

Brackenwood Junior School

Learning for Life



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

March 2021

Welcome Back!

It has been absolutely wonderful to see all the children return to school this week, and I must congratulate them for the manner in which they have coped with the return. The many children I have spoken to this week are delighted to be back in school, and I have been extremely impressed with the calm and purposeful learning environments that I have seen in all classrooms around school. I would like to thank (and congratulate!) you too for the sustained effort you have put into your children's home-schooling since the beginning of the Spring term, and for the extremely kind and supportive messages you have been sending into school during Lockdown.

As we continue to operate under restrictions, I am afraid there is currently still a limit to the number of events and invitations I would usually be writing to you about, but let us hope that we are not too far away from being able to return to normal soon.

Staffing Updates

Just a reminder to parents in Class 3D that Mrs Dawson will be absent from school for a number of weeks as she recuperates from knee surgery. Miss O'Hanlon will teach Class 3D during Mrs Dawson's absence.

World Book Day

Last week, we celebrated a highly successful World Book Day and throughout the week we used the book 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse' as a stimulus. Some of you might have already been familiar with the book but, throughout last week, it certainly captured the hearts of pupils and adults alike with its heart-warming quotes. The author, Charlie Mackesy, even responded to us on Twitter, saying that he thought the artwork produced by the children was beautiful! Please take a look at it on our Twitter account.

Residential Trips

We are hoping that our annual residential trips are still able to go ahead this year. The dates for these are Barnstondale (Year 4) Wednesday 23rd – Friday 25th of June and PGL (Year 6) Tuesday 13th – Friday 16th July. We will keep you updated with more information as and when we are able to.

Parent View

At Brackenwood Junior School, we value very much the feedback that parents provide us with, and I would be extremely grateful to any parents who were able to give up a few minutes of their time to complete the online parent survey at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. Thank you.

School Clubs

Please note that extra-curricular activities will recommence at the beginning of the Summer term. Full details of clubs on offer for each year group will be sent to you very shortly. Please register for the clubs you are interested in as soon as possible, as they do fill up extremely quickly.

Before and After School Club: Charley's Childcare

Charley's Childcare is now fully operational, providing access to before and after school wrap-around care. They are open from 7.40am before school, and until 6pm in the evening. They can be contacted directly on 07936 571416.

School Dinners

The canteen is fully operational and is serving hot and cold food options daily at a cost of £2.40 per meal. Dinners can be paid for using Parent Pay, and children can decide on a day-to-day basis whether to have a school meal or packed lunch. The menus can be found on our school website.

School Uniform

Just a reminder that, in order to assist parents with the cost of school uniform, we have a range of good quality second hand school uniform on offer at very affordable prices. Please contact the school office for further information.

PE Kits

Children may wear their PE kits to school on PE days. The PE days for each year group are listed below:

Year 3: Monday

Year 4: Tuesday

Year 5: Wednesday

Year 6: Thursday

Recovery Curriculum

Over the coming weeks, all class teachers will be planning and teaching a curriculum which best meets the needs of their pupils on their return to school. This will include a heavier focus on Reading and Maths, and an increased emphasis on PSHE with a focus on Mental Health issues. Next week, assessments will be taken by pupils in Reading, Maths, and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. These assessments will help teachers to identify any learning gaps which the children may have, and this information will help the teachers to plan an effective catch up curriculum. Our aim is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum across as many subject areas as possible. However, teachers have been asked to prioritise the key areas of Reading and Maths initially, and this may result in some areas of the curriculum not being taught until later in the school year.

This week, our teaching assistants have received training in the use of a benchmarking scheme for reading. They are currently carrying out benchmarking assessments on children throughout the school, so that we can identify quickly any pupils who require additional support in this area.

In the Summer term, we will also be looking to provide some additional support for pupils and classes where it is needed most.

Whole School Attendance

Now that the school is fully reopen to all pupils, and with the potential disruption to children's learning caused by Lockdown, it is more important than ever for children to attend school every day. Whole school attendance for this week has been 97.8% which is very impressive! I will be monitoring the attendance of every pupil from Monday 8th March and contacting directly the parents of pupils for whom attendance becomes a concern. Now that we are fully reopen, we will be looking to resume a number of our attendance incentives, such as High Attendance certificates (97%+), Five for a Fiver (all children who attend school for a week enter a prize draw for a £5 note!) and end of term prize draws for even bigger prizes such as a Kindle Fire. Thank you for your support.

Year 5 Bikeability Workshops

Year 5 pupils have the opportunity to take part in Bikeability workshops throughout the week beginning Monday 22nd March. These workshops teach children how to look after their bikes and how to ride them safely on the roads. Please look out for separate correspondence on these workshops in order to sign up.

Forthcoming Diary Dates:

Monday 29th March	Spring Half Term
Monday 12th April	Children return to school for Summer Term
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Thursday 6th May	Polling Day- the school will be closed to pupils on this day.
Monday 31st May	Summer Half Term
Monday 7th June	Children Return to School
Monday 14th June	Sports Week
Thursday 17th June	Sports Day (parent attendance TBC)
Wednesday 23rd – Friday 25th June	Barnstondale (Year 4)
Wednesday 7th July	Induction Day
Tuesday 13th Friday 16th July	PGL (Year 6)
Tuesday 20th July	End of Term

The usual end of year celebrations for Year 6 are dependent on Covid-19 restrictions. We will be in touch with more information about these arrangements as soon as we are able to.