

# Broomlands Primary School



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## August-September News

Hello everyone,

I'm not entirely sure where the first few weeks of term have flown away to. We have had a really good start back to life at Broomlands following the summer break. The children have generally settled brilliantly, and Mrs Gibson and I were just speaking about how amazing our new P1's have been in transitioning from their various nurseries. They have done so well and already feel like they've always been here.

As usual there are a few key things to remind you of at the start of the year:

- **PE day** – we have asked for children to come in PE kit – please ensure they have a suitable pair of trainers for this. Rugby for the children in P3-4 is slightly different due to the nature of the sport – Mrs Gibson has sent a separate message regarding this.
- There is **no smoking** permitted anywhere on school grounds.
- **Peanut allergy** – it is really important that children do not bring food containing peanuts (including Nutella) in their lunches/snacks. We have children in school with severe allergies and must ensure their safety.
- **Spare clothes** – Could P1-3 have spare clothes in their bag please (pants, socks, joggers, etc.)
- Please be aware that staff can only administer **medication** prescribed by a medical professional. A form is required which you can fill out in the foyer beside the school office.
- **Parent Council** – this is open to all and we would all be delighted if you could come along and have a voice in how the school runs. The annual AGM will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September via Zoom – a link was recently sent out by groupcall. Please ask if you require the link.

I am excited for the school year ahead; we are committed to involving the children in the life and work of the school wherever possible. We are currently getting pupil groups up and running, with JRSO's, Pupil Council, Positive Press and Eco-Team all beginning to plan for the coming months. JRSO's recently attended a conference and have a plan in place for how they will educate us about keeping safe. Pupil Council will be representing the views of the wider pupil body in looking at how we can work together to improve the school – their voice is crucial in this. Positive Press will be contributing articles to Kelso Life, and will produce a school magazine later in the year. The Eco-Team have a project in mind to work in partnership with business to research, plan and prepare a Sensory Garden within the school, which Primary 1/2 and 2 will eventually get involved in planting and tending. We have a separate pupil group working with us to develop a new playground resource – watch this space! Primaries 3 and 4 will be getting involved in broadening their world view through a charity called 'Opportunities Zambia' in which we build a relationship with, and support schools and teachers in Zambia. Look out for an introductory assembly on this in a couple of weeks' time.

May I wish everyone a positive, successful and healthy school year ahead – we look forward to working in partnership with you to get it right for every child.

*Mr Lindsay*

## **Staffing**

As always there have been a few changes in staffing since last year. We bid goodbye to Mrs Turnbull at the end of last session and wish her well in her retirement. She has been a hugely dedicated servant of the school for many years and will be hugely missed by both staff and pupils.

We welcome four new members of teaching staff to the team. Miss Schmidt (P4), Miss Lyons (P6/7), Miss Fraser (P6) and Miss Henderson (P1/2) have all joined the team and we warmly welcome them. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Lees into our support staff team, providing additional class and playground support as required.

Our cleaning team has been joined by Mrs Inglis and we thank her and the rest of the team for her hard work in keeping the school both clean and safe.

Mrs Currie continues to work alongside our nursery colleagues one day a week – her P1 class is covered on this day by Miss Bays.

## **Attendance**

At this challenging time we are especially aware of attendance and have been delighted by the positive start to the year. Well done everyone. If your child is absent for any reason please contact the school office to make them aware. If for any reason we have not been informed of an absence a groupcall will be sent to ascertain the reason for absence. If we don't get a response to the groupcall then we will endeavour to speak to one of your chosen emergency contacts. If we are unable to make contact we will, in line with other SBC schools, need to contact partner agencies to ensure we can guarantee the safety of our youngsters.

Please do all you can to arrange medical or dental appointments out-with school time. If you are unable to do this then please let the class teacher know in advance, in writing, so we have a clear record of this. Children being collected for appointments during the school day should leave only via the main reception. Thank you for your support with this.

