



Brook Lodge Community Primary School
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December Newsletter

Friday 29 November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

FOBL

Thank you to those members who attended the AGM. The committee voted in are already hard at work organising the Christmas Fayre. Don't forget that as a parent or relative of pupils at the school, you are automatically a member of FOBL – keep an eye on their Facebook page for ways to help. Offers of help, however small, are always appreciated, especially with regard to the Christmas Fayre.

Whilst a lot of us shop online, if you haven't already, then register for **easyfundraising.org.uk** when you shop online. Simply follow the link and pick out 'Friends of Brook Lodge' when you sign up. It's a really easy way to raise money for us – you just use the easyfundraising site to shop online with more than 3,300 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you. Even your own shopping can help us raise funds.

The Halloween Disco was enjoyed by the children and raised much needed funds for school resources. Many thanks to all those involved.

Book Fayre

Thank you to all those parents who purchased books from the book fayre. School gets a proportion of the funds and we raised in excess of £400. We will be purchasing some class readers so that children can share in the reading of quality texts together.

Sports Round Up

Well done to our Y2 Girls Football team who reached the semi-finals of the LFC festival only missing out the final by a penalty shoot out. Well done also to our KS1 Boccia team who competed very well and had a great time in their competition.

Choir

Many of you will be no doubt be attending the Rainford Christmas Markets on Saturday. Whilst you're there, come and say hello and sing along with our choir who will be helping to spread some Christmas cheer! We will be there from 12.30pm. Thank you in advance to Mrs Greaves for organising this.

Charities

Thank you for all your donations to Children in Need – we raised over £400. Again, whilst I'm sure the children enjoyed 'running funny for money', I'm also sure that they understand the vast amount of worthwhile causes that the money raised will help to support.

Also thank you for your contributions to our There but not There charity organised by Rainford CE Church to support educating future generations about the sacrifices soldiers made (and continue to make) protecting our freedoms. Year 3 presented these ideas very well in their class assembly.

Class Trips

Reception enjoyed a great time at Underwater Street, behaving really well. Year 2 enjoyed their trip to Liverpool, despite Storm Diana and Y4 were complimented for their enthusiasm and impeccable behaviour at Southport Eco Centre. Year 6 have made two trips to the High School to hone their cookery skills making healthy omelettes and pasta – only Mr Mugan managed to drop an egg!

Thank you so much for your generosity in all these areas over the last half term – with Christmas looming we do appreciate the way you support school and charity. Every donation you make to school is spent on your child's education, every donation to charity is spent helping support others and every trip, a lasting memory for your child. Thank you.

Safety

During November we have focussed on Anti-Bullying and Road Safety to further educate and promote how to keep ourselves safe. Children were made aware of the dangers particular to our school in terms of parked cars, dropping off, picking up etc. We, as adults, have a responsibility too in ensuring the school run is as safe as possible too and so once again I would like to thank the vast majority who drive with courtesy, consideration and safety in mind. I would also ask those that continue to park with undue consideration or drop off on the zig zags, to consider the possible consequences of your action.,

Thank you to our School Forum members for working hard to reiterate these messages this week.

Christmas

Much as it pains me to mention that word in November, it is important that I remind you of important dates coming up so you can be as organised as possible at this increasingly busy time. More details will be sent to relevant classes/groups where necessary

Sat 1 Dec	Choir sing at Rainford Christmas Markets
Wed 5 Dec	Choir perform at St Helens Parish Church
Fri 7 Dec	Christmas Fayre – from 3.45pm
Sun 9 Dec	Christingle Service 2.30pm @ church
Mon 10	Santa Dash
Wed 12 Dec	Tadpoles Christmas Concert
Thur 13 Dec	KS1 am and pm Christmas performances
Fri 14 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day Choir at Chocolate Orange appeal
Mon 17 Dec	Crib Service 2pm at All Saints
Tue 18 Dec	Rec Christmas Party
Wed 19 Dec	School Closes – Panto trip am; KS1 and KS2 party pm.
Mon 7 Jan	School Re-opens

Remember that access on the day of the fayre will be via the main entrance only. As it takes a few minutes to safely dismiss the children from classes, only the hall will be open at 3.30pm and once children are all safely dismissed, we will open the stalls/activities around the rest of school.

If you wish your child to send Christmas cards to friends, our Christmas Post Box will be available in the hall where monitors will collect and sort daily, then distribute to the class teachers so they can give out the cards at a suitable time. With this in mind, please indicate clearly the name of the child (preferably both names) and especially the Year Group, so our monitors can easily find which cards go where.

School Results

It seems an age ago now, but our data for last year's year 6 is now available from the DfE for us to analyse. Whilst we almost always achieve better than the National Average in terms of % achieving the 'expected standard' and those achieving 'greater depth' what's more important and worth celebrating is the **progress** our children made last year from their various starting points **and** the progress the school is making in improving progress over the last 3 years. Average progress nationally is 0, so any positive number is better than average progress and any negative number indicates below average.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Reading	-0.36	+3.28	+3.64
Writing	-5.19	+0.13	+2.10
Maths	+2.00	+1.21	+2.52

As you can see from the table below, our school is making great strides to ensure that all our children make the best progress they can from whatever starting point they are at. I'm very proud and grateful for all the hard work all our staff put in, especially with the financial restraints we're currently working under. We will never stand still though in seeking to improve and will continue to constantly find ways of improving our curriculum – this year we are looking at ways we can improve other subjects to match the high standards we are achieving in the core subjects.

We did have an open day for prospective new parents this month, but we are always willing to show people round and tell them personally why we're so proud of the children and the quality provision our staff offer. Hopefully we can fill our Reception class again this year and currently we have 1 place in Reception and limited spaces in Year 1 and Year 2. If you know of anyone who is in need of a place, please ask them to get in touch.

Warmest regards

Mr Reece
Headteacher