



# The Buzz @ Brooksward

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19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a very busy first half term, I would like to extend a huge thank you for your support at numerous events that have recently taken place. Many of you visited school during our Open Morning, observing your children actively engaged in their lessons and seeing first hand how much they enjoy learning. During this same morning, your donations of cakes enabled us to raise £235 for the MacMillan Coffee fundraiser. The following week, our wonderful Harvest assemblies, impressively led by Sticklebacks and Mallards classes, again saw



generous donations from you all in support of the Milton Keynes Food Bank. Last week saw us hosting a Maths information evening, exceptionally well organised by Miss Swain, supported by our teachers. We were pleased to see so many of you there and parents who attended the event told us that they found it incredibly informative. A big thank you to children who came back to school to help teachers with the maths games and demonstrations for parents. Your feedback and comments after all these events were overwhelmingly positive, echoing those of the Ofsted Inspector earlier in the term that we are indeed a very good school with much to be proud of.



### Stone Age Day in Years 3 & 4

We are always looking for ways to bring the curriculum alive for pupils and our visitors last week certainly added a new dimension to the Stone Age Project. The children spent the day dressed as cave men and women whilst discovering fossils and artefacts brought along by the individuals from 'Past Alive'. We hope you will agree that the nominal parental donations we ask for to make these events possible represent great value.



## Punch and Judy Visit to Key Stage 1

The children in Years 1 & 2 have been learning about puppets in DT in conjunction with their topic work. Yesterday we welcomed a visitor in school who gave a short talk on the history of Punch & Judy and a demonstration of the puppets followed by a show. The children were incredibly attentive and gained a wealth of knowledge from the experience.



## Year 6 Chinese Culture Day



Year 6 had a fantastic afternoon experiencing Chinese culture. The children thoroughly enjoyed tasting a variety of traditional dishes, created Chinese dragons based on the new year story of Nian using pens and ink as well as learning simple greetings and the numbers 1 to 10 in Mandarin.



## PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

There is a Citizen Portal to help you find out if your child qualifies for Pupil Premium Funding. 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

Please continue returning your Data Collection Sheets which have been sent home for checking and keep the school office updated with any future changes to mobile telephone numbers - thank you!

## 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)

Thursday 19th October	Break up for half term
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	School closed INSET DAY
Monday 30th October	Children return to school
Monday 6th November	Photographer in school
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need non-uniform Day
Tuesday 21st November	Flu immunisation in Years FS to 4
Monday 11th December (pm)	Year 5 to Cross & Stable
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December (pm)	Foundation Stage Nativity
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December (5 - 6pm)	Key Stage 2 Christmas Disco
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Return to school

Enjoy the half term break - we look forward to seeing the children looking smart and refreshed for the new half term on Monday 30th October.

Ms Jo Alikhan  
Executive Headteacher