



# Newsletter

Friday 11th November 2022

Issue 7



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## Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together

### Message from Mr Day

It was a pleasure to welcome parents and family members into school on Tuesday for the first of our open morning workshops. Each term, all year groups have a scheduled open morning (see parent calendar for dates) where you can come into school and work alongside your child in class. Thank you to all the families, in Years 1 and 6, who were able to join us and for completing our annual questionnaires; your feedback is always welcomed and helps to shape our practices. Our next parent workshops will take place on Tuesday 15th November and will be for Years 2 and 5 — we hope to see you there.

On Wednesday evening, Mrs Johnston and I hosted our second open evening event for parents seeking Reception places in September 2023. It is always lovely to meet with families and share our ethos, values and vision for the children and community of Brookvale. If you would like to arrange a further visit, or a trial morning for your child, please contact the school office.

Thursday was a great day for the children as we launched our new Elective Studies Curriculum in Key Stage 2. Our Electives Studies are designed to allow children in Years 3 -6 to choose a six-week programme of lessons, outside of the National Curriculum, that develops their knowledge and skills and inspires them to find, explore and pursue their personal interests and passions. This term the following electives are running across school:

- Global Cuisine with Mr Day—exploring world cultures and cooking local dishes from across the globe.
- Manufacturing with Textiles with Mrs Hand—manipulating and embellishing textiles to create a toy.
- Mad Scientists - Miss Humphrey
- Learn to Speak Spanish with Miss Williamson. In addition to our French curriculum, children can opt to learn another European language.
- 3D Art Installations – Miss Burda
- Acting Class—Miss Willars
- Guitar Practice with Mr Mills. In addition to keyboard tuition, children can develop their knowledge of chords using acoustic guitars.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Day

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Tues 15th Nov</b> 9.00 -10.50am  1.00-2.50pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 2 open morning – parents/ families invited into class.</li><li>• Year 5 open afternoon – parents/ families invited into class.</li></ul>
<b>Friday 18th Oct</b>  All Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teacher Take Over Day for children in Year 6.</li><li>• Non Uniform Day in exchange for toiletries and gift sets for the Christmas fayre.</li></ul>
<b>Tues 22nd Nov</b> 9.00 -10.50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 3 and Year 4 open morning – parents/families invited into class.</li></ul>
<b>Thurs 24th Nov</b> 9.00 -10.50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reception Open Morning—parents/ families invited into class.</li></ul>
<b>Fri 25th Nov</b>  9.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 5 Class Assembly—parents/ families welcome to attend.</li></ul>
<b>Mon 28th Nov</b>	<b>School Closed to Children for Staff Inset</b>

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# Brookvale Primary School Newsletter



## Attendance

Whole School (Years 1 to 6)	95.31%
Reception	94.81%
Year 1	93.38%
Year 2	97.04%
Year 3	90.98%
Year 4	95.25%
Year 5	97.06%
Year 6	98.21%

Equates to:



**Year 3—we need a much better week next week.**

## This week's Class

**Attendance Superstars Are:**

**Year 6**

The class with highest attendance each week will receive an additional 15 minute playtime.

## This week's

**100% Attendance**

**Reward Winners are:**

**KS1: Wren (Rec)**

**KS2: Harry (Year 3)**

## Term Time Holiday Leave

School require parents to observe the school holidays as prescribed. Leave during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, for example bereavement in the immediate family or serious illness.

**Head teachers are not permitted to grant any leave of absence during term time unless they consider there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.**

Holidays, weddings and non-religious celebrations during term time will not be granted under any circumstance.

Applications for leave during term time must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Applications for leave which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.

All matters of unauthorised absence during term time will be referred to Birmingham Local Authority through the FAST-track attendance procedure.

**Since the beginning of the year, the Local Authority have issued 5 fixed penalty notices.**

Each week, children with 100% attendance will be placed in a draw. Two winners will be selected at random and awarded a brand new book for their effort.



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## Parents' Evenings

Please remember to use the School Cloud platform to book your online Parents' Evening appointment for either the 7th or 8th December.

This is a great opportunity for you to find out how your child is doing both academically and personally. In advance of this meeting, you will receive a termly report card, outlining your child's strengths/areas for development.

Following feedback at Parent Council, we will not use these sessions to discuss the report cards but will handover to you (as parents/carers) so that you have sufficient time to ask questions/raise any concerns.



Unfortunately, we are unable to appointments outside of these times and would kindly ask that separated parents make arrangements to join the same appointment.

If you need any support in booking your appointment, please contact Mrs Coulson on 0121 356 9973.

## Class Performances

On Friday, we held our first class performance of the school Year with Year 6 doing an absolutely wonderful job of bringing their learning about the Victorians to life.

We are always proud of the confidence and pride our children show during these performances and your attendance makes it even more special.

This year, all classes will deliver at least two performances, in addition to the Carol Concerts and Spring Musical events and end of year performances already planned.

