

Broomlands Primary School



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August News

Welcome back!

We're a couple of weeks into term, and it has been lovely to see so many of the children back into routine and settling back into school. It has been great to re-connect with them, and indeed with parents and families as we welcome everyone at the gates.

We want to congratulate Amy Lowrie & Kobe Hernandez on their new roles as Junior Road Safety Officers for the year ahead. They will attend a virtual conference on Thursday 31st August where they will meet other local JRSO's and hear from the SBC road safety lead, and police.

We have a few things to let you know about for the year ahead. We will this year return to two face-to-face parents' evenings, one in November and the other in May. School reports will be issued in March. All children will be involved in an assembly or similar event throughout the year, to which you will be invited nearer the time as they take the opportunity to share their learning.

As always at this time of year, we have a few reminders and pleas about school life, just to help everything run as smoothly as possible.

- **Water bottles** – please ensure these come to school filled. If you bring a packed lunch from home please have a separate drink carton/bottle in with the lunch.
- **Turning Circle** – please drive all the way to the end of the turning circle to drop-off. This allows cars behind you to pull off the road and reduces the risk to children crossing on their way to school.
- 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.
- Neither **dogs** nor **smoking** are permitted anywhere on school grounds.
- **Peanut allergy** – it is very important that children do not bring food containing peanuts in the lunches/snacks. We have children in school with severe allergies and must ensure their safety.
- **Spare clothes** – We ask that P1-3 children could have spare clothes in their school bag (pants, socks joggers, etc.)
- **Label Clothes** – please ensure all clothes, water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly labelled.
- Please be aware that staff can only administer **medication** prescribed by a medical professional. A form is required which you can fill out from the school office.
- **Recycling** – Please donate to the ragbag bin, with items bagged prior to being deposited. We are paid by each kilogram received; money which we use to improve resources for the children.
- **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.
- **Crossing Patrol** – please remind your children of the importance of using the crossing patrol to safely make their way to school – we have had a number of reports of children running across the road in locations that are unsafe. We will remind the children in school too.

Mr Lindsay

Staffing

At the end of last session, we said a fond farewell to Miss Robertson, who has taken up a permanent position at Jed Campus. She will be missed, but we know she's had great start to her teaching career here at Broomlands. Likewise, we wish Mrs Jamieson well as she moves on to pastures new. We welcome onto our staff Miss Cross, who is teaching Primary 5 and has settled in very well as part of Team Broomlands. We are also delighted to have Mrs Law with us in the nursery. Miss Horsburgh has begun her maternity leave and we wish her all the very best for the months ahead at this exciting milestone in life.

Mrs Liddle will be working alongside our nursery colleagues one morning/week in a supportive role that will benefit both nursery and P1 as they share elements of early level practice. The class will be covered by Miss Bays.

Attendance

This year we are again mindful of attendance and have been delighted by the positive start to the year. Thank you. 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.

School Improvement Report and Plan

The School Improvement Report is complete and is available to view on the school website. A hard copy can be made available from the school office should any wish to have one. School Improvement Planning is almost complete for the year ahead. In summary, as the year progresses, we will be focussing on:

- Behaviour, bullying and respectful relationships, including learning about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and improving our learning and awareness of diversity in all its forms.
- Use of clear, measurable learning targets for children, including parents and children in this process.
- How we improve our family learning offer.
- A focus on children leading learning, including work on higher order questioning and provision of opportunities for children to apply learned skills in context.

Annual Update Form

These forms list the contact details we will hold on file for you. If you haven't done so already, please return them to school as soon as possible, even if there are no changes. If your details change throughout the year it is very important that you inform the school office as these details are vital in emergencies of any kind (eg illness, school closure, etc.) We will continue to make regular use of groupcall and would urge you to download the Xpressions app and ensure we have an up to date email address if at all possible.

Free School Meals and Clothing Grant

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 DO SO TO REGISTER FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS AS THIS OPENS UP OTHER SUPPORTS THAT YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO AND BRINGS ADDITIONAL FUNDING INTO THE SCHOOL.

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.

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

Dates for the Diary

October Holidays – Monday 9th October – Monday 16th October - Returning Tuesday 17th October.

School Photographs – Wednesday 18th October

St Andrews Day/November Holiday – Monday 27th November & Tuesday 28th November, returning Wednesday 29th November.