

ACADEMY NEWS

September 11th 2015



Brill Church of England
School

The Firs, Brill,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
HP18 9RY

Telephone: 01844 237710
Fax: 01844 238831

Email:
office@brill.bucks.sch.uk



Headteacher: Andy Leach

Welcome back

Happy 'new year' everyone. I'd like to offer a particular welcome to children and their families who are attending Brill School for the first time in 2015/16 .

It has been a calm and very settled start to the year, the weather has been better than it was for most of the summer break (how very annoying!) and after moving up a year the children and staff have been enjoying getting to know each other in this first week. As some of you will recall we have had some new arrivals to the staff team joining us this year, Miss James is in Year 3 and Mr Hebditch in Year 4 on Thursdays and Fridays. They have both said they've been made to feel very welcome so thank you for your part in that.

And a warm welcome back to Miss Nash who returns to Brill in Year 3 Monday–Wednesday.

At Brill School we always reflect on how we do things and as any good school should we strive to improve and offer the best experience we can for our pupils. The start of the school year is a particularly important time in this regard and so we have made a few changes that I'd like to make you aware of. They are summarised below:

Rewards

We are changing the way we organise 'rewards': House points although still awarded, will be collated for the house totals only and not individually. We will no longer be awarding 'Bronze' 'Silver' and 'Gold' house point certificates. I will expand upon this decision at the next parent council, but I am always happy to chat to individuals and will of course welcome feedback.

Values

Whilst our existing 'Values' will still be promoted and celebrated in class and in collective worship we are launching a new learning based system of rewards for our end of week celebration assembly. In our new curriculum (more later) and throughout school we are focusing on developing a 'growth mind set' in our pupils and so we have introduced three 'Curriculum Drivers' that will thread through our lessons and school ethos, which are **Collaboration, Motivation & Imagination**. Star of the week will now be given to children who show these qualities in their lessons and wider school life. We will return to the policy of recognising this achievement with a certificate to take home and keep.

Topic

The topic teaching overviews for this term have been

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published on the class pages of the school website. Pairs of classes are now covering the same topic. For example, Yr 1 & 2 are currently both studying 'The Seaside' and shared a very successful beach day this week. Topics will now be taught in a two year rolling program, I will once again expand on this change at the Parents Information Evening later in the term.

Levels

You may have read or seen in the media about the demise of National Curriculum Levels. Starting this year we will no longer be measuring our pupils' attainment in this way but by comparison to 'age related expectations'. As a result of this change, and of new systems and methods of assessment used in school, **for this term only we are not** producing a written report to parents. The first interim report will be in February (at the mid year point). Parents evenings will take place as usual later this term.

I will be hosting an information evening for parents on changes to the assessment system and curriculum later in the term. More details will follow on this soon.

Literacy

You will hopefully have received and read an email from our Literacy Co-Ordinator Mrs Massie earlier this week—in case you didn't I have repeated it here:

This year each class will be provided with a recommended reading list to help them in selecting their reading books. We are also asking for all children to use the school library (when age appropriate) and not to bring in books from home. In this way we can ensure that all children have an age appropriate book with suitable content. Research and our experience shows that this greatly benefits the children in terms of progress and fostering a love of reading.

We are very happy to take your feedback and suggestions for individual children if you are concerned that the book given to /chosen by your child is not appropriate please contact your class teacher if that is the case. Reading for pleasure is a big focus for us this year and we have published a list of 'recommended' books for each year group that can be read and shared at home. These lists have been published on the class pages section of the school website.

In other News

This year we were able to maintain the pool over the summer break, and it is therefore still useable at the start of this term. Please ensure that all children have swimming kit in school each day, as we will take the opportunity to use the pool as much as we can over the next few weeks.

Friday 18th September is Jeans for Genes day, children can come to school wearing jeans for a donation of £1. Please note, the rest of their clothes should still be school uniform.

Windmill Preschool have been selected by Waitrose as one of their designated charities this month, so please support them by voting with your green tokens in store in Thame!

Two week diary

w/c 14th Sept

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

3–4pm Oxford United Football Club Yrs 3-6

Friday

3–4.45pm Friday Club

w/c 21st Sept

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

3–4pm Oxford United Football Club Yrs 3-6

Friday

3–4.45pm Friday Club

Notices

Can we please remind parents that you should not be driving up to the school gates to drop children off in the morning, or driving into the parking area. Parking is for staff and visitors only, and additional cars are causing a blockage for the school buses. Please park in the designated areas and walk your children to school.

May we also remind you that children should only be bringing healthy snacks for break time. Several children were seen eating chocolate bars or crisps in the playground this week, so please refrain from sending these types of snacks in with your child.