



Newsletter

Friday 12th January 2024

Issue 13



@BPS_B23



Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together

Message from Mr Day

It has been a pleasure to welcome our children, families and staff back to school this week. I trust that you all had a restful Christmas break and made cherished memories with loved ones. On behalf of the staff, I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous 2024.

As we begin the new term, there is much to look forward to. This term promises to be filled with opportunity for growth, shared accomplishments and celebration of achievements along the way. Our incredible team is committed to providing a nurturing environment, where every child can achieve, not only academically but socially and emotionally, so that they are better prepared for next phase of education and in to later life.

As parents, you play an integral role in the success of not only your children but also our school community. I am very grateful for your continued support; whether that be sending your child into school everyday, completing homework to extend their learning, or attending informal and formal events, such as parents' evenings and open mornings. Together, let us continue to prioritise and foster our strong sense of community, support and enthusiasm for learning. Collectively, we should continue to have the highest of aspirations and expectations for what can be achieved by our children and school and, with your support, I am sure we will continue to do this.

Attendance Expectations

Research shows that children who have excellent attendance, maintained through their time at school are more likely to have:

- A greater chance of achieving 5 GCSEs and a pathway into university
- Improved mental health and reduced risk of depression
- Increased likelihood of securing a 'professional' role
- Secure, meaning relationships as adults
- A reduced likelihood of sustained periods of unemployment
- Reduction in their likelihood to be involved in criminal activity.

We will continue to have a strong focus on securing excellent attendance for all of our children as the year progresses. Thank you to all parents who instill the importance of good attendance with your children by sending them into school everyday, improving the likelihood that they will do well in later life. At present, 79% of our children (164 children) have attendance above 97%. What an achievement! Well done to all those children. This term, we launch a new attendance competition, with everyone's attendance 'reset' so that all children can achieve 100% attendance by year end. [See inside for more details.](#)

Dates for your Diary

Tues 30th Jan	9.00-10.00am Sex Education Workshop for Year 6 parents with Mrs Johnston. Come along and find out what content will be delivered in these sessions and ask any questions. Please note, parents have the right to withdraw children from sex education.
Fri 9th Feb	9.00am Year 4 Class Assembly. Families are welcome to attend. 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
Mon 19th Feb	Children return to school.
Thurs 22nd Feb	Young Voices Concert at Resorts World Birmingham
Mon 26th Feb	9.00-10.50am Year 1 and 6 Open Morning. Come along and work with your child in class.
Weds 28th Feb	8.45-10.00am Parent Council/Coffee morning with Mr Day. Come along and share your views about the school.

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

We are caring citizens, shaping our communities.

We are passionate about everything and everyone.

We are the authors of our own lives.

Brookvale Primary School Newsletter



Attendance

Attendance	
Whole School (Years 1 to 6)	95.39%
Reception	98.52%
Year 1	93.36%
Year 2	96.21%
Year 3	92.92%
Year 4	97.14%
Year 5	99.05%
Year 6	93.63%



This week's Class

Attendance Superstars

Are:

Year 5
(99.05%)

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

A mixed week for attendance, Brookvale. We shouldn't have this level of absence in the first week back. I'm sure we will do better next week.

This week's 100% attendance book winners are:

KS1: Sahil (Y1)
KS2: Nikan (Y3)

100% Attendance Competition

It's a new year and that means a new start. Why not make great attendance your New Year's resolution? From 8th January, all children's attendance will be 'reset' so that each child can have a chance at achieving 100% attendance by year end. Children who are in full time in the spring term will be entered into a draw and will be in with the chance of winning one of the below prizes. What an amazing treasure trove of prizes to choose from! Good luck, attendance superstars.



You've gotta be in to win!



**Be An
Attendance
Superstar**

96%

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Communication Protocols

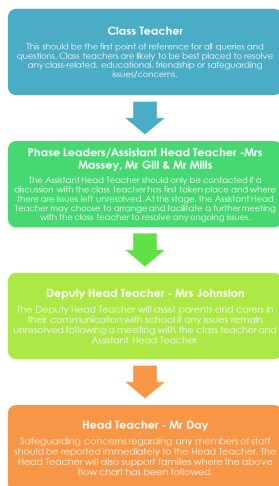
We encourage open, communication and collaboration between home and school and recognise the invaluable role our parents play in our children's education. Forging strong, relationships, with open and transparent lines of communication allows us to work together to get the very best for and from our children.

In order to aid effective communication, we have set out a protocol to ensure your queries are addressed in a timely manner and by the right person.

Most queries/concerns can, and should, be addressed, in the first instance, by the class teacher. If queries are unresolved, please follow the appropriate line of communication (as outlined—right).

Concerns about the safety or welfare of a child should always be directed to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. Ask to speak with: Mrs Massey, Miss Williamson, Mr Mills, Mrs Johnston or Mr Day.

Queries about a child who may have or has a special educational need can be directed to our school SENDCo, Mrs Marie Smith.



Measles Update

Across Birmingham, there is an increasing number of people with measles. Most of these are young children who have not had their MMR (measles) vaccine.

What is Measles?

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people.

Signs of Measles

The first symptoms of measles include:

- a high temperature
- a runny or blocked nose
- Sneezing
- a cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- A rash usually appears a few days after the cold-like symptoms.



