



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

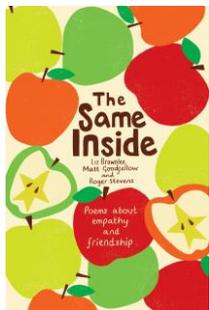
Dear Parent/Carer,

Well, I was waiting for some news to share before I wrote the next instalment of the newsletter and we certainly have a great deal now!

Snow and adverse weather conditions

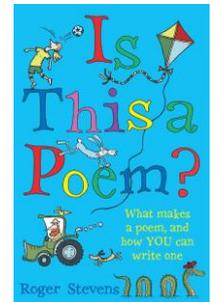
Firstly, I would like to thank you all for really considering the weather and appropriate clothing for your children as you left home to come to school each day last week. This meant we were able to enjoy our playtimes with the children in the snow and cold with the sun shining.

Secondly, thank you for responding so readily to the early closure on Friday which meant that all the children, families and staff were able to get home safely as we were unsure what the weather was going to do!



Book Week 2018

Again, it was Bramber's opportunity to share a love of books with various poetry and book experiences last week. We had the poet Roger Stevens who gave a presentation to each class and workshops too. We have written a whole school poem which we will publish on the website and our special assembly on performance poetry we planned for Friday will take place this week instead. All of the children looked fabulous on World Book Day, dressed as their book characters and there were some very creative ideas that took a lot for Mrs Scott and me to work out! Thank you so much to Mrs Scott for organising the events and the whole staff team for taking part enthusiastically.



And talking of poetry...

Just before Christmas, a group of Year 5 and Year 6 children attended a day at the Amex Stadium to celebrate learning in literacy and poetry particularly. Of 120 children who wrote a poem about resilience, two of our pupils were the winners. Congratulations to Nicholas Osinski and Alex Wilmott who wrote and presented the poem and a huge well done to all of our children who attended and participated so well. The poem was published in the match day programme and the 2 children received kit and medals as prizes.

Link Advisor Visit - Mathematics and Inclusion

On 7th February we had our Spring Term visit from WSCC and we are lucky to have the Area Education Advisor for School Effectiveness as ours who also happens to be a maths specialist. She observed maths teaching and learning across the school focussing on Year 2, 3, 5 and 6. She spoke to children and looked at children's books.

On the day of the visit, when she fed back to governors her comments included:

'The positive attitude to mathematics oozed out'

'The children showed engagement and excitement in their mathematics'

'Rich use of images and models'

'It felt like maths was alive'

Her full report has been received, which is very positive and she summarised

with: - 'This school has an inclusive approach to all that it does. They know the children and families well and can evidence how they seek creative approaches to ensure that all children make progress.'



During the visit all children were fully engaged in their learning. Relationships between staff and between children and their peers were very positive and created a great platform on which to build learning'



Field update

There has been action behind the scenes and although work did not commence in November due to the water-saturated ground, it seems snow and cold will not hinder progress. We do not want to get too excited and raise hopes again but we have been given the date of 13th March for Heras fencing to be erected. Fingers crossed, we can use the field before the end of the school year and the transition of our Year 6 children.

Music at Bramber continues to grow

As our children grow, so too do their musical opportunities. Our singing group performed with Angmering Choral Society before Christmas and also sang with a range of adult and children's groups at a wonderful evening in So Sing at Worthing College. Everyone gave fantastic feedback and apparently, there was not a dry eye in the house! Thank you so much to our brilliant TAs – Mrs Poole, Mrs Killey and Ms Thompson for running the club after school and arranging this for our children.



Sports update (Please visit our website – curriculum- sports and PE)

Mr Cross, has been a great sports and PE leader and with colleagues, has supported the children as they enter as many competitions as we can. The reports from the competitions are all on our website and I am delighted with the attitude our children have when it comes to participation. In fact, we are one of the few schools who have girls taking part in the football competitions and Mr Cross is making a difference in encouraging our children to volunteer more. Thank you to all the parents who take children to the various venues and also help with those that are working or do not have transport by offering lifts to others. A special mention must go to our Year 4 football team who came second in a tournament that spanned a few days and at least 8 games where we came second in the league and received silver medals!



And introducing... Mr George McCann

George is our new full time PE and Sports Apprentice linked to Albion in the Community. He is very talented in his own right achieving distinctions in many elements of his Sports Btec and playing for Brighton and Hove Albion Deaf Football Club. George teaches all elements of PE, supporting class teachers, assisting school clubs, overseeing a playtime sports zone, organising resources and attending competitions with the children. We are sure you will join us in welcoming George and his interpreters to the Bramber staff team as we are very lucky to have him and them.



Trainee Teachers

Although they have been with us a while, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our trainees from Sussex and Canterbury Universities. Mrs Robinson-Wright is working in Kingfisher Class, Mrs Roots in Kestrel Class and Mr Coles in Starling Class. We intend to support more trainees this year as it is such a privilege to play a part in training future generations of teachers and maybe headteachers!

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are currently working on a number of internet safety elements which include:

- Always involve your parents/carers so they know what you are doing and watching online
- Never give out personal information online e.g. real name, address, school



- Never arrange to meet with anyone you meet online – EVER!
 - How to report online concerns
 - Do not say anything unkind or ‘jokey’ online as you do not know the effect it has
 - Do not post anything about others, photos, film, etc. without seeking the person’s permission
- Please can you reinforce these key messages at home?

NSPCC Assembly and Workshops

In addition to the work we do, we also have a team from the NSPCC who are coming in to give an assembly on Stay Safe Speak Out and work with the Year 5 and Year 6 children on keeping safe. We also intend to support the charity by doing a sponsored event. Letters will be following shortly.



Parents’ Forum Update

We have been meeting regularly and have discussed a range of developments and suggestions for our school including:

Peer support pop in

Being a parent, guardian or carer of children is one of the toughest and challenging roles you will ever face. In our busy lives, sometimes we just need somewhere to go other than Facebook. We have parents who are offering something that is more about having a place and space that is a bit friendlier and less intimidating. It will be unconnected to the school and more somewhere to have a chat and a cuppa before you head home at the start of the day. Watch out for a flier about this.



Home Learning (Homework)

Our working party, a select group of volunteers, have looked at our policy drafted by teachers and have given their input on how to make home learning manageable and user friendly. Once we have included their ideas and the thoughts of governors, we will post it on the website for all parents and carers.

Dog fouling

It has been brought to our attention that the situation with this has worsened recently – it can be reported on www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/eforms/aw-ext-environmental-health.ofm1



Car Parking

We are concerned about the number of parents who are not considering the safety and welfare of our children. You may have noticed the NSL ‘no parking on the yellow zig zags’ sign which came about from a school email to report.onparking@nslservices.co.uk. Please can you report any unsafe behaviour too and we may have some help issuing fixed penalty notices.



A parking promise will be coming home shortly and the children have some ideas about how we can improve the situation around the school.

Attendance

I would like to thank you all for continuing to get your children in to school on time. This ensures the children have a great start to the day and all the learning the school has to offer.

The class with the best attendance for February is Dove class at 97.74% but followed very closely by Starling class on 97.73%!



Tracy Taylor