



Newsletter

Friday 10th November 2023

Issue 7



@BPS_B23



Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together

Messages from Mr Day

What a pleasure it has been to welcome children, families and staff back to school after the autumn half term break. I trust you all had an enjoyable week and managed to spend time making memories with loves ones.

Termly Events Calendar

The autumn 2 term is always such a wonderful (but busy) time of year in school, as it is a time when we welcome our families in for the various events planned within our calendar. In the coming weeks, we will be hosting an array of open morning for families to work alongside their children in class; class assemblies for Years 5 and 6, as well as our jam-packed Christmas events calendar, including our carol concert, Nativities, lunches and our first ever Snow Ball. You should have received the Termly Events Calendar by email and through the MCAS platform last week. However, if you would like a printed copy, please contact the school office. Do also keep an eye on the Newsletter's 'dates for your diary' section (right) and our X platform (formerly Twitter) for additional events and reminders.

Parents' Evening Consultations

On Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December, we will be hosting our autumn term parent consultations. Appointments for these can be made through the MCAS. Appointments will be face-to-face, in school, and parents will receive a report card a week in advance, outlining academic performance, attendance and information about behaviours and attitudes. With consideration of staff workload and wellbeing, we are unable to offer times outside of these dates. These dates have been published for the whole year so that families have adequate time to make arrangements with employers/childcare arrangements. We look forward to seeing you at these appointments.

Attendance Competition

The week beginning 13th November will see the launch of our next attendance initiative. Children who are in every day, between Monday 13th November and Thursday 30th November will be entered into a prize draw. Selected winners will receive £10 'One4All' shopping vouchers, which can be used in hundreds of high street and online retailers. **You've Gotta Be In To Win!**

Mr Day

Dates for your Diary

Tues 14th Nov	9.00-11.00am Year 1 and Year 6 Open Mornings—Parents invited into school to work alongside your child in class. Flu Vaccinations taking place where parents have given consent.
Weds 15th Nov	9.00-4.00pm Open Day for parents whose children will start Reception in September 2024—appointments only. If you would like to meet with Mr Day and tour the school, please contact the school office.
Thurs 16th Nov	Dogs' Trust in school delivering workshops to all children.
Fri 17th Nov	Non-uniform day for all children in exchange for selection boxes and large bags of sweets for the PTFA Christmas Fayre. 9.00am Year 6 Class Assembly—Parents and family members are welcome to attend.
Mon 20th Nov	9.00-10.00am Learning through play workshop for all families in the school hall. Come along and find out how play can support your child's communication, social and emotional development.

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Attendance

Whole School (Years 1 to 6)	96.11%
Reception	97.61%
Year 1	99.33%
Year 2	93.00%
Year 3	95.67%
Year 4	93.33%
Year 5	99.00%
Year 6	96.33%

Equates to:



This week's Class

Attendance Superstars Are:

Year 1

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

This week's

100% Attendance

Reward Winners are:

KS1: Lauren (Rec)

KS2: Muhammed (Y6)

100% Attendance

Whilst illness is part of everyday life, particularly at this time of year, not all illness requires children to be off school. We would ask parents to refer to NHS guidance and make an informed choice about whether or not your child needs to be off school—missed days means missed learning. We do have to celebrate those children, who, despite maybe having a cold or a minor illness, choose to come in everyday. Last week, 188 of our 207 children were in 100% of the time. This is an incredible achievement and you should feel very proud. Great work, children and families. Keep it up!

Attendance Year-to-Date

We really want to celebrate and champion our children to be in school 100% of the time, and, although we want this to be an intrinsically motivated, it is still important to highlight how well our children are doing. At the end of each term, the class with the highest collective attendance will be rewarded with a party/movie afternoon. How is your child's class doing in relation to others? Who will be our autumn term winners?



4th—Year 4 (96.27%)

5th—Year 6 (96.16%)

6th—Rec (93.23%)

Well done to Year 1 through 6, who are above our school target.

You are attendance superstars!



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Brookvale Primary School Newsletter



Anti-Bullying Week

This week marks Anti-Bullying Week 2023 in the UK, running from Monday 13 to Friday 17 November. This year's theme, "Make A Noise About Bullying," encourages us all to break the silence surrounding this issue that has long been ingrained within our society.

