



BROADWATER DOWN NEWS

Website: www.broadwater-down.kent.sch.uk

September 2013 



Welcome back!

Welcome back to the start of another year at Broadwater Down Primary School! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our new pupils who start with us this year and to all the new staff we have joining us this term: our three new teachers; Kerry Alderman, Jemma Askew and Rebekah Smith, our new teaching assistant; Rebecca Harman, our new midday supervisor; Leanne Cass and our new family liaison officer; Libby Wilmshurst. We are very excited to be growing our staff team and know that you will help us to make them feel welcome whilst they are finding their feet and getting to know us all!

This year is going to be an important year for everyone involved with Broadwater Down Primary School. We are all prepared to work exceptionally hard to ensure that we build on our successes from last year.

Broadwater Down leadership

I wish to inform you that Mrs Jane Florey has decided to leave Broadwater Down Primary School. We thank her for her achievements in school during her time here and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

For the time being we shall continue with the current leadership arrangements, as commended in last year's Ofsted report. Mrs Lightbody will continue her role of Acting Headteacher. Mrs Harris, our SENCO and member of the Senior Leadership Team, will continue to be released for one day to support Mrs Lightbody. We will continue to work closely with Claremont Primary School with Mr Richard Sutton Smith, Claremont's Headteacher and National Leader of Education, acting as a Consultant Headteacher for our school.

Breakfast Club

Please note that we run a school breakfast club, every morning from 8am. If you would like your child to attend breakfast club, please obtain a letter from the school office to complete and return. The cost of breakfast club is £2.00 per day. If your child is not attending breakfast club, they cannot be dropped off at school before 8.50am as we will no longer be running Wide Awake Club.



Music bags

Mrs Lazell has asked me to inform you that she will be selling 'music bags' this term! These are similar to book bags and can be used for transporting music and/or musical instruments to and from school. The bags will be available for £3. If you would like to order a music bag, please inform Mrs Bailey in the school office.



Painting Party

I would like to say a huge thank you to the party of volunteers who came in to school during the summer holidays to decorate the new Reception and Year 1 classrooms. The rooms look fantastic and we are all very grateful for your hard work.





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Attendance

Please remember, children should be at school, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. If your child will be absent from school due to illness, the school must be phoned before 9.30am. Appointments during school hours should be avoided, but, if unavoidable, a written request should be made, the day before at the latest, to the office. Evidence of any appointments will be asked for. Where no explanation has been received, the school will endeavour to contact parents by 9.30am.

Term Time holiday

Guidelines from the Department for Education make it clear that Headteachers **may not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances.

If you would like to take your child out of school for any reason, permission must be sought, in writing, well in advance. Please be aware that permission may be refused. When a letter is received, the Headteacher will consider whether this is an exceptional circumstance as well as the timing of the proposed absence, your child's attendance pattern in present and previous academic years, and your child's progress. Any leave taken without written permission will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

House points

This year we will be running a house point system at school. We hope that this will promote individual and collective responsibility, positive behaviour, thoughtfulness and respect, collaboration, teamwork and co-operation and a positive attitude to school and others.

Each house will be represented by their House Captains (two Year Sixes, elected by their peers in the upper school). The House Captains will be responsible for promoting charity work, leading their house in competitions and events, and representing the school in the community.

House points will be awarded for model behaviour, effort in learning and other good deeds. Pupils will also participate and compete in competitions and events for house points. House points will be counted at the end of each term and the children in that house are rewarded with a special event. At the end of the year, once all house points are tallied, the house champions will be announced.



At the moment our houses are: blue, green, red and yellow. We would like to rename the houses and would like the children's help with this. We are asking the children to think of a name for each of our houses. We would like the names to have a common theme and to be linked to the local area in some way. If your child has an idea, please ask them to tell Mrs Lightbody by next Thursday. I look forward to hearing their suggestions!

I hope that your children have enjoyed the start of the new term. In particular I hope that the Year 1 children have enjoyed using their outside area, even in the rain, thanks to our new shelter and that children have enjoyed using our fantastic laptops which the PTA have contributed to with your support. Next week you will receive a curriculum letter from your child's class teacher detailing their learning for this term and how you can support your child at home. Thank you for your continued support.

Emily Lightbody, Acting Headteacher