



Broughton Primary School: 02.09.2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Apologies in advance for the rather mammoth newsletter today – there is so much to cover with it being our first day back in school!

Welcome!

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. It was wonderful to see the children's (and parent's) happy faces this morning on the entry to school. We hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break.

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.

Behaviour approach:

We have started the year as we mean to go on and enjoyed a whole school assembly this morning to recap on our behaviour expectations and our three school rules of being: Ready, Respectful and Safe. Our new approach to behaviour was put into place last September and quickly had a very positive impact - we have made some small tweaks in that we have removed the behaviour ladder, and introduced a table which lists Step 1, 2, 3 and 4 behaviours and the appropriate sanctions which was shared with the children this morning. This information will also be shared with you on the whole school Dojo page – if you have any questions regarding any of the information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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 8-8.45am and leave a message on the answer-machine, 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. Please avoid sending messages about illness to your child's class teachers, as they do not have the opportunity to monitor private messages, and so they can be missed.

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. You may be aware that due to the national drive to improve school attendance, the fining system for term-time holidays is due to come

into place this year in all schools. The Local Authority are now tracking school attendance figures and it is the LA that issue the fines - not individual schools. We are waiting for further information in the form of a letter for parents/carers from the LA regarding this and I will share this with you as soon as it is received.

The following dates for national statutory testing are already in place for the next academic year, and so these dates should be avoided if booking holidays:

- Year 1 Phonics Screening: 9th – 13th June 2024
- Year 4 Multiplication checks: 9th – 13th June 2024
- Year 6 SATs: 12th – 15th May 2024

Lateness:

We made an excellent start to the new school year this morning, with all children arriving at school on time, before doors were closed. The entrance doors will be opened at 8.40am but will be closed promptly at 8.50am. If children arrive after this time, they will have to gain access through the main office door but will now need to be formally signed in and provide a reason for lateness. This will hopefully reduce the number of children walking through the office, as this is one of Mrs Bryden's busiest times, and she is not always at her desk to let children in.

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 current contact details we hold for you, including addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses, as well as contacts.

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 BY FRIDAY AT THE LATEST. If we do not receive an edited form, we will presume that the information we already hold is correct.

School lunches and menus:

During summer term, I shared with you that school lunch costs will be increased from £2.75 per meal to £3 per meal. 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 early this week, in a Google form. Please can we request that this is completed and submitted promptly (no later than 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.

KABS (Kids at Broughton School Parent Committee) and KABS lottery:

Our parent committee, KABS, are currently seeking new members to join the committee. KABS do an amazing job in helping plan and deliver a range of fund-raising activities throughout the school year, with the funds raised going back to the children to provide the little extras such as transport costs for trips/visits or to buy new iPads/Laptops etc. There will be more information coming soon from KABS but if you are interested in joining the committee, please could you email: KABS@broughton-pri.cumbria.sch.uk to express your interest. The KABS AGM meeting will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 25th September at the Punchbowl in the village. All parents/carers are welcome to attend, whether you are a member of KABS committee or not.

Congratulations to our KABS August and September lottery winners:

August:

- 1st prize £50 Amy Champion
- 2nd prize £30 Claudia Cartmel
- 3rd prize £20 Christine Nicholson

September:

- 1st prize £50 Marion Paige
- 2nd prize £30 J P & J R Motley
- 3rd prize £20 Ken Pridmore

Governors:

We would like to pass on our sincere thanks and appreciation to two of our school governors, Kelvin Kirkup and Caroline Bateman, who have recently made the sad decision to step back from their roles as Broughton Governors. Both Kelvin and Caroline have been very valued members of our Board for many years now and have given up many hours of their own time to carry out this voluntary role. We would like to thank them for this and pass on our best wishes for the future.

There are quite significant changes to our Board of Governors, as we welcome two new governors: Helen Condron and Jonathan Smith. We are really looking forward to working with them throughout this academic year and into the future.

We currently have two vacancies on our Board. If you are interested in the role of Governor and would like further information regarding what the role entails, please email Gilda Wells (Chair of Governors) on gwells@broughton-pri.cumbria.sch.uk Please don't feel that you are making any kind of commitment by doing this – it will just be an opportunity to find out more about school governance.

Dates for your diary Autumn 1:

Class Dojo has updated their system to allow us to post upcoming events on the Dojo story pages. It also allows us to provide reminder alerts as we approach the event which we feel will be helpful. I will however continue to list events on the newsletter:

- Thursday 12th September: Times Table Rockstar day for children in Year 1- Year 6. Children can come to school dressed as a Rockstar
- Tuesday 24th September: Wheelchair basketball sessions for all children, including Nursery.
- Wednesday 25th September 6.30pm in the Punchbowl: All parents/carers are welcome.
- Friday 27th September: KABS Pyjama day More information to follow
- Monday 21st October 1.30-6pm Face-to-face Parents Evening appointments – Booking link will be sent out at a later date.
- Tuesday 22nd October 3.30-6pm Virtual Parents Evening appointments – Booking link will be sent out at a later date.
- Friday 25th October – Break up for half-term

Kind regards,

A. Bewsher

Mrs A Bewsher – Headteacher