



The Buzz @ Brooksward

email: office@brooksward.org.uk ; website: www.brooksward.org.uk



3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Brooksward families and welcome back those of you who were already here – we hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. I am delighted to have returned to Brooksward this year, covering the role of Head of School whilst Miss Swain is on maternity leave. This week, I have spent time walking around the school, talking to children and families and am 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 both KS1 and KS2 as we have returned to more ‘normal’ school routines and procedures. 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 continue to follow the one-way system to access the playgrounds. Please also continue to use Class Dojo if you need to contact to your child’s class teacher, do not attempt to speak to them at the door. The one-way flow systems are essential for 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 several new staff members this year: Miss Doherty, teacher of Kingfishers class; Miss Brereton, teacher of Water Voles class and Miss Harris, teaching assistant in Minnows class. They have all enjoyed their start at Brooksward and are appreciative of how welcoming the staff, children and parents have been. We are also delighted to welcome back Miss Mungham in Butterflies, who has returned from maternity leave. Additionally, we welcome Miss Addison to her new role as teacher of Ducklings class.

The children have started learning a range of exciting topics; curriculum newsletters detailing these will be sent via ParentMail next 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 Class Dojo if you have any questions.

I am very excited to have returned to Brooksward this year, continuing the fantastic work of Miss Swain 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. This year, we are continuing our work with other schools but I am excited to say that both Ms Alikhan and Mrs Ross will both be spending two days a week at Brooksward this year so they can see the fabulous learning that is going on.

As always, I am keen to talk to you about life at Brooksward and can be contacted via Class Dojo or through the school office. On a final note, we’d all like to congratulate Miss Swain on the safe arrival of her baby girl 10 days ago!

Many thanks and best wishes

Miss Natalie De’Ath

Head of School

LEARNING CHARACTERS

Next Monday, we will reintroduce the children to 'Einstein', the first of our 'Learning Characters'. The children will be told a little bit about Einstein and how he likes to see excellent learning skills, such as the children being focused, enthusiastic about their learning, challenging themselves and demonstrating **excellence** – one of our core values. 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 13th September and will run for 6 weeks until the October half term. Forms will be sent home via ParentMail on Monday. We have worked hard to make sure there is an exciting array of clubs on offer provided by both school staff and specialist coaches. As Miss Swain notified you in July, unfortunately we have had to make the difficult decision to begin charging for these clubs. This will be £1 per session (approximately £6 per half term, per club) which although is an increase, it is still considerably lower than other after school clubs being run in the area. Payment for these will also need to be made in cash to the school office. Clubs can be provided free to those eligible for Pupil Premium. 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.

Kids Play have once again started offering daily extended after school provision for working parents which can be booked on their website <http://www.kidsplaychildcare.co.uk/>

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 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 complete the form sent to you via ParentMail in July to consent to this. 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 24 th September	Open Morning (Macmillan)
Wednesday 6 th October	Parents Information Evening - Reading
Tuesday 12 th October (5pm)	Year 4 Multiplication Check Meeting
	Year 6 SATs Information Meeting
Tuesday 19 th October (3.30 – 5pm)	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 20 th October (3.30 – 7pm)	Parents' Evening
Thursday 21 st October (3.30 – 5pm)	Parents' Evening
Friday 22 nd October	Break up for half term
Monday 1 st November	Children return to school