



The Buzz @ Brooksward

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15th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic start to the new half term at Brooksward. For the second year running, we have received an official letter from the Rt Honourable Nick Gibb, Secretary of State for School Standards. In this he congratulates pupils and staff on Brooksward's "outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check. With 97% of pupils at Brooksward School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 6 per cent of all primary schools in the country." We are delighted that the Read Write Inc. daily programme for teaching phonics introduced in September 2015 is embraced enthusiastically and that all the hard work is paying off.



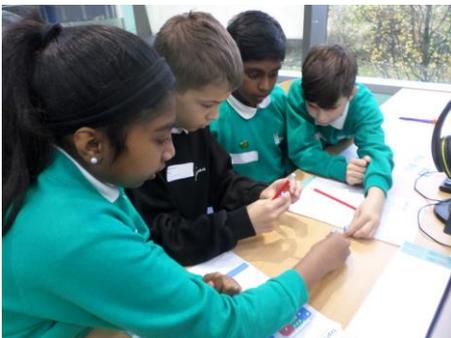
The children have been introduced to this half term's new learning character Leo. They were told a little bit about Leonardo da Vinci and how our Leo likes to see excellent learning skills, such as thinking of new ideas, logical thinking, imagining all the possibilities and always striving for more. I know that the children are all working particularly hard to demonstrate these skills which are recognised in our

Star of the Week Assembly. Our new Star of the Week Certificate, incorporating our learning characters was designed by the Computing Gurus last term under Mr MacDonald's guidance. Congratulations to last week's winners who were the first to receive them.



Maths Challenge

Last week four of our children represented Brooksward in a Maths Challenge event hosted by Explore Learning. Ashvie, Jamie, Kethusan and Lennon worked as a team to complete mathematical problems,



an experience which they all found challenging and enjoyable and also gave them the opportunity to meet with people from other schools. Well done children and thank you Mrs Connors who went with the children!



Healthy Schools' Week

This week we are celebrating Healthy Schools' Week. Amongst other activities, the children have experienced a dance lesson with a visitor from the Kelly Norman Dance School, they have had a triathlon brief and training with Mr MacDonald and experienced military style fitness. They also

thoroughly enjoyed their Taekwondo lesson with Mr Roberts, who is a 3rd Dan black belt in this martial art. In addition to this they have learnt more about healthy eating and will be comparing and contrasting different types of fruit during Friday afternoon's lesson.



Children in Need Fundraiser reminder!

On Friday 16th November, we would like to invite all children to come to school wearing **non-uniform items of blue clothing** to celebrate our love of water and Healthy Schools Week. We would like to ask for a donation of £1 for doing this. All money raised will go to Children in Need so please dig deep for this great cause!

On the subject of fundraising, we would also like to commend Ellie H in Year 6 who recently ran 3 miles raising £150 for Diabetes UK. Well done Ellie for thinking of others, giving of your time and energy and being a great role model!

We have received a number of lovely raffle prize donations in response to my appeal via Class Dojo. Please keep these coming, we are most grateful and I know that the children are very much looking forward to our Christmas Fayre. Look out for the posters which have been put up by the School Council in various locations this week. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Abby McStraw
Head of School

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 16 th November	Children in Need non-uniform Day
Monday 19 th November	Photographer – individual photos
Thursday 6 th December	Year 3 / 4 Visit to Tring Museum
Friday 7 th December 3.30 – 5pm	Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 12 th December	Year 1 / 2 Panto at Stantonbury Theatre
Wednesday 19 th December (pm)	Foundation Stage Nativity
Thursday 20 th December (5 - 6pm)	KS2 Christmas Disco
Friday 21 st December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 7 th January	Return to School