



**Brook Lodge Community Primary School**  
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## Newsletter

Friday 5 April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Bags**

Some of you may have noticed that we have purchased cupboards with shutters for coats and bags in the area outside Year 4 and 5. The coats and bags on hooks had become untidy with coats and bags often falling on the floor causing trip hazards and making the place look generally untidy too. The two classrooms there are small and with the age (and therefore size) of the children, we wanted to provide a more useable area outside the actual classroom for groups to work.

Because of the where the bags are stored, we ask that children bring small bags to school, and that they only bring items that they actually need as they are being asked to empty their bags each morning and then only use the bags at the end of the day. Although borne out of necessity with the size and weight of bags being too big for safe storage, it was an eye opener to see what children were actually bringing to school and not taking out of their bags – quite often multiple water bottles, thick reading books, the largest pencil cases imaginable and letters that should have been given to parents were all still in the children's bags after they had started their lessons and were not linkley to see the light of day! Changes are now being made by these classes.

This idea of only bringing what you need and actually emptying the bag in the morning is something that will make the rest of the school cloakroom areas much safer too and so I would ask that you talk to your child about this. From September, I will be asking that only small bags are used in school but more details will be given about that in the summer term. In the meantime, if your child does have a smaller bag that they can use, please encourage them to bring that to school instead.

### **FOBL**

Thank you to those of you who purchased presents at the Mother's Day shop. We managed to raise over £600 for school fund which is a fantastic achievement. Thanks especially to all those parents who helped to organise and run the shop.

### **Sports Round Up**

Yet again we have entered a multitude of events this half term: some of our Key Stage 1 children entered a Multi-Skills festival; our Y5/6 children reached the quarter finals of a basketball competition; our Y3/4 gymnastics team came 3<sup>rd</sup>; our Y5 footballers reached the semi finals and our Y3/4 girls footballers got to the final, and, last but not least, our Y3/4 athletics team were champions in their tournament! A fantastic effort from all our sporting stars and thank you once again to all the staff who helped to make this happen.

### **Looking after our environment**

Our children have been working with Mersey Forest to help look after our local environment: they have been litter picking and wildflower planting in Linear park. The children were a credit to the school and I know many of the local residents made positive comments.

### **Year 3 residential**

The Year children had a fantastic time on their residential at Beeston. They loved their den building, archeological dig and visits to a candle making and ice cream factory. For many of the children it was their first time away from home and all of them were a credit to Brook Lodge. What a better expression of independence than to stay away from home, behave impeccably and have a great time! Thank you parents for supporting us with this as we do understand how much worrying you would have done.

### **Y6 Residential**

As I write this, the children in Year 6 are preparing themselves for their own residential at PGL. After all their revision, for many of the children this will be a welcome break: many of the children have worked extremely hard both at school and at home to ensure they do their best in their SATs. A trip away with their friends trying new things will help them relax and hopefully give them the extra confidence to deal with the trials and tribulations of the next few weeks.

Thank you to all the staff who gave up their evenings to make this happen – staff are not paid extra for this and do this out of good will and a desire to allow children the opportunity to have a great time.

### **Bikeability**

Many of the Year 5 children have been learning more about riding their bikes on the roads. We take road safety very seriously and teaching children to be safer on the road once they are confident in riding their bike is just one way we can help. As long as children are safe, and with parents permission, I don't mind children cycling to school. Obviously, I would ask that drivers are aware of cyclists as well as our pedestrians when driving and parking near our school. As recent events showed, when parents with buggies are forced in to walking on roads on a blind bend due to inconsiderate parking, my desire not to upset parents is overtaken by my desire to highlight the seriousness of people's actions and to concentrate people's attention on the dangers without a serious accident doing this.

### **Policy Changes**

Our Administration of Medicine policy has changed and is now on our website ready to be used from after the Spring break. This has been worked on by the local authority and was passed by Governors recently. The main changes and things to note are that to avoid excessive and unnecessary work for GPs, non-prescriptive medicines (over the counter medicines) are now able to be administered without the consent of a GP. Also, the first dose of any medication **must** be administered by parents and not by the school. It still remains the case that where possible, any medication should be administered at home and that any medication administered in school must be in the correct box with all the relevant information. Please refer to this policy and fill in the correct forms if your child requires medication to be administered in school. These forms can be found with the Medicine policy or in the School Forms section of the website.

As we have taken on a company to look after our GDPR procedures, our policies have been altered in line with their recommendations. A Data Protection policy and Privacy Notice is also available on our website.

### **Staff**

Today we say goodbye to two of our staff.

Miss Lowe has been working as a teaching assistant at the school for just short of two years now, and has worked closely with some of our current Year 2 children. In that time she has helped out as a play assistant at breakfast and after school club and has helped cover classes too when required. We thank her for all her efforts and wish her good luck as she takes on a teaching role.

Mr Mugan is also leaving us to become headteacher at Eccleston Mere. Mr Mugan has had a phenomenal impact at the school both in terms of teaching Year 6, where he has shown himself to be an outstanding practitioner, but also with the staff, where his support, particularly with regard to the teaching of English, leaves this school in a much stronger position than when he started. As a deputy, I knew I could always rely on him to be a support and a critical friend when needed, as well as deputising in my absence with confidence. I wish him every success in his new job.

Enjoy your spring break and a reminder that **school re-opens on Tuesday 23 April.**

Warmest regards

Mr Reece  
Headteacher