Hill West I began to study for my Doctorate in Education which was finally awarded in 2012. Having studied for a number of years I then decided it was time to start my own family. Ten years ago we were blessed with our wonderful daughter who has broadened my perspective on education and allowed me to develop a philosophy not just as an educator but as a parent too.

I know that it is essential that children are secure in the knowledge that their teacher loves and appreciates them and believes they can achieve. I also know that great teaching underpinned by ambitious intentions and excellent teacher subject knowledge leads to great learning. I have seen this in action in your school and am delighted to be working alongside the talented staff team. I have enjoyed visiting classes and talking with your children; polite, respectful and curious are a few words that spring to mind.

Although my time here will be limited, I will work hard to ensure the excellent foundations laid by Mr Day and his amazing team are built upon and further embedded. If I can do anything specifically, for your child or family, then please feel free to reach out and contact me.

With warmest regards

Dr Beth Clarke
Head Teacher

Upcoming events

07/10/24	All Vaccine consent form to be returned
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
15/10/24	9-10.50am Y1 & Y2 Parent Workshop
17/10/24	9-10.50am Y3 & Y4 Parents Workshop

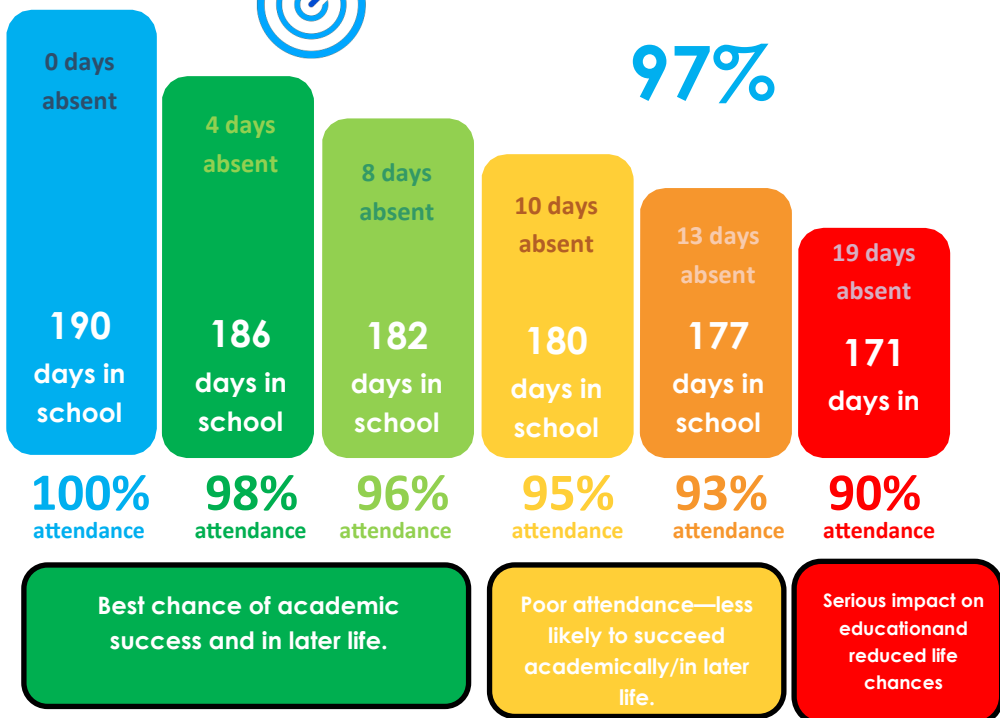
Weekly Attendance

30/09/2024 to 04/10/2024	
Reception	96.90%
Year 1	90.00%
★ Year 2 🎉	99.67%
Year 3	95.33%
Year 4	95.17%
★ Year 5	98.67%
★ Year 6	98.73%



Our School Attendance Target is

97%



This week's Class Attendance Superstars

Y2



You get extra playtime!



This week's 100% attendance Winners:

Eden—Rec and Abdul Malik Year 5



You each win a new book.

Great Job!

Attendance This Week

96.29%

Attendance Year-to-Date

97.55%



175 days off school per year.

Use this time for holidays, appointments etc

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't, meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

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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 to Photos being taken.



REMINDER

Return the Flu Vaccine Consent Form by Monday 7th October

Just a few reminders to support families this academic year.

- Gates open at 8.40am for children to be in class by 8.55am for registration. Children cannot be left unsupervised on the playground.
- School finishes at 3.20pm for Reception class and 3.25pm for Y1 - Y6. Please ensure that children are collected on time as staff do have other commitments at the end of the school day and children do become upset if they are not collected on time.
- If your child is Absence please ensure that you contact the school office before 9.15am.
- Please ensure that you book and pay for Breakfast Club in advance. Children can NOT attend if they are not booked in or if you have an arrears on your account.
- It is the responsibility of parents or carers to book children's school meal via Relish for the days that they are having a school meal. If you do not book a meal you must supply a packed lunch.
- Children must attend school wearing their PE uniform on their PE day:
 - Monday—Rec and Year 1
 - Tuesday—Year 2
 - Wednesday—Year 4 and Year 5 (Swimming)
 - Thursday—Year 3
 - Friday—Year 6
- Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school EVERY DAY as we no longer have cups in school.
- ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED TO AVOID LOSS.
- All information is sent via email, MCAS, X (Twitter) as well as the school website being kept up to date, please refer to any of these before contacting the school office, staff are extremely busy and calls may go unanswered.

Raise funds by collecting reusable clothes



Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

**WE ACCEPT CLEAN,
GOOD QUALITY, DRY,
REUSABLE CLOTHING**

- Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing
- Jewellery and Accessories
- Paired Shoes and Footwear
- Belts and Handbags

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website
www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk



WE DO NOT ACCEPT

**POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS
DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED
CLOTHES.**

**PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS,
BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM**

Please use the clothing bag provided.
You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:

Monday 21st October

Please remember - NO UNIFORM



Friday 25th October
Family Lunch at 11.30am

Mains

Chicken Balti

or

Chickpea Masala

with

Rice, Naan and Salad Bar

Desserts

Iced Smoothie

Chocolate Cookie

The festival of light

Happy Diwali

**Don't' forget
to book 1
adult place
on MCAS by
Friday 11th**