## **Covid-19**

**Social distancing:** at drop-off, please remember only to come into the playground if you your child needs you to do so. The children settle into their lines ready for the day ahead. At pick-up time it is everyone's responsibility to adhere to social distancing guidelines, please. Masks remain important and we thank you for your support.

Guidance remains that **parents should not currently be visiting the school**. We are happy to talk over the phone if there is a pressing issue or a concern over a child.

If a child tests positive for Covid-19 a 'Warn & Inform' letter will be shared and all the latest guidance will be followed to ensure we keep one another safe and well.

Please use the **Groupcall Xpressions App** as the main point of contact with the school office. This can be downloaded easily onto a smartphone on both Apple and Android devices. Please see information below.

## **Recycling**

Please donate to the ragbag bin, with items bagged prior to being deposited. We are paid by each kilogram received, usually receiving about £100 every month, money which we use to improve the learning experiences of the children.

## **Parking**

It has come to our attention that illegal and unhelpful parking is taking place at the end of the school day. Please do all you can to allow time to drop-off and collect children in a way that allows us to keep the roads safe for all, particularly our children. PC Tait-Logan will be monitoring parking pick-up and drop-off at intervals throughout the school year.

## **School Improvement Report and Plan**

The School Improvement Report is complete and will be shared at the Parent Council meeting. A hard copy is available from the school office should any wish to have one. School Improvement Planning for

the year ahead has a focus on continuing the recovery from the pandemic, building on things learned during this unprecedented time. In summary, key priorities are:

- Use of the Cheviot Teaching & Learning Toolkit to moderate and improve practice.
- Use of digital technologies, including Showbie, to support teaching, learning and assessment, and improve parental engagement.
- Introduction of a core numeracy resource to support better learning experiences for all our children.
- Nurture – developing our response to 2 principles: “*All behaviour is communication*” and “*The Classroom offers a safe base*”.
- The development of the ‘Journey of a Reader’ in Broomlands from ELC to P7

### **Free School Meals and Clothing**

Please use the link below to find out more about what is available to you. Scottish Government continues to support free school meals for all P1-3 children. 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](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](http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk).

### **School Lunches**

Please order school lunches online via ParentPay. Meals can be ordered weekly, monthly or up to a term at a time. If you order weekly can we please ask that you do it at the weekend in order to save admin time on a Monday morning. That would be greatly appreciated.

### **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](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20009/schools_and_learning/621/term_holiday_and_closure_dates/2)

## School term dates for 2021-2022

### Autumn term

- Monday 16 Aug 2021 - Staff resume, in service day
- Tuesday 17 Aug 2021 - In service day
- Wednesday 18 Aug 2021 - Pupils resume
- Friday 8 Oct 2021 - Last day for pupils and staff - mid term holiday
- Monday 18 Oct 2021 - Staff resume, in service day
- Tuesday 19 Oct 2021 - Pupils resume
- Monday 29 Nov 2021 - St Andrews Days - schools closed
- Tuesday 30 Nov 2021 - All resume
- Thursday 23 Dec 2021 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

### Winter term

- Monday 10 Jan 2022 - All resume
- Friday 11 Feb 2022 - Last day for pupils - February holiday
- Monday 14 Feb 2022 - Staff resume, in service day
- Monday 21 Feb 2022 - All resume
- Friday 1 Apr 2022 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

### 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
- Thursday 30 June 2022 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

### Casual holidays

Each [learning community](#) allocates two casual holidays for pupils and staff which are usually aligned to their local festivals.

#### Cheviot

- Friday 8 Oct 2021
- Monday 30 May 2022

**CHILDCARE INFORMATION**

My child/children..... Class(s).....

Will be collected by.....(provider) on Monday

Will be collected by..... (provider) on Tuesday

Will be collected by..... (provider) on Wednesday

Will be collected by.....(provider) on Thursday

Will be collected by.....(provider) on Friday

Please complete and return to school if your child regularly gets collected by an adult other than Parent/Carer.

# 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>