



BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher – Mr D Orme BA (Hons) NPQH Deputy Head – Ms J Smith B Ed (Hons) NPQSL

"Happy and Successful in Everything we Do!"

Thursday 1 February 2024

February Newsletter

Dear Parents

I am amazed that we are approaching the half-way point of the year! When we break up for half-term in a couple of weeks on Friday 16th February, the children will then be as near to their next class as they are from their previous one. Where does the time go? As ever I am very impressed with all of our pupils for trying their hardest and wanting to make progress with their learning. I go around the classes every day and I see children who are engaged, focused and interested in their lessons. I extend my appreciation to all of our staff who work so hard to provide such a rich and stimulating environment for them.

Parents of children who are in Y2, Y3 and Y4 will know that their children are hard at work learning times tables. In Y2 we cover x10, x5 and x2; one per term in that order. In Y3 we cover x4, x8 and x3; again, one per term and in that order. In Y4 we cover the rest: x6, x9, x12, x7, x11. The order is mostly sequential which ensures that new learning can make the best connection to prior. Then in Y5 and Y6 we keep on practising. All these classes have a multiplication and division test every fortnight so we can track progress. Please support your children at home as they practise their tables.

We are thinking a lot about how we can improve outcomes in reading at the moment. Ms Smith is leading staff in the younger age range on early language development. Again, please do all you can to ensure that children at home are doing their Read Write Inc homework which focuses on phonics. Please continue to log on to Oxford Owl (and MyMaths). See your child's class teacher if you are experiencing any technical issues. In Key Stage 2, we are reorganising book stocks in classrooms in line with the latest guidance. We want our children to have more access to books which they have had read to them and enjoyed together in class previously. So your child might now bring home a book from their literacy lessons from earlier this year and last year too. We also want them to have greater opportunities to read books connected to learning across the curriculum. So they may bring home a book on Space or the Romans. We are ensuring that there is an attractive balance of contemporary and classic literature. I would appreciate your feedback on any aspect of your children's reading whenever you see me.

Staff in our early years in particular would welcome any donations you may want to give if you have no further need of toys, eg lego, small world play etc.

Finally, we are looking forward to the Y5 Class Assembly on Friday 16th February at 9:15 in the school hall. Parents and families of Y5 please do come along to celebrate your children's achievements so far this year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Orme
Headteacher

