

Broomlands Primary School



Adam Lindsay
Interim Headteacher
Ednam Road
Kelso
TD5 7SW
☎ 01573 227477 Nursery 01573 227452
✉ broomlandsps@scotborders.gov.uk

April News

As I write this, the sun is streaming in through the office window, hopefully a promise of things to come! The summer term is always a busy and exciting one, with visits, visitors, sports and much more, alongside our usual range of learning opportunities. We look forward to renewing our friendly rivalry with Edenside through the Morton Trophy football later in the term, as well as hoping to open up Sports Day for parents and carers once again. Visits for different classes are already planned for the P5 Countryside Day, Tweedstart, P6 STEM event, P7 residential and much more. All this is possible because of the Scottish Government's decision to move into a new phase regarding Covid, and as such return to a much more 'normal' situation.

We are delighted that this means a number of positive things for school. Staff and parents are no longer required to wear masks in and around the school or in the school grounds, unless in close proximity with one another. All and any restrictions about mixing across classes have now gone, and face-to-face meetings are allowed once again. It will be a huge step forward for our staff to meet together in person for the first time in over two years, as we work on developing and improving the school together.

Our arrangements for dropping children off, with staff meeting and greeting at the gate have worked really well over the last two years, leading to much more settled and calm start to the day for the children, so we plan to continue welcoming P1 parents into the playground and ask that only those who feel their children need them to accompany them into the playground, do so.

We hope in the coming weeks to restart our fruit tuck shop, once again welcoming parents into the building to support this. Similarly, we are able to plan and offer a Digital Skills Café event for parents to attend, which will take place on Monday 1st June and will offer a relaxed chance to explore Showbie, find out more about some of the learning tools the iPad's have to offer, and provide a chance to 'play' with some of our new programming tools. More details to follow nearer the time.

A written report is important in keeping you informed about progress in learning. Individual progress reports will be ready to send out by Friday 29th April, so please look out for these. We have a new report format that provides a broader range of information for parents. The new format will provide an overview of your child as a learner with comment on learning strengths & qualities, key areas of progress, individual attributes, character qualities, capabilities etc. This will sit alongside recommendations of next steps in learning. The report will also give details of attendance, behaviour and homework, together with a comment from the child themselves and from one of our leadership team. One of our main changes as a result of the pandemic is that we have enjoyed more conversation/discussion with many of you, via email, phone or virtual parents night. We will follow the reports with a parent telephone conversation in May, giving the chance to discuss successes/next steps with you.

Kind regards,

Mr Lindsay

Primary 7 Transition

As the end of Primary 7 starts to loom on the horizon, we are aware that children may be feeling a whole range of emotions about this significant change in life. We wanted to highlight some of the work that has happened, or is planned for the final term, to support them in the transition to KHS.

- **Kooth Workshop** - This transition workshop is planned for May, to help P7's think about/explore different feelings they may be experiencing around moving school. The professionals from Kooth will chat about what these big feelings can look like and ways to help pupils deal with them. The workshop will highlight how the different features on Kooth can support pupils through transition.
- **Residential** – We will share our residential with children from all our other local primary schools, allowing children to meet and build friendships with children they will be with at KHS. Activity groupings will seek to mix children up allowing them to get to know new friends.
- **P7 focused teaching and learning** – as we move through the final term, teaching will focus on supporting the feelings and emotions of children, providing them with key information about KHS and allowing the chance for questions and concerns to be asked and raised.
- **Information sharing** – detailed information about children's learning, interests, strengths and next steps will be shared with KHS ahead of the summer, allowing staff there to start to build a picture of the youngsters they will meet in S1.
- **3-day transition visit** – we are delighted that in-person transition will resume this year, and has been extended to a 3-day visit, allowing children the chance to meet many of the staff they will be working with next year, and also to get to know the building at KHS better. They will also have a chance to meet their S6 buddies and to hear from the leadership team at KHS. The visits will take place on Tues 21st – Thursday 23rd June.
- **Virtual Lessons** – there are plans in place for Primary 7 to connect with KHS virtually, over the coming weeks, as well as in-person visits to Broomlands by KHS staff, to allow the children to ask and answer any questions they may have.
- **SEIC Writing Project** – in collaboration with the South East Improvement Collaborative (a group of local authorities including Scottish Border), a joint writing project is being planned between Broomlands and KHS staff to allow the children to showcase their ability, and experience working alongside secondary staff.

