



'A lifelong love of learning;  
a love of life.'

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to our returning children and families and welcome to our new ones. We are delighted with how well all of our children have settled and even our very new Reception children have had only a few wobbly moments.

As this is our longest term of the year, you will have noticed how quickly the children begin new and challenging learning. They have responded very well with keen interest.

We have 'stunning starts' planned for all year groups with visits, role play days and many exciting experiences.

### **OLIVER!**

On Monday we were extremely fortunate to have a theatre set up in our hall and an amazing production of Oliver for all the Year 2-6 children to watch. We are very grateful to our Friends of Bramber (YOU!) for funding the visit as it was nearly £600 and worth every penny! We have booked next year's already as it was so good. Thank you for fundraising on our behalf.

### **Lead Learners**

As we progress to a Primary School and see our first Year 6 children embarking on their final year here, we have given over more responsibility to them. An element of this is to have Lead Learners (not Head Girl/Head Boy). Our first Lead Learners are Dennis Bentley-Vazquez and Annella Stevens who will represent our school at various events and occasions and have already spoken to all the children about how they will represent them.

### **School Houses**

Towards the end of last term, we ran a competition to come up with the names of our new house team names. Ryan Plassing was particularly inventive choosing local notable houses and so was the winner of a gift token.

To choose our House Captains, Year Six children, who nominated themselves, gave a speech in front of the year 4, 5 and 6 pupils and a democratic vote then took place. The successful candidates are listed below with the houses they will lead and their house colour.

- Parham House (Red) – Ruby Natarajan Smith and George Chambers
- Goodwood House (Green) – Ella Currier and Harry Williams
- Stansted House (Yellow) – Kezia Clark and Morgan Caulkin
- Petworth House (Blue) – Maddy Hide and Jack Newman

All of the children who took part were brave for having a go and all have been good sports in congratulating each other.

### **Building works update**

Over the summer we had a number of remodelling and refurbishment projects which included the classrooms in Yellow Wing, the office and the access to our pond and nature area. Although there are a few

bits to still finish, we were really pleased that the works were completed on time to a high standard and we hope you like the outcomes too.

### **IRIS Connect – Building on teaching excellence through collaboration and sharing practice**

We are delighted to be using 'IRIS Connect', an innovation in teacher professional development, which uses a secure video system to enable teachers to reflect and share their many examples of excellence with our team of teaching staff across the school. Our aim is for all teachers and TAs to be as good as the best.

Through sharing our outstanding practice, teachers can reflect, amend and trial new and creative teaching, learning and assessment techniques to ensure the very best outcomes for all pupils.

The lessons captured by IRIS Connect are only accessible by the teacher that recorded them, or within their network for specific professional development. The recordings take place in a normal lesson and will not require any additional participation. All we ask is that your children continue to work as hard as they always have done.

We hope that you will be happy for your child to be included and if you need any more information or if you have any questions regarding this project then please do get in touch with us.

### **From the Governors**

Governors Update:

Welcome back to school we hope you had a wonderful summer and a special welcome to all the new families joining us at Bramber.

As Governors, we would like to thank all the parents who completed our parent questionnaire last year. We really appreciate your views and we are working with staff on the areas of development you identified. Your positive feedback about the values of the school and the hard work of the staff was extremely heart-warming.

The two main areas where parents would like to see an improvement were the development of sports within the school, especially the school field, and better communication to parents with more notice about school events.

What we have done so far in response to your questionnaires:

#### **1. The Field and Sports Developing**

Finally, some field news! We have been pursuing this issue, as always and were adamant that we really did not want to see another crop planted on our field. The latest from the WSCC Capital Team is, and I quote, ***"Tenders will therefore be returned late October, all being well we can start November"***.

In addition to Miss Foggett leading sport and PE, we now have Mr Cross joining her as sports leader. We have continued to pay for our membership of WSSA (Worthing School Sports Association) which gives us access to all the inter school competitions, training and attendance at the PE Conference. We have invested in additional training opportunities for our newly qualified teachers and we are buying new Sports Equipment. Our attendance at competitions is reliant on parents and children participating, and we are working hard to maintain enthusiasm and motivation for this.

