

Broomlands Primary School



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January - February News

Greetings,

Well, we have been in another season of lockdown for about a month now. It has been a steep learning curve for us all, both families, staff and children. I have been so encouraged by the patience, resilience and flexibility of the whole school community at this time and want to thank you again for all you are doing to support your children and the school.

We recently put out a survey to look at positives, challenges and next steps in home learning. Thank you for your feedback. It was heartening to read about the positives, in particular the difference iPad's and provision of paper packs has made. The interaction on Teams has also been generally well received, as has the communication between school and home. We are keen to ensure some of the advances we have made in digital learning become part of our ongoing school improvement going forward. We recognise the challenges this has brought many families, in terms of prioritising time, juggling different aspects of life and the inevitable hardship of being 'confined to barracks' for another extended period. In terms of what might help us improve our remote learning, we have studied your feedback and hope to respond to the 3 main themes – more Teams calls, as much advance warning as possible, and opportunities for teaching tips and ideas. This week alone we have over 60 Teams meetings in the calendar, with everything from reading groups to writing support right through to tune in sessions to iron out any difficulties the children are having.

Please see below information regarding Digital Skills Café workshop for parents and carers.

As you will know the First Minister recently announced provisional plans for a return to school for our youngest learners. We have much to plan and organise ahead of that date, but you will be kept well informed by both SBC and ourselves with anything you need to know. Again, we appreciate your patience. When we return we will still be adhering to the strict 'bubble' system, using PPE as required and maintaining strict social distancing between adults. We will inform you of any further changes when we have completed the relevant risk assessments.

In the meantime, please accept our good wishes for this continued difficult season and don't forget that we are still contactable through the Xpressions app, email, or phone call to the school office and are here to help wherever we can.

Kind regards,

Mr Lindsay

Staffing

We have had a number of staffing changes in recent weeks. We bid farewell to Mrs Johnstone in the Nursery and wish her well in her new post. We did however welcome Mrs Leanne Cheyne and Miss Jemma McGarvey to the Early Learning & Childcare team. It is good to have them with us and we look forward to all the will bring to our nursery setting. We are also pleased that Miss Fraser returns to us to teach alongside Mrs Murray in P3 for the next few weeks in her role as Student Teacher. She was a great asset to the school in her last period with us and will be again, I'm sure.

Mrs Orde has been successful in her application to work part-time across all the Kelso cluster schools to support teachers and children with Inspire. Mrs Chloe Douglas, who is well known to us from previous visits on a supply basis, will work in partnership with Mrs Orde to support Primary 5/6 on a Monday and Tuesday. We welcome her to the Broomlands Team.

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

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

School Lunches

On the return of ELC to P3 to school we will again be able to offer a full school lunch menu. 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

Digital Skills Cafe

Grab a coffee and an Inspire Learning iPad and join the team for 30 mins!
All parents welcome!



Next Cafe:
2-2.45 PM
Friday 5th Feb
Join via the link below:
<https://bit.ly/3cArF7w>

