



Broomlands Primary School

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

December News



Season's Greetings,

I am delighted that our Parent Council have worked so hard to support the school via the Christmas Fair which was held on Friday 26th November at the Cross Keys Hotel. They raised the magnificent sum of £1300 – what a great effort all round! We wanted to update you about our plans for over the Christmas season, particularly with the school term running so close to Christmas itself we feel we want to provide as brilliant a Christmas experience as possible for the children, especially since we were so limited last year.

Christmas parties – food will be provided. Children are welcome to bring their party clothes to change into. Traditionally P7 have had the chance to go home to change, and are welcome to do so at 12.15 on the 21st. We hope to have a 'special visitor' to the party of our Primary 1 children.

Mon 13th Dec pm – Primary 6	Thurs 16th Dec pm – Primary 5
Tues 14th Dec pm – Primary 3	Fri 17th Dec am – Primary 2
Wed 15th Dec am - Nursery	Mon 20th Dec pm – Primary 1
Wed 15th Dec pm – Primary 4	Tues 21st Dec pm – Primary 7

Christmas Services – we are delighted that we are able to visit the church this year. Due to Covid limitations we have agreed with Kelso North to do a morning (ELC- P3) and afternoon (P3/4-7) service on Wednesday 22nd December. The service will unfortunately be closed to parents (except for the few who help us walk to the church), but a recording of the service will be made and shared. Children will enjoy a showing of 'The Snowman' as well as the traditional array of poems, readings, carols and musical performances.

Christmas lunch (turkey and all the trimmings!) will take place in 3 sittings on Tuesday 21st December. Please book at www.parentpay.com.

Christmas Cards – our Eco-Team recently sent home a video asking for a sensible approach to Christmas cards, and noting the 'green' benefits of children bringing a single card for the class. A quick calculation suggests that if every child gave an individual card to each child in their class, we would have 8,326 cards changing hands. This way we keep to a sensible maximum of 240 cards.

Christmas Learning – all classes will, in the coming days, be involved in lots of Christmas centred learning across a range of curricular areas. It's sure to be lots of fun!

As a whole school, we wish all our parents, carers and families a very happy and safe Christmas time. We want to thank you for your continued support of the school. Keep safe.

Mr Lindsay

Water Ingress Incident

Following a significant leak in mid-November, we continue to work closely with SBC and a range of tradesmen to ensure all the works to bring our school back to its inspiring self are making good progress. I would like to thank the families of our Nursery children for bearing with us when the Nursery had to be closed at short notice. To have relocated within 36hrs was a significant achievement from the whole school team, and I want to publicly thank Mr Dryden, Mrs Gibson, Mrs Pettigrew and the whole nursery team for the enormous effort they made during this difficult time. I am delighted to report that, with great support from SBC, we are almost completely recovered from this unfortunate incident.

Winter Weather Readiness

You can't fail to have noticed the poor weather we have had recently. We always try to get the balance right between giving the children outdoor time to play, run and enjoy our playground facilities, and keeping them out of the very worst of the weather. However the weather can be very changeable so, if you are able to send a spare set of dry clothes for the children to keep on their peg, it would be really helpful as we continue to experience the joys of a Scottish winter!

Late arrival

We have noticed a number of children arriving late more often – please do make every effort to be here on time to allow the children to start the day with their classes, ready to learn. Please note that, for safety and security, the various gates into school are locked a few minutes after the children head into school. We appreciate that sometimes the morning doesn't quite go to plan and you may be late in dropping off. If this is the case and the gates are locked, please don't worry. Just head to the front entrance and a staff member will see the children safely into school.

Groupcall Xpressions App

Please see information at the end of this newsletter regarding app for communicating with parents. There is a facility to contact school regarding absences so that parents don't have to phone the school.

Allergies

A reminder that we have children in school with severe, potentially life-threatening allergies to nuts. Please ensure that packed lunches are nut-free and that snacks don't include nuts either. Thank you.

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 P1-4 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

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.

Road Safety

The majority of people continue to drive right round the turning circle, to the far end, to drop off in the morning. This is helping to prevent a build-up of traffic behind you, tailing back onto the main road, causing a safety issue for children arriving at school. There may be times it is better to wait in the line and move round before letting children out of the car. If we ask you to move further round, please remember that this is just to keep people safe. We appreciate your ongoing support with this.

Holidays

A reminder that information about school holidays is available on the SBC website at:

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



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>