Parking

Huge thanks to those parents who park responsibly (we know it's not always easy or convenient), avoiding the turning circle at the end of the day, and being prepared to park and walk a short distance in order to keep our children safe at 3.30. As previously mentioned, we have had a number of 'near-misses' with people picking up from the turning circle recently, including cars mounting the grass and driving over this area to pass people who are parked and blocking the turning circle. As a result of this, we again ask that the turning circle be used for morning drop-off, but not be used as a waiting zone at the end of the day.

Please do not park in the turning circle at the end of the day. Our colleagues in the Police will be monitoring this to help ensure we keep our children safe and well.

Free School Meals and Clothing

All children in P5 are now entitled to receive a free school meal automatically during term time from January 2022. Plans are in place to make free school meals available to all P6-P7 pupils from August 2022.

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/fsm>

We urge all families who are entitled to register for free school meals as this opens up other support that you may be entitled to.

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20040/clothing_meals_and_transport/480/free_school_meals_and_help_with_schoolwear

Uniform can be ordered from www.border-embroideries.co.uk.

Telephone calls from school

The telephone lines at the school have been updated and the caller ID will now be 01835 824000 rather than number withheld.

Groupcall Xpressions App

If you haven't already signed up to the Groupcall Xpressions app we recommend that you do it now. The Groupcall Xpressions app allows you to contact the school at a time that suits you and you will always get a reply so that you know your message has been received. This is particularly handy first thing in the morning as there isn't always a member of staff in the office. You can also access Parentpay, Parents' Evening Booking System, Facebook, Border Embroideries and other links that are used frequently at a touch of a button. Follow the information below to start using the app.

Holidays

A copy of school holidays for the coming year are to be found below. They are also available on the SBC website at

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20009/schools_and_learning/621/term_holiday_and_closure_dates/2

School term dates for 2021-2022

Summer term

- Monday 18 Apr 2022 - All resume
- Monday 2 May 2022 - May day holiday, school closed
- Tuesday 3 May 2022 - Staff resume, in service day
- Wednesday 4 May 2022 - Pupils resume
- Monday 30th May 2022 – Casual holiday for Kelso cluster
- Friday 3rd June 2022 – Platinum Jubilee holiday
- Thursday 30 June 2022 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

Forthcoming events – more information to follow

27 th April	P5 visit to Tweedstart Museum – visit 1
4 th May	P5 visit to Tweedstart Museum – visit 2
4 th - 6 th May	P7 Residential
13 th May	Morton Trophy
17 th May	P5 Countryside Day
23 rd May	P6 Tweedstart
25 th May	P6 SBC STEM day
6 th June	Sports Day (13 th June backup date)
9 th June	New PI's event
16 th June	New ELC's event
21,22,23 June	P7 Transition to Kelso High School
23 rd June	Move up day including new PI's
28 th June	Leavers Assembly/End of Term Celebration
29 th June	Broomlands Got Talent

Groupcall Xpressions App

View your child's information on your mobile phone!

An exciting new service is now available for parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. **Groupcall Xpressions** is a service created by the award-winning school communication company Groupcall Limited.

The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices and you'll be able to see information for your children. You can also login on a web browser at <https://xpressions.groupcall.com>

If you have children in different schools and those schools also use **Groupcall Xpressions**, you will be able to view information on multiple children within the same app.

What do I need to do now?

Please ensure we have your correct mobile number and email address on our school database to ensure you can use the new app as soon as it is available. Forms are available from the school office to check and update your details or simply email them to the school. You'll need to make sure you keep these details up to date in future to maintain access to the service.

What happens next?

Groupcall have to set up the system in school. Once that is complete you can install the app and login in order to get access to your child's information.

Once installed and set up you will be able to see some or all of the following information depending on the school's system:

- Free messages sent by the school delivered directly to the app
- Updates regarding selected partner systems, used by the school such as homework, lunch topups and survey systems
- Attendance records and absences*
- Marks and grades*
- Achievement records*
- Behaviour events*
- Timetable*
- School calendar*
- Exams Timetable*



*Enhanced Service

Groupcall provide a dedicated support website for parents to also help you get up and running with Xpressions, or answer any common questions parents have on using the app:

<http://parents.groupcall.com>