



# The Buzz @ Brooksward

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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful first half term we've had! It has been lovely for me to be back at Brooksward alongside all the children and staff under much more normal circumstances; the atmosphere around school has been fabulous and the children have amazed us by how well they have returned and how enthusiastic they have been about their learning. They have been working very hard and even challenging themselves with additional home learning!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support since the start of the year. I know that some of the easing of Covid measures and the removal of phase bubbles has not been easy however I do believe we have achieved the right balance of additional safety measures whilst the school day itself remains unaffected for our children. It is important that we continue with our current measures, such as: isolating and arranging a PCR test for your child if they develop a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or experience a loss of normal taste or smell; following the one-way systems at all times and only entering the site when necessary; and ensuring that the children are prepared to go straight in with their things at the start of the day. Your support with this is highly appreciated.

We have said a temporary farewell to Miss Parris as she began her maternity leave at the end of September and look forward to meeting baby Nora, who arrived safely shortly after, soon!

During this half term, we have been delighted to be able to start taking part in more of the normal school and community events that take place at this time of year; we have worked hard to fit in as many enjoyable activities as possible. See below for details of all the exciting things we have done this half term:

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your support during our recent Macmillan Fundraiser. We were delighted to receive donations of cakes which then enabled us to raise £225 for Macmillan – a big thank you to everyone! I was really impressed with the generosity shown by families who provided so much cake that we were able to hold cake sales throughout the school day and after school as well!



## HARVEST ASSEMBLIES



We were extremely pleased to be able to hold our normal Harvest class assemblies this year. They were well-attended by the parents and careers of Sticklebacks and Mallards and I was really impressed to hear the children's fantastic storytelling and singing – we have really missed getting together to share our learning and we are excited to continue with class assemblies after half term! In addition to this, due to your generous donations, we were able to collect and donate fourteen large boxes of food to 'MK Food Bank', who were as appreciative as always for the impressive donations made by the Brooksward!

## READING INFORMATION EVENING

At the beginning of October, we held a successful Curriculum Information evening for Reading. Following requests from parents and carers about how we teach Reading across the school, we welcomed families both in-person and virtually to learn about how we teach phonics, Read Write Inc. and Guided Reading as well as how Reading is assessed. Thank you to all of the families who attended, we hope you found the talk and resources that we shared useful.



## ECO-SCHOOL AND MORRISONS IT'S GOOD TO GROW

Since the beginning of September, Miss Allen has been working hard with her newly appointed eco-council to help make our school a better, more eco-friendly place. Our KS2 eco-school members have also become Junior Park Rangers in association with The Parks Trust who have kindly given the children access to three of their workshops for free.



In the eco-council's first meeting, the children set up the Brooksward School Reduce, Recycle and Reuse project, they started by installing a compost bin in the courtyard garden and discussing the science of creating a healthy compost pile: using a mixture of green (e.g grass clippings) and brown (e.g. dried leaves) waste to get a good balance of nutrients. They then discussed a school wide competition based on pumpkin carving - a popular activity at this time of year. Pumpkins can then be recycled here at Brooksward or families could choose to follow some of the suggested recycling ideas by our Green Team! Winners will be reviewed in our next meeting in November. We can't wait to see what they achieve over the coming year!

## CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY

During the summer term, Years 4 and 5 took part in an air pollution project organised by Cranfield University. Each week, the children joined a Zoom meeting to learn about air pollution, what it is and its impacts. The children took all of this new knowledge and made some excellent PowerPoint projects showing what they had learnt. These were then submitted to the University as part of a competition and amazingly we won! The prize was a weather station worth over £1000 which was installed this month next to the Science Cabin. Our eco-council in particular cannot wait to begin using it!



## OUR LEARNING

Foundation have had a fantastic first half term at school and have impressed everyone with how well they have settled in. This half term the children have enjoyed reading a range of different stories and loved their autumn walk around the school. The children have been learning to write their names, counting objects and recognising numbers and set 1 RWI sounds. Einstein has been blown away by all their hard work!



In KS1, the children have been reading 'The Little Mermaid' and completing lots of literacy activities based on it. In maths, they have looked at place value and have been building on their addition and subtraction skills. As part of their geography work the children went on a local walk where they identified features in our local area. The children have also carried out lots of exciting, but disgusting experiments in science related to keeping healthy!

In 3/4 the children have been learning about the Stone Age and the changes that occurred during this prehistoric era! The children all enjoyed an exciting afternoon where they became Stone Age people,

made prehistoric jewellery from animal teeth (salt dough) and foraged for food before enjoying their own homemade blackberry juice. As well as this, the children created art work using natural materials in the same way our early Stone Age ancestors would have done.

In 5/6, the children have been exploring the curious game of *Myst*. After watching gameplay as a writing stimulus, the children have written a range of text types such as setting descriptions and non-chronological reports. In Science, the children have been learning about the planets (including Earth) within our vast Solar System. To enrich their learning, they have taken part in a Space WOW Day whereby children have tried genuine astronaut food and debated the question, "Did we really land on the moon?" In Art, the children have studied the unique stylings of the impressionist artist Vincent Van Gogh as well as successfully recreating his most famous painting - *Starry Night*.

## PARENT CONSULTATIONS

This term's parents' evenings have now taken place successfully with a mixture of virtual and in-person meetings. It was lovely to welcome some of our families back into the building after such a long time whilst also offering more flexible, virtual appointments through Teams. As I said before, we have been really impressed in school with how well the children have settled in and the progress they have made since returning. If you have not yet had your parent's consultation for some reason, please contact their class teacher.

## LOST PROPERTY

We have already accumulated a significant amount of lost property. Please could we remind you that all items of clothing must be labelled (this may need doing repeatedly if done in pen due to fading). Please also remind your child that it is *their* responsibility to keep track of school jumpers / cardigans and PE Kits.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Natalie De'Áth*

Assistant Headteacher

## 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 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Virtual author visit for Years 1 and 2 - Rachel Morrisroe and Steven Lenton
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Break up for half term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Children return to school
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Photographer – individual photos (no siblings)
W/c Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Healthy Schools Week
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Water Day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Virtual Author visit for Years 5 and 6 - Jacqueline Wilson
W/c Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying week
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Virtual author visit for Years 3 and 4 – Maddie Moate
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Virtual author visit for Foundation – Nick Sharratt
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Children's Christmas Fair Fayre and Christmas Raffle
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation Nativity to Parents
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Return to school