



# The Buzz @ Brooksward

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24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Spring Term is now well underway and we were impressed by how quickly the children settled back in after Christmas and how hard they have been working. Spring Term Curriculum Newsletters for all year groups have been sent home with the children. If you have not yet seen this, take a look at the Parents' Section on the school website where an e-version can be viewed so you are fully informed about the areas of learning your child will be covering.

The children have been introduced to our new 'Learning Character' for this term. She is called Marie, after the Nobel Prize winning physicist and chemist Marie Curie who conducted some excellent research on radioactivity and was the first woman to become a Professor at the University of Paris. The children heard about the fantastic work she did with x-ray equipment during World War One and were told what qualities our Marie loves to see in them; children who are safe and who have helping hands. We have been celebrating these qualities in our 'Star of the Week' assemblies.



## STARS Engagement Project / Road Safety

You may recall that during Road Safety Week in November, the children were invited to take part in MK Council's 'Design a Parking Banner' competition. We were very pleased to learn that the winning design came from a Brooksward pupil – well done Johnny! We will see a giant version of his banner displayed outside all schools across MK later this year and Johnny also received a lovely prize. We are proud to be working with Milton Keynes Council on the Stars Engagement Programme and are delighted to have recently gained a bronze accreditation due in no small part to Coach Dave's hard work and dedication. Amongst other things, the project is there to address Brooksward's transport and travel issues and challenges and to support and improve Brooksward's relationship with the local community. We have advised on safer parking and traffic control along with the support of the local PCSOs and traffic wardens at school pickup and drop off times. Have a go at planning the route to school with your child. Can they use the Redways?



Can they find out how long it takes them to get to school either walking or cycling. Could you change your mode of transport once a week? <https://www.getsmartertravelmk.org/>. There is an area map in the parents' section of our school website indicating with marked circles the streets within 5 minutes and 10 minutes walk from school. If you would like a copy of this map, please come into the office and we can let you have one. You will have seen on Class Dojo that we are forming a Road Safety Committee (BRSC) and are looking for members amongst parents, staff and local residents. Please contact us for more information.



## Book Week at Brooksward

This will take place next week. Full details were sent out in a separate letter which is also published on our website. We will be running a number of activities throughout the week, including a second hand book sale. If you have any children's books that are no longer needed and you are willing to donate,

please send them in to school with your child at the start of the week. All money raised will be going towards our STEM fund. Please do join us on Tuesday for hot chocolate and cookies at 'Bedtime with a Book' and remember, the 'Scholastic Book Fair' will be open for half an hour immediately after school each day. We are also looking forward to seeing the children dressed up as their favourite book character of Friday.

### **Internet Safety Week**

There will be an increased focus on keeping safe on the internet during w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> February which is Internet Safety Week. Mr Macdonald will be running an information workshop for parents and we hope that you will be able to attend one of them. A letter with further information will follow next week but in the meantime please make a note of the dates and times – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> (5pm), Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> (2.45pm), Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> (8.45am) February.

We have reminded children this week about the importance of staying safe in and around school especially the need to walk rather than run onto school premises (no matter how keen they are to get here!) to ensure the safety of themselves and others around them. There have been a couple of falls and collisions this week before school. A polite reminder also to parents - please refrain from bringing dogs onto the school site and also refrain from smoking or vaping outside school in consideration of others.

As this time of year can often bring a cold snap of weather, please ensure you send your children to school with suitable warm outdoor clothing. Please also ensure you act upon the details regarding school closure at the foot of this Newsletter – it only takes a short while to register for text and email alerts from Milton Keynes Council. **If you have recently changed your mobile phone or home phone numbers please also inform the office immediately.** It is vitally important we are able to contact you in an emergency.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Jen Swain*

Head of School

### **EMERGENCY OR BAD WEATHER CLOSURE PROCEDURE**

If you think that we may be closed due to bad weather OR we suddenly have to close due to lack of water, gas leak etc , you can find out by visiting the council's website [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schoolclosures) or the radio websites [www.horizonmk.co.uk](http://www.horizonmk.co.uk) or [www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties](http://www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties). If you visit these websites, it is crucial to press refresh or the F5 button to continually refresh your screen as details of school closures will be constantly updating. **Heart Radio on 103.3FM and BBC Three Counties Radio on 90.4, 92.1, 94.7, 95.5, 98, 103.8 or 104.5FM will also announce details of school closures.** Please sign up to the email/text alerts from the MK Council system via their web address <http://www.mkschoolclosures.org>

### Diary Dates

w/c 27th January - Book Week including Scholastic Book Fair after school  
Tuesday 28th January - Story telling evening  
Friday 31st January - Book Day (dress up as a favourite book character)  
4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> February - Internet Safety Week workshops for parents  
Friday 14th February - last day of term  
Monday 24th February - back to school  
17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19th March - Parents' Evenings