The campaign's call to action, championed by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, resonates deeply:

"Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter.' It doesn't have to be this way." (Papyrus, 2023)



Across the week, children will take part in a series of lessons, assemblies and anti-bullying workshops (led by Aston Villa Football Club) to learn about the forms bullying can take, its impact and what can be done about bullying.

We will be issuing questionnaires to all children this week to provide them with an additional opportunity to share their experiences of bullying. If any child highlights that they are being bullied, the leadership team will meet with that child, without delay, to resolve any issues in accordance with our Anti-Bullying Policy.

PTFA Events

What an incredible start to our PTFA efforts this year with a number of highly successful events enjoyed by our children and families.

We are very grateful for the support a wider group of parents and family members have shown in volunteering to support our events.

Thanks to the support of our children and families, we have already raised...



We still have a number of events coming up in the autumn term that we need your support with:

Christmas Fayre— Wednesday 5th December

Snow Ball— Wednesday 20th December. We need your help on the decorating committee.

If you can volunteer 1 hour of your time, we would be most grateful. Please speak with Mr Day.

Christmas Carol Concert

Tickets for this year's Christmas Carol Concert (Friday 8th December) are on sale now (£1.50) and can be purchased through MCAS.

Please note, this event sells out incredibly fast so do login to MCAS and book your tickets, now.



Tickets for residents of Waterford and Orchard Court are FREE and we look forward to welcoming you all into school for an afternoon of mince pies and merriment.

All money raised will go back into the PTFA to benefit the children at Brookvale.

Primary Applications September 2024

Children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 will be eligible to start Reception in September 2024.

Throughout the term, we have held a number of open events for prospective parents/carers to tour our school and meet with teachers and the leadership team. **If you would like to attend our last open event of the autumn term (Wednesday 15th November), please contact the school office to make an appointment with Mr Day.**

Parents who would like their child to attend Brookvale Primary School (including siblings) must apply through Birmingham City Council's website using the following link:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_class_or_primary_school/4

All applications must be made by 15th January 2024.

Should you require further information about our school, or admissions, please contact the school office:
office@brkvale.bham.sch.uk

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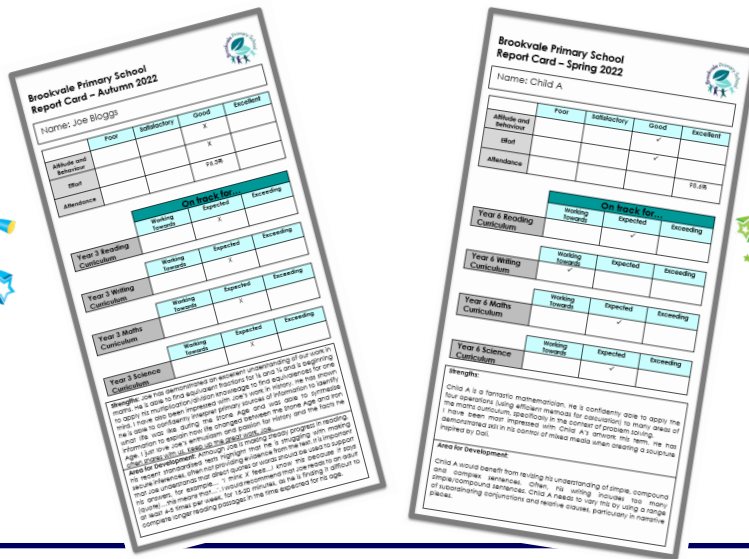
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Parent Consultation Report Cards

Parent consultations on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December will provide parents/carers the opportunity to celebrate children's strengths, learn about their academic achievements and consult with teachers about next steps. In advance of these meetings, parents/carers will be issued with a report card (see examples below), which will be sent home Thursday 7th December. The report cards can be used to focus your conversations with the class teacher.



Parent Safeguarding – Bullying

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when individuals or groups seek to harm, intimidate or coerce someone who is perceived to be vulnerable. It can involve people of any age, and can happen anywhere – at home, school or using online platforms and technologies (cyberbullying). This means it can happen at any time.

Types of Bullying

Bullying encompasses a range of behaviours which may be combined and may include the behaviours and actions set out below. Bullying can be a form of discrimination, particularly if it is based on a child's disability, race, religion or belief, gender identity or sexuality.

Verbal abuse:

- name-calling
- saying nasty things to or about a child or their family.

