



Message from the Head

Happy New Year ! Hopefully you had an amazing break and the start to 2024 has been a good one.



As some of you will be aware, The Brades Lodge minibus (YT16 VRJ) was stolen over the Xmas break. This has been a massive blow to the school both financially and logistically. At present we are using a rental vehicle while we wait for our insurance claim to be processed, and a new minibus to be purchased. Sadly this will take months. In the meantime one of our parent Governors has set up a 'crowd funding' page to try and raise some money to support us covering the costs of the replacement and interim arrangements. Please share the following link far and wide !! https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shenstonebradesminibus?utm_term=y7WZGkv3z

Sadly, the culprits are likely to know the school site as the minibus is not visible from the main road. If you have any information that might help us and the police find the bus or the thieves, please contact the school or 101 quoting crime number 20/1121430/23



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

5-11
FEB
2024

From February 5th to 11th, Children's Mental Health Week will be providing an opportunity for us all in school to make a positive impact on our mental health. The theme this year is 'My voice matters'. At both Brades and Shenstone, students will take part in activities that focus on, and highlight the importance of maintaining good mental health. Amongst other activities, students will enjoy yoga and be supported by external professionals to look at positive affirmations. You can find lots more information and activities to complete at home here:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/#resources>

Dee Hart (MHL)

FOREST SCHOOLS



As you are aware, the school grounds at the Shenstone Lodge site are amazing, and we are continuously encouraging the teaching teams to take lessons outside when they can, to support active learning and outdoor adventure. To further formalise some of the work we do outside we are thrilled to be appointing a Forest School Lead who will be starting in the next half term. Their job will be to develop the teaching cabin, woodlands, surrounding raised beds and the pond area. Groups will then be able to benefit from this rich learning environment all year round.



SPORTS NEWS

The Brades Lodge Lions basketball team played local rivals, Lindsworth on 25th Jan on their home turf in Birmingham. The team performed with an excellent mentality and fantastic team work despite losing 37 to 30. Great game and great attitude. Kane Cabellero



On the 26th Jan The Brades football team were again in action. This time, against Keyham Lodge School, Leicester. Despite the ever present high winds and cold our team controlled much of the play with numerous darting runs toward the opposition goal. Unfortunately the team were unable to press home and take advantage of their dominance and before long they were 2-0 down. The players of the match were Dej'Ai and Saj, who persistently challenged the opposition and despite the results going against us, kept their discipline and continued to try hard.. Well Done !



Shenstone Lodge AFC Fradley Falcons U12s played at St Georges Park (The home of English FA) as part of their Sunday league fixture calendar. Again there was great support from parents and carers who were able to support travel to and from the game. Over the day the team improved on their first round results winning two, drawing one and losing one. Player of the day was N'Karri who was relentless in his efforts !



WORK BASED LEARNING

The Brades Lodge year 9's have been busy developing their understanding of basic electronics and fine tuning their soldering skills, to build their own personal stereos. Having learnt about the electronic components and their functions the pupils have carefully put them together so that their device works when connected to a battery. This takes concentration, perseverance and a steady hand. So far all pupils have excelled and, after one more lesson, will have completed their project.



In year 8, the pupils have started to construct a Go Kart style Soap Box in readiness for the annual Soap Box Derby Competition. After a session exploring safe working practices the students have been learning how to use a jigsaw. As their confidence and skill levels improve they will be cutting out the base of the (winning) racer ! Jack Benson WBL teacher

Therapy dogs in school

Please meet Kili and Mouse. Many of you will have heard the name Mouse (right in the picture) as she has been visiting the schools for some time, but Kili is the newest furry member of our team (left). Kili is nearly 6 months old and already loves visiting the schools for walks, ball catching and cuddles from the children. There is a lot of research about the positive effects of animals in schools and children's mental health. We are very lucky to have them both. Dee Hart (MHL)





Its Happening !

Although The Brades build project continues to frustrate us all as we wait for the first bricks to be placed, we are encouraged by some of the initial ground works beginning to start. Over the week beginning 22.1.24 contractors have been on the site removing trees on the edges of the school

boundary. Compensatory planting of new trees are part of the overall plan once the project is complete and the area is cleared of all machinery and debris.

The next stage will be the relocation of a number of storage containers. On completion, preparations can start to install the contractors compound and cordon off the construction site. As ever we look forward to seeing it done !

