



Broughton Primary School: 04.09.2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome!

It feels like that within a blink of the eyes, another summer has gone by and a new academic year has begun! A warm welcome back to all pupils, parents/carers and staff at the start of our new school year and a special welcome to our pupils and parents/carers who have joined us this year! We have had a lovely morning in school, which started with a very calm and settled whole school assembly. It was wonderful to see such happy, smiley faces with all children looking very smart in their uniforms. I am so pleased to report that children have had a very settled start to the year, and any initial nerves you may have picked up on at home or initially entering school this morning, quickly subsided. Ensuring that your children are safe and happy here at Broughton, whilst providing a high-quality, engaging and balanced education are our absolute priorities. I am hopeful that you as parents/carers can pick up on the strong sense of team amongst the staff at BPS, and we are so proud that our lovely school is shown so much support from our families, our parent committee KABS and also the wider community – I personally cannot thank you all enough for this, as by working together, the outcomes for the children are even more positive. I am sure that this year will be another very successful one, and the whole BPS team are excited to see what the children achieve throughout the year.

Attendance:

If your child is unwell, there are a number of options you can use to report their illness. You can contact the school office on 01900 828971 between 8.15-8.45am and leave a message on the answer-machine by selecting Option 1, or you can use the 'Absence reporting' tab on the school website, which parents have reported is very quick and easy to do. **Please only use these methods if your child is unwell.**

If you would like to request a term-time holiday, please collect a 'term-time holiday request' form from our school office, or print/download a copy from the school website. Please note that the Department for Education have strict regulations around attendance, and so I am only allowed to authorise term-time absence in 'exceptional' circumstances.

The following dates for national statutory testing are already in place for the next academic year, and so please try to avoid these dates when booking holidays:

- Year 1 Phonics Screening: 10th – 14th June 2024
- Year 4 Multiplication checks: 10th – 14th June 2024
- Year 6 SATs: 13th – 17th May 2024

(Year 2 children will not undertake statutory testing this year)

Consent/Medical forms:

We have now changed our system for completing consent and medical forms, and rather than updating the information annually, school will presume that all information we hold from the previous school year is correct and still in place. This will allow us only to send out new consent paperwork to parents/carers of new starters. If you wish to change your consent for your child to appear in photographs or to attend school trips, please contact the school office so that we can change our records. All children will come home today with the contact details we hold for you, including addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses, as well as emergency contacts and medical information.

PLEASE CAN THIS INFORMATION BE CAREFULLY CHECKED AND ONLY IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES TO MAKE, PLEASE EDIT THE FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

If we do not receive an edited form, we will presume that the information we already hold is correct.

School lunches and menus:

Payments for school lunches have now gone 'live' on our online payment system SchoolMoney. A quick reminder for parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, that your children are now eligible for universal free school meals and so no payment is required for school lunches. Pupils in Years 3 -6 are not eligible for free school meals and so payments for school lunches should be paid online using SchoolMoney.

Menu choices for school lunches will be emailed out today, in a Google form. Please can we request that these are completed and submitted promptly (by this Friday), so that class teachers do not have to use up class time completing menu choices. It would be beneficial to sit with your child when completing the menus, to ensure that they are aware of the meals being chosen, as on occasions some children have told us that they don't like the food that has been chosen for them.

Class Dojo:

Class Dojo is an excellent method of communication between home and school, and we intend to continue to use this tool as the main method of communication this year. The Dojo points will allow you to track your child's behaviour in school and the Class Story will keep you informed of areas of learning in class and any special moments in school. We do intend to continue with the use of the private messaging tool between parents and the class teacher for now, however this will be turned off if the messaging system is not used appropriately. **As a reminder, Dojo messages should not be used as a means to make a complaint or to seek information regarding incidents your child may have been involved in.** If you wish to seek further information around an incident or to make a complaint, please request a telephone/face-to-face meeting with your child's class teacher/Headteacher to discuss it further. Staff will often be unable to reply to messages sent between 8.45 – 3.20pm as they will be working with the children. Quiet hours have been set from 5.30pm – 8am and over weekends, and so staff will not be notified of any messages received between these hours and so they will respond during the next working day. I have attached an updated Class Dojo Policy for you to read.

Behaviour expectations:

This morning, we enjoyed a whole school assembly where we discussed our new school rules, which have been simplified and condensed into three easy school rules which we can all remember:

At Broughton Primary School, we need to be: Ready, Respectful and Safe (RRS)

We have discussed the small 'tweaks' we are making with regards to dealing with behaviour, including our new reward systems which focus on all of the positive behaviour we see on a day-to-day basis in school. The presentation which was shared with the children will be uploaded to Class Dojo this evening to keep you informed of the changes, which also sets out expectations from staff and parents/carers, as well as for our pupils.

Homework tasks:

We have revised our homework tasks for each year group for the new academic year:

- Reception - daily reading practice
- Year 1- Year 6 Spelling practice and daily reading for English plus a short arithmetic task

We hope that by reducing the tasks to complete at home, and focusing on tasks that most children complete independently, it will increase the number of pupils who are able to achieve their Strive for Five reading challenge each week.

KABS lottery:

Congratulations to our KABS September lottery winners:

- 1st: No 55 Norman Marshall £50
- 2nd: No 9 Dale McQueen £30
- 3rd: No 17 Jane Wallace £20

Dates for your diary Autumn 1:

Please note that dates for various events will be added to this list throughout the term and so please check dates weekly to keep up to date.

- Wednesday 13th September – Roald Dahl day (KABS will be selling Wonka Bars – more info to follow)
- Tuesday 26th September – Wheelchair Basketball for all pupils
- Thursday 28th September 9.30-11am – Year 6 REACT Science show at Lakes College, Workington
- Wednesday 11th October 9.30-10.30am – Harvest service in Christchurch for pupils in Reception – Year 6
- Thursday 12th October Time/location to be confirmed KABS AGM meeting
- Friday 13th/Monday 16th / Tuesday 17th October – KS2 trip to Roman museum, Maryport
- Thursday 19th October 5-8pm – KABS Halloween disco
- Friday 20th October – Break up for half-term

Kind regards,



Mrs A Bewsher – Headteacher