Physical abuse:

- hitting a child
- pushing a child
- physical assault.

Emotional abuse:

- making threats
- undermining a child
- excluding a child from a friendship group or activities.

Cyberbullying/online bullying:

- excluding a child from online games, activities or friendship groups
- sending threatening, upsetting or abusive messages
- creating and sharing embarrassing or malicious images or videos
- 'trolling' - sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games
- voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
- setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
- creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name.

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Parent Safeguarding – Bullying

Impact of Bullying (adapted from Papyrus)

Bullying is far from a harmless rite of passage or “just a laugh”. It can have a long-lasting impact on young people’s mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. Below are just a few ways bullying can affect victims:

- **Emotional distress:** Young people who experience bullying often suffer from anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem as a consequence. The constant fear and humiliation inflicted by bullies can lead to a sense of hopelessness, which can continue with them even into their adult years.
- **Negative impact on academia:** Bullying can disrupt a victim’s ability to concentrate and perform well in school. It can lead to decreased attendance, lower grades, and a reduced interest in learning, ultimately affecting their future. This is particularly the case if the bullying occurs within school.
- **Physical health:** A lesser-known consequence caused by bullying is how the stress of the situation can manifest into physical health problems, such as headaches, stomach aches, and sleep disturbances. These physical symptoms can further heighten the emotional toll of bullying.
- **Social isolation:** Victims of bullying may withdraw from social activities and even friendships to avoid any further victimisation. This isolation can lead to feelings of loneliness which can in turn further impact their distress and mental health.
- **Mood swings:** Bullying can lead to significant mood swings, with victims experiencing sudden shifts in emotions, from anger and frustration to sadness and despair. These mood swings can impact every aspect of their life, from their daily-to-day living to relationships.
- **Loss of interest in hobbies:** Many young people who are bullied lose interest in activities they once enjoyed. The emotional toll of bullying can make it difficult for them to find pleasure or motivation in their hobbies and interests.
- **Thoughts of self-harm and suicide:** Sadly, some young people who are bullied may experience thoughts of self-harm or suicide as a way to cope with their pain and sadness. They will want to escape the situation, and for some people, they feel these avenues are their only option. These thoughts should be taken seriously, and immediate support and intervention are so important.
- **Long-term effects:** The impact of bullying doesn’t always end with adolescence or once the bullying stops. It can cause lasting psychological scars, affecting self-confidence and relationships well into adulthood. It may damage their outlook on friendships, romantic relationships and even their personal relationship and how they see themselves.

What to do if you’re concerned about a young person being bullied

- Listen actively: Create a safe space for the young person to talk about their experiences. Be an empathetic and non-judgmental listener.
- Offer encouragement: Remind the young person that they are not alone and that you are there to support them throughout the process.
- Involve relevant authorities: If the bullying is happening at school, notify the school immediately.
- Empower them: Encourage the young person to stand up for themselves and their rights. Teach them assertiveness and self-advocacy. With that being said, remember that sometimes, going higher – involving school authorities or professionals – can be more effective in ensuring their safety and wellbeing.
- Seek professional help: If the bullying has significantly impacted the young person’s mental health or self-confidence, consider consulting a therapist or counsellor who specialises in bullying-related issues.
- Promote online safety: Teach them how to protect themselves online, including setting privacy settings and reporting abusive behaviour.

Where Can I Get Extra Support?

Family Lives: offers a confidential and free helpline service for families in England and Wales. Call **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. If you don’t get an answer first time, they encourage callers to try again.

National Bullying Helpline: The *National Bullying helpline* offers free advice to anyone in the UK experiencing any form of bullying. Call **0300 323 0169**

ChildLine: ChildLine is the UK’s free, confidential helpline for children and young people. They offer advice and support, by phone and online, 24 hours a day. Call **0800 1111**.

EACH: EACH has a freephone helpline for under 18s experiencing homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying or harassment: **0808 1000 143**.

HOPELINE247: If you, or someone you know, is struggling with being bullied and this is contributing to thoughts of suicide, then you can contact HOPELINE247 for advice and support on 0800 068 4141, via text on 07860 039967 and via email on

At Brookvale Primary School, we will not tolerate any form of bullying or discrimination. If you are concerned about a child, speak with a member of leadership without delay.

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Our Week in Pictures

Check out our X account (formerly Twitter)

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