



# The Buzz @ Brooksward

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9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to Brooksward for our new families and welcome back to those of you who were already here – we hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. For some children it has been 6 weeks since they were at school and for others 6 months, but I was really impressed by how enthusiastic the children have been, how engaged in learning they all are and how smart they look in their uniform and school shoes.

A huge thanks to you all for your continued support with our return to school. Everything has gone very smoothly in general in both KS1 and KS2 and we have had some really positive feedback from parents and children. As with all new things, there will be tweaks to be made and I thank you for following these adaptations as they have been made. A few reminders and requests: please do not try and enter the school site before your pick up/drop off time and please do not attempt to speak to your child's teacher at the door. The staggered times and one-way flow system are essential in keeping yourselves, the children and staff safe. Also, when you are waiting at either gate, please be considerate of the people around you: make sure you are keeping a good social distance, do not block the path or the gate and we ask that you do not smoke or vape in these spaces. We also ask that cars do not block or reverse into residents' driveways or make potentially dangerous three point turns in front of the school gate. Thank you for your cooperation.

We have welcomed two new staff members this term: Mrs Shaikh in Frogs class and Mrs Marguerite in Butterflies. They have both enjoyed their start at Brooksward and are appreciative of how welcoming the staff, children and parents have been. We are also welcoming back Mrs McEvoy into Swans class who is very happy to be returning. Additionally, we welcome Miss Allen and Mrs Stevens to their new roles as 3/4 and 5/6 team leaders respectively.

The children have started learning a range of exciting topics; curriculum newsletters detailing these will be on Class Dojo on Friday and will also be available on the school website. Please talk regularly to the children about what they are learning and speak to your child's class teacher via dojo if you have any questions.

I am very excited to be based at Brooksward again this year, continuing to grow and develop the school and community. As you will be aware, Brooksward is a part of the Delta Federation (which is the collective name for our group of schools) which specialises in school improvement. Following on from last year, we are continuing our support of a school in Bedford, which is where Ms Alikhan and Mr Morley-Smith will be based for most of the week, although they will both be visiting Brooksward each week to see the fabulous learning that is going on. In addition, on a Wednesday, I will be going to support at Drayton Park and Mrs Ross will be based at Brooksward in the Head of School role.

As always, I am keen to talk to you about life at Brooksward and can be contacted via dojo or through the school office.

Many thanks and best wishes

*Miss Jen Swain*

Head of School

## LEARNING CHARACTERS

This week in our first virtual assembly, we reintroduced the children to 'Einstein', the first of our 'Learning Characters'. The children were told a little bit about Einstein and how he likes to see excellent learning skills, such as being focused and enthusiastic about their learning and challenging themselves. I know that the children will all work particularly hard to ensure that they show their teachers and Einstein these skills throughout the term! Einstein will be making a special appearance during our 'Star of the Week' assembly each Friday and the children are already really looking forward to this.



## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

Clubs will begin w/c 14<sup>th</sup> September and will run for 6 weeks until the October half term. Due to the measures we have in place, all clubs are phase only but we have worked hard to make sure there is still an exciting array of clubs on offer provided by both school staff and specialist coaches. It is important that once your children are accepted into a club that they attend this regularly, except for special circumstances, as many of the sessions build on each other and regular absence makes it difficult for the adults to run them effectively.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

There is a website to help you find out if your child qualifies for free school meals. Please visit to sign up, even if your child is in Foundation Stage, Year 1 or 2 and receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals, or if you have applied before and do not think you are eligible. In doing so you will help us to find out whether we can claim Pupil Premium for your child. This is additional funding to spend on resources such as extra staff, books or school trips for eligible children. The system is quick and simple to use and can be accessed via computer, smartphone or hand held device. For more information visit <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims> Should you require help or assistance in doing this, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Bates or Mrs Ryan in the School Office.

## PARENTS' EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION / COLLECTION AFTER SCHOOL

Please ensure that you have advised us of any recent changes of address or mobile telephone numbers so that the office staff can contact you quickly in the case of an emergency. Please also ensure we have been informed who has been given authority to collect your child from school each day. If someone different comes to collect your child and we haven't been notified, we will not be able to let them go. If your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6, you may wish to give them permission to leave the classroom rather than being collected from the door at the end of the day. Please notify us via Class Dojo or email and we will add their name to the list. We also have a late collection policy which means a charge could be made for childcare if your child is collected late.

## DIARY DATES

Please take note of any dates which are relevant to your child.

(Please refer to our website for full term dates and other documents)

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan fundraiser
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October (5pm)	Virtual SATs Meeting
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October (3.30 – 5pm)	Virtual Parents' Evening
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October (3.30 – 7pm)	Virtual Parents' Evening
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October (3.30 – 5pm)	Virtual Parents' Evening
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Break up for half term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Children return to school