How do I protect my child from Measles?

Two doses of the MMR vaccine is the best protection against measles. The MMR vaccine is safe for every faith. **There is a type of MMR vaccine that does not contain pork gelatine**, so it can be used for people who do not touch any pork products.

This vaccine is available at every GP practice, and it is free. Please contact your GP to book an appointment for Measles (MMR) vaccine.

You Said... We did

Feedback from our children and families is important in helping us shape the practices of our school so that we continue to meet the needs of our community. Thank you to all the families who regularly attend our Coffee Mornings and Parent Council. Below is feedback from the end of December and first week back in January. If you would like to give feedback, but can't attend an in school event, please email: office@brkvale.bham.sch.uk or speak to a member of leadership on the playground at the start or end of day. Thank you for your continued support.

You Said...	We did...
'The coffee mornings are a good way for us to give feedback to Mr Day but they are often at 9am, meaning I can't always make them.'	We will look at offering different times in the spring/summer terms. In the meantime, send your feedback to: office@brkvale.bham.sch.uk
'I would support more trips but understand that some families with multiple siblings might find this difficult.'	We will continue to engage with families to see what is affordable as we want to ensure our children receive a broad enrichment offer. If you are from a multi-child family, I'd be interested in hearing from you.
'What are plans for the end of Year 6?'	We can confirm that, in addition to their trip to London, Year 6 will also have a graduation event, a visit to Drayton Manor and a low-key 'Prom.' More details to follow.
'What will happen when Mrs Johnston goes on maternity leave?'	We will be sharing details of this soon as we are planning for staff to also have opportunities to step into leadership.
'The photos on the Relish food ordering system seem misleading.'	We have sent this feedback to our catering team for review.
'The Snow Ball was amazing! Are you doing any other events like this?'	Yes! We love an event at Brookvale. Details to follow.
'My child absolutely loves coming to this school. Her teachers are so kind. It is the best place for her.'	Thank you, this will make our staff's day!

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Parent Safeguarding— Social Media & Mental Health

(From National Online Safety)

WHAT TRUSTED ADULTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

Social Media is often scrutinised as having a negative impact on children's mental health. Children and young people are now growing up in a technology dominated world, and social media plays a major role in their social lives. This balanced guide focuses on both the positive and negative impacts that social media can bring to young people and their mental health.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

EASY ACCESS TO SUPPORT AND HELP

Due to delays in young people getting help for their mental health, such as experiencing low mood, or suffering from anxiety, they may sometimes reach out to access support from others online. Sharing problems or issues with friends, peers and broader social networks can be met with positive reaction, with nearly 7 in 10 teens reporting to receive support on social media during tough or challenging times. Where there are moderated communities which offer support and guidance, children can be provided with a great source of support.

SUSTAINING FRIENDSHIPS AND MAKING CONNECTIONS

There is evidence to suggest that strong adolescent friendships can be enhanced by social media interaction, allowing children to create stronger bonds with people they already know. Online relationships can actually make children more relationship-oriented, thoughtful, and empathic. By sharing comments on pictures, videos and posts, it can create long-term friendships as they can continually keep in touch, even with a distance between them.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Support can be found in various places online: sometimes this is known as "finding your tribe". Online platforms and groups can provide a wonderful sense of belonging for children. They can find peers with similar interests and circumstances which can sometimes be difficult to find in real-life. As a result, this can create stronger connections and help to build confidence.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

SELF-ESTEEM & BODY IMAGE

There are 10 million new photographs uploaded to Facebook alone every hour, providing an almost endless potential for young people to be drawn into appearance-based comparisons whilst online. No one is the same as how they portray themselves online as we tend to only show the best part of ourselves. The pressure to fit-in and conform is huge, which can become a driving force for children to replicate what they see from friends, celebrities and sponsored adverts. This pressure may contribute to anxiety, low mood and a feeling of inadequacy. As a result, it can lead to a feeling of low satisfaction with their own lives.

HARMFUL ADVICE

The online world provides the opportunity for anybody to upload and share photoshopped pictures, edited video, fake news and even unvetted advice. Children may stumble upon this, which could potentially encourage them make wrong decisions and not get the help that they need. It's important that you teach your child to differentiate between what is true and useful information and what is fake.

ADDICTION AND COMPULSIVE CHECKING

Social media addiction is thought to affect around 5% of teenagers. The Office for National Statistics found that children who spend more than 3 hours a day on social media are more than twice as likely to support poor mental health. Furthermore, compulsive checking due to 'Fear Of Missing Out' has been linked to poor and disturbed sleep, as well as difficulty to relax during evenings. One in five young people say they wake up during the night to check messages on social media, leading them to be three times as more likely to feel constantly tired at school than their classmates who don't use social media during the night.

CYBERBULLYING

One recent large-scale UK study showed that cyberbullying is one of the biggest challenges for young people. Other studies suggest that cyberbullying has a bigger effect on wellbeing and mental health than other types of bullying. 7 in 10 young people have experienced cyberbullying, with 37% of young people saying they experience cyberbullying on a high-frequency basis. Young people are twice as likely to be bullied on Facebook than on any other social network.

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Our Week in Pictures

Check out our X account @BPS_B23



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