



The Buzz @ Brooksward

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1st April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Goodbye and Thank you

After 19 years of dedicated service to Brooksward School, our much loved and respected Teaching Assistant Mrs Sandra Skelton has decided to step down at Easter to spend more time with her family. She has worked tirelessly in different areas across the school and has always gone that extra mile for both children and colleagues. On behalf of staff and governors, I would like to thank Mrs Skelton for her outstanding contribution to the children's education and well-being at Brooksward through the years and for her unwavering support of her colleagues - she will be sorely missed. I am sure you all wish her a well-deserved rest, however knowing Mrs Skelton, she will be doing anything but taking it easy! We will also be saying a fond farewell to KS2 Teaching Assistant Miss Kerry Donnelly as she embarks on her new career. Over the past 3 years she has been a valued team member and we and the children have much to thank her for, not least of all, planting and nurturing the courtyard garden.



Many thanks to you all for attending our Parents' Evening a couple of weeks ago. It was great to speak with many of you and hear about how pleased you are with how your children are doing in school. Walking around school, it was lovely to see the children proudly sharing their work with you and demonstrating how hard they have been working. We hope you found the mid-term reports and feedback from the teachers useful.

I will be writing to you shortly regarding our questionnaires – thank you for taking the time to complete these. We were really pleased with the feedback and thrilled with some of the comments you made! You will see from the newsletter that some of this feedback has already been acted upon.

Visit to Stratford upon Avon

The children from Year 5 and 6 recently had a fantastic trip to Stratford-upon-Avon as part of their learning about



Shakespeare. They took part in a workshop at Shakespeare's birthplace museum and Mrs Whitbread, Miss Roberts and Miss De' Ath were overwhelmed by the

enthusiasm of the children and their attitude to the tasks presented. Kethusan told us "This was an excellent trip! I really enjoyed getting to perform a Shakespeare play in front of a real audience and learning all about Tudor life – they believed in some very strange things!"



School Council

As you are aware, we have an active School Council at Brooksward and what follows is a summary, prepared by one of the Year 6 Representatives, of some of the things they have been involved with lately. We hope to make the School Council report a regular feature of our monthly Newsletter.

“This term, the school council have been busy making vital decisions for Brooksward, like when we organised and ran the ‘Get Caught Reading’ competition during book week. That is not all. We also had to judge ‘Brooksward’s Got Talent’. It was quite difficult as there was clearly so much talent! We also had to organise the 2nd hand book sale which raised almost £150 towards the STEM fund. In addition to this, we decided on what we wanted our Comic Relief fundraising events to be: It was a non-uniform day and a cake sale. We decided on these activities by talking to all classes and asking people what they wanted. We also helped organise a disco which was for being the top school in Milton Keynes! Finally, but not least, we went on a safety walk for our learning character Marie and made sure that the school was safe to walk around. That is what we have done so far in this fabulous school year”.

Thank you for supporting our recent fundraising events. We were able to donate just over £300 to Comic Relief. We were also very pleased to take delivery of £600 of books this week chosen by the children that we were able to purchase with the commission raised from your purchases at the Scholastic Book Fair.

Road Safety

We are all aware that there is limited parking around school and with the probable parking restrictions being put in place, this issue will only get worse. As Spring approaches, we would like to urge you to consider leaving your car at home and walking your children to school when possible. We would also be interested to hear whether anyone would consider volunteering a short period of time in a morning and / or afternoon to act as a lollipop person and help groups of children cross the road safely. Several parents have been in to say that they are concerned that some children are not crossing the road safely, which isn’t helped by the congestion of the morning drop off and collection after school.

Courtyard Allotment Garden

If you are a parent / carer or grandparent with a little time to spare each week, you may wish to consider coming in to help out in our courtyard allotment garden. This has undergone a massive transformation over the past year thanks to the hard work of Miss Donnelley and the gardening club. We are looking for a green fingered volunteer who can help ensure that our lovely allotment continues to thrive. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please either pop in to school to see us or send us an email / message via Class Dojo.

As well as the new half term schedule of clubs after Easter, we will also be starting staff led lunchtime football activities, initially for KS2, which many parents and children suggested on their recent questionnaires. With this in mind, you may wish your child to keep a pair of suitable trainers or boots (not studs) in school for them to play in when the grass is dry enough.

Two of our staff members have very special events planned for the Easter break. Both Miss Roberts and Miss Manning have been planning their respective weddings and their big days are almost here! We wish them well for their forthcoming nuptials – they will start using their married names with their new class cohorts from September.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Mrs Abby McStraw

Head of School

Diary Dates

Friday 5th April – pm ‘Fair Fayre’ for children & break up for Easter
Tuesday 23rd April – children return for Summer Term 1
Thursday 9th May – ‘The Wish’ Music Concert in Wolverton for Y3 children
13th – 16th May – SATs for Year 6 children
Friday 17th May – Year 6 to Willen Lake
Thursday 23rd May – Break up for May Half Term
Friday 24th May – School closed for Inset Day
Monday 3rd June – Children return for Summer Term 2
Tuesday 4th June – Foundation Stage Visit to Green Dragon Eco Farm
Monday 24th June – KS1 visit to Woburn Safari