#### **2. Notice for events**

We are trying to be as helpful to parents as we can and we really do try. Our notice for the Lodge Hill Visit for instance. In the last 6 months, we have sent over eleven thousand texts to parents and since September 4,676 texts to help parents remember deadlines and events and also to pass on information so that parents and carers know what's happening. We have given notice of events a year in advance and on the paper and school calendars. If we miss any events or we invite you to something spontaneously, this is not intentional and just a mistake so please do ask us if we have not informed you of a date. Thank you for your help in this matter.

## REMINDERS...LOTS!!!

### Names

Please names everything as we already have loads of un-named and lost brand new uniform

### Punctuality

We are delighted with how well your children have settled and want to congratulate you on being able to adjust to waking up earlier and getting your children to school punctually.

When a child is late for school, they miss so much of the very important settling down and explaining time that takes place in the classroom. Often this can be distressing for them, particularly if they need routine and are worried about missing essential information. Please work with us to ensure your children come into school on time so that they can have a happy and settled start to the school day. Remember rainy days are often very busy and you need to allow extra time.

### **Reminder of timings:**

Rec, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 class doors open at **8.45am.**

Rec, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 start learning at 8.50am.

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 class doors open at **8.40am**

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 start learning at 8.45am.

School finishes at 3pm for all children.



### **PLEASE NOTE –COLLECTING CHILDREN**

**For children in Year 4 -6** unless they have a special educational need, we do not need to be informed if they are going home with somebody different. We would like them to take responsibility and if they are going home with somebody else we would hope that they would remember.

### **Years Reception to Year 3**

If you are not collecting your child but have made alternative arrangements, **please inform the class teacher** as it can be embarrassing for your friends and the child when the teachers, quite rightly, question the arrangement.

### **Head lice**

We no longer have a nit nurse and we, at school, are not allowed to check your children's hair for lice and, to be blunt, it's not our job. Please can you help prevent the spread of head lice by checking your children's hair each time you wash it. The 'Take a Peek Once a Week' campaign ([www.onceaweektakeapeek](http://www.onceaweektakeapeek)) is sensible. I would suggest using a metal 'nit' comb and lots of conditioner. The only way to prevent it in school is if every parent takes responsibility for their own children's hair and we can see the discomfort these dreaded creatures can cause your children.

### **Uniform**

The children look very smart coming back to school so thank you very much for all the efforts you have made to make this happen. **Please remember no nail varnish or hair dye/gel/sticking up hair**, except on special dressing up or mufti days. Also, I am aware that the uniform suppliers didn't tell parents about the different options of uniform for the different year groups and I didn't inform parents either – I apologise for that. Where uniform has been already purchased we are happy for children to continue with this but going forward and just to clarify:

#### **Daily uniform**

- White polo (with or without logo)
- Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers

- Jade sweatshirt (with crew neck Rec-Y2, v-neck for Y3 onwards) or cardigan with school logo
- White/grey socks
- Black **shoes**
- Jade book-bag (Rec-Year2)
- Black rucksack (Year 3 onwards - optional)
- Black reversible raincoat/fleece (optional)

### **For PE**

Jade t-shirt with logo

Black shorts

Black plimsolls (Rec-Year 2)

Plain trainers (Y3 onwards)

Black hoodie and tracksuit

Waterproof jacket for outdoor PE

Change of socks (Year 5 and 6)

At the end of last year, we had quite a bit of un-named lost property. We do endeavour to return lost items put in the Lost Property Box (by Yellow Wing children's entrance) and this is helped if it is **clearly named**. Please check that all items are labelled with your children's names including lunch boxes, shoes and PE kit. During PE, children with long hair must have it tied back or bring a band to do it themselves. Earrings should be removed or covered with tape **supplied by parents**.

### **Jewellery and Jo Jo bows**

Can we remind you all that the above items are not allowed in school. Please ensure that hairbands are simple and not a distraction.

### **Parking**

We have had several reports of poor parking outside of the school in the last few weeks, including a 'near miss'. Please take care whilst parking and reversing in any of the roads around the school. Also, please be considerate of our neighbours by not parking across their driveways.

