



The Buzz @ Brooksward

email: office@brooksward.org.uk ; website: www.brooksward.org.uk



8th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to everyone – I do hope you had a relaxing summer break. We have had a very settled start to the year and the children are already working hard and coming to show me some of the fantastic work they have already produced! The children will be learning about some really exciting topics this term – please look out for the curriculum newsletters that will be coming home next week for more information on these.

Fantastic News !

We welcome two new staff members this year - Mrs Darling who is teaching the Minnows in Year 2 and Miss Bertans who is teaching the Newts in Year 4.

I am sure that you will have read that most schools are increasing class sizes but our prudent budgeting means that we have been able to **reduce** class sizes throughout the school to a maximum of 23 rather than the 30+ which is the average for the rest of Milton Keynes. This is a fantastic opportunity, similar to the class sizes in independent schools – Prince George is in a class of 20!

I know that the children at Brooksward will really benefit from the additional focus on their learning – another reason why we are fast becoming the go to school in the area!

We are also delighted with the **excellent** results achieved by the children in the summer, continuing the improvements since September 2015. In all Key Stages and in all subjects our children achieved results **higher** than any previous years. We expect the overall results to be in line with or higher than the 2017 average in all subjects when these overall figures are published later in the term. A breakdown of the performance of pupils in July 2017 is now available on the school website.

Happy reading!

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING / SCHOOL OPEN MORNING



On Friday September 29th (9 – 11a.m.) we are holding an Open Morning combined with a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan. This is a chance for you to tour the school and see the children at work. At the same time, you are invited to have a coffee or tea and a slice of cake for £1 and all proceeds will go to the very worthy Macmillan campaign. In order to raise as much as we can, we are asking for cake donations to be brought to school on Friday morning please. Any leftover cakes will be sold to the children at breaktime for 50p each so please ensure that your child comes with sufficient money if they wish to buy a cake. Thank you in advance for your support.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

There is a citizen portal to help you find out if your child qualifies for free school meals. Please visit to sign up, even if your child is in year R, 1 or 2 and receiving universal free school meals, or if you have applied before and do not think you are eligible. In doing so you will help us to find out whether we can claim pupil premium for your child. This is additional funding to spend on resources such as extra staff, books or school trips for eligible children. The system is quick and simple to use and can be accessed via a smartphone or hand held device. If you qualify, you will receive a reference number that you simply bring in and show us at school to start receiving meals. Please register at https://emsonline.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE

PARENTS' EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION / COLLECTION AFTER SCHOOL

Please ensure that you have advised us of any recent changes of address or mobile telephone numbers so that the office staff can contact you quickly in the case of an emergency. Please also ensure we have been informed who has been given authority to collect your child from school each day. If someone different comes to collect your child and we haven't been notified, we will not be able to let them go. We also have a late collection policy which means a charge could be made for childcare if your child is collected late.

DIARY DATES

Please take note of any dates which are relevant to your child. Please note INSET days.
(Please refer to our website for full term dates and other documents)

Friday 29 th September (9 – 11 am)	Open Morning / Macmillan Coffee Morning
Friday 13 th October	School Photographs
Tuesday 17 th October (3.30 – 5pm)	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 18 th October (3.30 – 7pm)	Parents' Evening
Thursday 19 th October (3.30 – 5pm)	Parents' Evening
Thursday 19 th October	Break up for half term
Friday 20 th October	School closed INSET DAY
Monday 30 th October	Children return to school
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need non-uniform Day
Wednesday 13 th December (pm)	Foundation Stage Nativity
Thursday 14 th December (5 - 6pm)	Key Stage 2 Christmas Disco
Friday 15 th December	Break up for Christmas
Wednesday 3 rd January	Return to school

Ms Jo Alikhan
Executive Headteacher