

# Brackenwood Junior School

## *Learning for Life*



Headteacher: Mr. C. Holmes MMUS.PGCE.NPQH

## September 2020

### Welcome Back!

It is difficult to find the words to express how wonderful it is to see our classrooms filled once again with children, all of whom have been amazing and coped admirably with the reopening of our school. I have been especially impressed with how enthusiastic they have been to return, and with their extremely positive and happy attitudes. I would like to offer a particularly warm welcome to children and families who are new to us this September and I look forward to getting to know you in the days and weeks to come.

### Covid-19 Restrictions

Obviously our immediate challenge in the weeks ahead remains operating safely. You will be aware of the extensive measures we are taking in school to keep everyone safe (see Reopening Plan). Sadly, these measures currently mean that, for the foreseeable future, we may not be inviting parents into school as regularly to attend the usual meetings and events. However, we will endeavour to make alternative arrangements to these, so that you continue to receive the information you require and enjoy the events that we would normally put on.

### September Curriculum Meetings / Information Packs

As our usual curriculum meetings are unable to go ahead, we will be issuing information packs which will provide you with all the information you will need from your child's class teachers regarding the year ahead. Packs will contain information regarding curriculum, timetable, expectations in regards to reading, homework and behaviour, information about who will be teaching your child's class, when they will need PE kits, etc. Please look out for these coming your way towards the end of next week.

### Parent Consultations

Communication with you regarding the progress and development of your children is a vital component of the home-school partnership if we are to secure good outcomes for all children. With this in mind, we will ensure that you do receive the opportunity to take part in a conversation with your child's teacher this half term. I will write to you with further information about this in the coming weeks.

### Staffing Updates

Mrs Kavanagh has begun a period of absence on adoption leave. We send her every best wish at the start of this new and exciting chapter in her life. This also means that we get to keep Mrs Cartner on our team for a little longer. Mrs Cartner will teach Mrs Kavanagh's class this year (now Class 4C), and we expect this arrangement to remain in place throughout the school year.

### Recovery Curriculum

All teachers have planned a recovery curriculum which will look to identify and address gaps in English and Maths, and support pupils to overcome any anxiety that may have been brought on by Lockdown or returning to school.

In particular, pupils will receive support with:

- \* the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement
- \* responding to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19)
- \* approaches for improving their physical and mental wellbeing
- \* more focused pastoral support where issues are identified that individual pupils may need help with, drawing on external support where necessary and possible.

Alongside our recovery curriculum, children will continue to receive a broad and balanced curriculum across the full range of national curriculum subjects.

### Bereavement

During lessons next week, we will be talking to all children about issues of bereavement and coming to terms with the challenges of loss. We are also able to provide additional support to children who may have been especially affected by bereavement over the last few months. If you have any concerns about this or wish to discuss this with me further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### School Dinners

Just a reminder that the school kitchen is providing hot and cold lunches. These are available for children in all year groups and are being provided on a staggered rota which enables us to keep all bubbles apart. School dinners can be ordered each morning and paid for on parent pay. Our three-week menu is available on the school website.

### School Photographer

Our school photographer will be in school on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September to take individual photos and photos of children with siblings in the Junior school. In the past we have been able to accommodate Infant siblings, but this is clearly not possible this year. Parents will be able to order photographs by scanning QR codes which the children will bring home. More information to follow.

### PE Kits

On days when children have PE lessons, they will be able to wear their PE kit to school. Please ensure your child has access to joggers and a long-sleeved top to keep them warm on colder days.

## Contact Telephone Numbers

Please ensure that we have at least two contact numbers which we can use in case we need to contact you during the school day. I would also be very grateful if you could ensure that you inform the school office each time these numbers change, so that our records are kept up to date. Thank you.

## Communication

Just a reminder that the school (including the school office) is currently closed to parents unless you have a pre-arranged appointment with us. If you need to contact us for any reason, please use email or telephone for the time being. We will of course continue to support you with any pastoral needs your child may have, and will offer appointments to parents who need them. Parents dropping off forgotten PE Kits, lunch boxes and water bottles can deposit these in the box just inside the front entrance. Please ensure they are clearly named. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this.

## Future Stars (Before and After School Care)

Future Stars are open and fully operational, offering before and after school care for children. They can be contacted directly on 07507 341303 or at [futurstarscc@gmail.com](mailto:futurstarscc@gmail.com)

## 11+ Assessments

Parents of children registered to take the 11+ should have received a text message from Wirral Local Authority Mainstream Admissions with important information about these assessments. The 11+ tests, originally scheduled to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> September, are now expected to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Parents of children taking the test will need an identify form for their child, which I will need to sign. These forms are downloadable from the admissions website.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

We will be offering a full range of extra-curricular activities this term. All the information about the activities on offer will be sent out in a separate letter. Please remember to send in reply slips as soon as possible as clubs fill up extremely quickly and we must limit the number of children attending.

## Music Lessons

We will be offering instrumental lessons on a full range of instruments later this term. Further information will follow regarding options and costings. Music lessons will begin after half term.

## INSET Days

Please note that our next INSET day will take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The school will be closed to pupils on this day.

## Pick Up and Drop Off Times

Below is a reminder of the drop off and collection times for children in each year group. In order to ensure children from each year group bubble are kept apart, it would be extremely helpful if parents could remain off-site with their children until their allocated time, and well away from entrances until their year group is called. Thank you.

	<b>Drop off time/point</b>	<b>Collection time / point</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>9:00</b> Main Entrance	<b>3:40</b> Door by 6B Collection point: Upper playground
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>8:50</b> Main Entrance	<b>3:30</b> 4K external door Collection point: Lower playground
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>9:00</b> Canteen Entrance (accessed from playground)	<b>3:40</b> Canteen door Collection point: Lower playground
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>8:50</b> 6W: Canteen Entrance (accessed from playground) 6B: Entrance by 6B	<b>3:30</b> 6W and 6B: Door by 6B Collection point: Upper playground

## Diary Dates

Sadly, we do not have the usual list of diary dates, due to the dramatic reduction of trips and parental events taking place this term. Below is a reminder of a few key dates have on the calendar:

<b>Autumn 2020</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET Day 1
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET Day 2
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>School opens to pupils</b>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Photographer (individual and Junior siblings)
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October / Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	11+ Tests
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	INSET Day
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Day
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime – Floral Pavilion <b>10am Start</b>
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Last day of term</b>

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