If you see anyone parking in an illegal manner or driving without due care, please call Crimestoppers on 0800555111. As a school, we can only encourage parents to park considerately whereas the police have the power to enforce.

### **Packed lunches (including on trips)**

Please can I remind you that no nuts or items containing nuts should be included in packed lunch as we have children and staff here who are very allergic to nuts and could have anaphylaxis shock if they come into contact with them.

### **The independence of our children**

Please help to develop your children's confidence and self-esteem by encouraging them to be as independent as possible coming into school in Year 1, 2 3 and 4. The class teachers or teaching assistants will greet them at the door.

### **NB - Safeguarding and child protection**

A message to new parents/carers.

Whilst you are on the school site, please be aware that you cannot accompany your children to the children's toilets or cloakroom areas. This is because there are obviously other children using them at the same time. If toilet facilities are needed outside of school hours, in an emergency, you can use the staff facilities. Please be sensitive to the fact that staff also use the toilets and just before school starts and immediately at the end of the school day is when it is also most needed by staff!

We are a vigilant school in order to protect our children's safety and well-being. Any child protection or safeguarding concerns need to be reported. This can be done via one of our Designated Safeguarding Officers, Mrs Tracy Taylor (Headteacher) or Miss Claire Barrett (Deputy Headteacher).

### **Friends of Bramber Meeting (our Parent Teacher Association)**

Remember, you are all members of this great group of people! At meetings, not only do we plan fund-raising and fun school events, but we also have a chance to meet others and do something good for the community. It is beneficial to have at least one member from each class so that all views can be represented. This is a way to have your say about events and fundraising.

### **FOB AGM**

The Annual General Meeting is **Monday 2nd October at 7.00pm in the school hall**. Please, please come along to our first meeting of the year if you are able to.

### **No Smoking!**



This is a no smoking site which includes the school grounds so please do not smoke or 'vape' in the playgrounds when dropping off or collecting children.

### **Term Time Holidays**

The Department for Education has amended the regulations for term time absence and they came into force from September 2013. From this date: **no headteachers have been able to give authorisation for holidays or any similar absences**. 10 sessions (5 days) holiday from school could trigger a fine and holiday without authorisation will have its own code in the register (G). *The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.*

### **Cycles/scooters**



Whilst these are great for fitness, scooters and bikes are not ideal for pedestrians or our grassed areas so please support us by reminding your children the rule is not to use them inside the school grounds.



### **Contact details**

If you change your mobile or move house, please ensure we have the correct contact details for you as we may need to contact you if your child is ill or in an emergency.



### **Dogs**

Please remember dogs are not allowed on the premises and as some children are very frightened of dogs, please attach them to the fence/railings away from the children's entrance. Thank you for your support in this matter.

### **Benefits to the school**

If you are on income support or benefits, I would really appreciate you completing a form so that the school can claim 'Pupil Premium' which is a sizable amount of money that we are allocated for each child whose family have financial support. At Bramber, this money is used for our Councillor/Play Therapist and our Specialist Support Teaching Assistants. Without this money, we couldn't offer this help to children who

need it. We can also help you in other ways e.g. paying for clubs, uniform and help with school trips. We will of course be confidential and sensitive with the information we get. For every child registered, the school receives funding so you are really helping the school and the children by doing this.

### **Disclaimer**

On occasion the school is requested to circulate leaflets about activities, courses and events that are organised by agencies outside Bramber Primary School or West Sussex County Council.

The Governing Body and WSCC do not support or recommend the advice, products or services offered, nor the organisations offering them. Individuals should satisfy themselves on the suitability of these themselves and on the nature and standing of these organisations.

### **Suggestion Box**



If you would like to communicate your thoughts and ideas to me, we have a suggestion box outside the front office. You can do this anonymously if you wish and we will raise the suggestions at Friends of Bramber meetings. Suggestions could include items for purchase, improvements to the school, events, etc.

### **Parent Post Box**

Please don't forget to use the parent post box on the wall outside the main entrance if you are just dropping off consent forms etc. The box is locked and secure and is checked twice daily.

With warm wishes,

Tracy Taylor

Dates for your diary will follow shortly