### Upcoming Performances



- Friday 25th Nov —Year 5 Class Assembly
- Friday 9th December—Carol Concert
- Tuesday 13th December KS1 Nativity



Please do check the parent/family calendar issued at the beginning of the year to find out when your child's performance are.

We hope to welcome you into school very soon.

## Parent Cookery Workshops

Let's face it, feeding a family can be expensive and with food costs going up and up, weekly meals can end up costing an arm and a leg.

To help with this, we are working closely with our catering company, Chartwells, to arrange a parent cookery workshop that will help families create nutritionally balanced meals using affordable food staples.



If you would be interested in attending these cookery workshops, please speak to Mr Day, or contact the school office via [office@brkvale.bham.sch.uk](mailto:office@brkvale.bham.sch.uk)

## Christmas Fayre—PTFA

A special thank you to all the families who have donated sweets and chocolate for our Christmas Fayre. Next Friday (18th), there will be another non-uniform in exchange for toiletries.



On Monday 14th, Mr Day will be holding a PTFA meeting at 3.30pm to finalise arrangements for the Christmas Fayre. Come along and volunteer to help out. Children are welcome too.

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## Parent Safeguarding Information

### Working together to Safeguard Our Children

### County Lines (NSPCC)

#### What is 'County Lines'?

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them. It can happen in any part of the UK and is a form of child abuse.

County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police.

Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs

edicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines" are used to help facilitate county lines drug deals. Phones are usually cheap, disposable and old fashioned, because they are changed frequently to avoid detection by the police.

Gangs use the phones to receive orders and contact young people to instruct them where to deliver drugs. This may be to a local dealer or drug user, or a dealer or drug user in another county.

Phrases that young people may use to refer to county lines include:

- 'running a line',
- 'going OT/out there'
- 'going country'

#### Risks of County Lines

##### Drugs

Perpetrators may use drugs and alcohol to entice young people into the gang lifestyle. In some cases gangs trick young people into incurring drug debts that they then have to pay off through county lines activity. This is often referred to as 'debt bondage'.

##### Physical Violence

There is a strong link between county lines activity and serious violence such as knife and gun crime, the use of substances (such as acid) as a weapon & Homicide.

##### Sexual Abuse & Exploitation

As well as being used to transport drugs, county lines gangs may sexually abuse and exploit children of any gender (National Crime Agency, 2019). This can happen through:

- young people being forced into sexual activity with gang members or for the gang's financial gain
- vulnerable children being made to work off drug debts through sexual exploitation as 'payment' (this might happen after the child has been coerced into becoming dependent on drugs by the gang)
- children being groomed into what they believe is a romantic relationship with a gang member which then leads to exploitation

##### Trafficking & Missing Children

- Young people can be trafficked to locations far away from where they live for long periods of time by a county lines gang. They may end up staying in unsuitable accommodation in an area that is unknown to them.

##### Cuckooing

- Cuckooing happens when a county lines gang takes over the home of a vulnerable adult by coercion or force, and use it as a base to deal drugs from. The vulnerable adult may have issues with substance misuse or mental health problems, be elderly or disabled or be in debt to the gang. These factors can make it easier for the gang to exploit and control them.

##### Financial exploitation and abuse

- Gangs are known to launder money from drug sales through children's bank accounts, either by using an existing account or forcing or persuading the child to open a new one

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## Parent Safeguarding Information Working together to Safeguard Our Children County Lines (NSPCC)

### Recognising those at Risk

#### Grooming

The grooming process involves the gang:

- seeking out a child to exploit
- observing the child for vulnerabilities
- finding out what the child's needs and wants are
- manipulating the child into believing that being in the gang can fulfil these needs.

Once they have identified a child, the gang will make some form of contact and the grooming process will begin. This could be in person or via mobile phone. Social media profiles may also be used to glamourise gang life and entice young people. Some children are groomed through family members, for instance if they have a sibling or relative who is already involved with a county lines gang.

County lines gangs offer money and status to attract young people. Children may also be attracted to joining a gang by the prospect of belonging to a 'family' that will protect them if their own family feels unstable or unsafe.

Once a child is part of a county lines gang their loyalty and commitment will be tested. The gang will begin to trap the child by making them feel powerless to leave. This might include threats of violence if they leave, making the child feel like they are betraying their new 'family', or telling the child they will get in trouble if they seek help because they have committed a criminal offence.

### Who is Vulnerable to County Lines Exploitation?

Any child could potentially be at risk of criminal exploitation by a county lines gang.

Factors that make a county lines gang more likely to target, groom and exploit a child include:

- the child having experienced neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse in the past
- social isolation or social difficulties
- poverty
- homelessness or insecure accommodation status
- connections with other people involved in gangs
- having a learning disability
- having mental health problems
- having substance misuse issues
- being in care or having a history of being in care
- being excluded from mainstream education

If you are concerned that a child is involved or is being groomed for County Lines, speak to a DSL in school.

Alternatively, contact Children's Advice & Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.

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