Quiz Corner

1. Which American Basketball teams have the following nick names... Knicks, Heat, Bulls, Magic ?
2. Can you describe 3 meanings for the word 'note' ?
3. Can you think of a 12 letter word that has at least one letter 'Q' in it ?
4. What is the name of the country UAE ?
5. What is a 'Chamois' ?

PARENT SURVEY OUTCOMES (Dec 2023)					
Feedback from 34 parents/carers					
Questions	strongly agree	agree	don't know	disagree	strongly disagree
My child enjoys school	17	13	1	2	1
The school keeps my child safe	22	8	0	1	3
The school informs me about my child's progress	18	12	0	1	3
My child is making enough progress at this school	16	12	3	2	1
The teaching is good at this school	21	11	1	1	0
Staff help my child improve their reading	17	15	2	0	0
Staff help my child improve their writing	17	14	1	2	0
Staff help my child improve their maths	17	14	3	0	0
Staff help my child improve their computer skills	14	14	5	1	0
The school helps me to support my child's learning	16	15	0	2	1
The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	13	17	3	1	0
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future	16	12	4	1	1
The school meets my child's particular needs	22	9	0	1	2
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	17	13	1	3	0
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	13	17	1	2	1
The school is led and managed effectively	22	9	1	2	0
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	20	12	0	0	2
Average Scores	18	13	2	1	1

Yet again, the parent/ carer survey is a positive reflection of the schools overall performance through the eyes of our most important stakeholders.

There are however a number of areas that we can improve upon and we will endeavour to do this.

ACTIONS :

*To improve academic information sharing for parents/ carers

*To improve how incidents and matters relating to safety/ behaviour are communicated with parents and carers



The Friendly Face of Policing !

The Brades Lodge students enjoyed a visit from WM police officers who spent some time sharing stories, discussing their jobs and allowing the students to handle their equipment, jackets and role play scenarios !

On a more serious note, the officers were keen to talk through the dangers associated with individuals who decide to carry knives and the potential for situations to escalate in to criminality, serious injury or worse. This was a great session with a difficult message delivered sensitively.

A.O.B.

- Shenstone Lodge School welcomes Lisa Maaskant who has been appointed to the Forest School Lead position.
- Maddie Westwood and Helen Haycox will be permanently joining the Brades Lodge team as TAs after half term.
- Supermarket vouchers for those eligible for Free School Meals will again be available for the Half Term Break. These will be issued via text/email as usual. If you have not yet registered for Free School Meals and think you may be eligible to do so, please liaise with the school office at either TBL or SLS who can support you in organising this.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

World Book Day 2024 is on Thursday 7th March this year. Across the schools we are inviting students to dress up for the day as a character from a book/ play/ movie/ TV show/ game/etc.

There will be prizes awarded for the outfits voted as the best.

Students not in costume will be expected to attend in full uniform at Brades Lodge. At Shenstone the students can wear their pyjamas or dress up as a character from a Julia Donaldson book.

There will also be events taking place to celebrate World Book Day - more details to follow!

Diary Dates...

STAFF INSET DAY Fri 9th FEB

Half Term 12th -16th Feb

Easter (25.3.24 1pm finish -5.4.24)

Brades Lodge (ONLY) INSET 8.4.24

May Bank Holiday 6.5.24

Half Term 27th-31st May

School Data Box 2022/23

Whole School Attendance

2023/24 Yr To Date 87% PA 32.3% (below 90%)

2022/23 Whole Year : 85% PA 47.7% (below 90%)

Days lost to Suspension

2023/24 Yr To Date : 6.5

2022/23 Whole Year : 65

STAYING SAFE



Students at The Brades Lodge are actively working with other Sandwell schools to support the development and improvement of safeguarding practices across the Borough. Our new 'Safeguarding Champions' represented the school brilliantly, despite it being a long day! The students received training which will help them to identify and report safeguarding concerns such as radicalisation, county lines, other criminality and bullying amongst their peer groups. It is hoped that this will help the school to address potential issues at an earlier stage. The team will meet with myself as the Prevent Liaison Officer each month to review any reports. Our work will have a direct link to the Sandwell Prevent team and our school managers. Keith Tedds (Prevent Liaison Officer)