

# Broomlands Primary School



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## January - February News

Happy New Year!

We are glad to be back to school and have had a positive first week back. The children seem refreshed and well-rested, as do the staff! We are very grateful to be able to have the school fully open just now, with all classes with us, in stark contrast to this time last year. Maybe, just maybe we're starting to turn a corner?

We wanted to flag up to you all the place of Showbie in our development of new approaches to teaching and learning. Showbie is a new digital programme we have access to in school that has huge potential for supporting children's learning and improving your engagement in their learning journey. We are very aware that during the pandemic we have not been able to welcome parents into the school as we would like to have done, and hope that Showbie, amongst other things, will help improve your involvement and awareness of your children's learning.

So what is Showbie? Essentially it is an app used by teachers to assign, collect, and review learning. It keeps children's work organised by classes and assignments. At a glance children can see their upcoming learning tasks and can prioritize their work. Children can also work on assignments or annotate worksheets on an iPad in the form of text comments, the pen tool (which allows them to draw and write directly on the page) and voice notes. Likewise, teachers can provide rich, timely feedback in the form of voice notes, annotations, and videos.

Showbie was developed specifically for iPads and allows us to enhance learning, teaching & assessment for all children. Initially in the early years we won't be using all these features until the children are ready for them, and it doesn't in any way replace teachers teaching and supporting children as we have always done. But, as they become more familiar with it, and improve their digital skills, it will become a key part of our approach in school.

Perhaps the easiest way to think of Showbie from a parent's point of view is to imagine it as a digital version of peeking in through the classroom window, to see the learning and life of the class. The children have more full access to Showbie as they are the ones learning in the classroom, but we see this as a great opportunity to improve your access to and awareness of learning. We hope you will make good use of it in the months ahead.

Please look out for an ELC-P3 video guide and a P4-7 video guide for yourselves as parents, coming home and shared on our website and social media platforms soon. Please do get involved and use Showbie to help keep you in touch with examples of the ongoing learning of your children.

Kind regards,

Mr Lindsay

## **Staffing**

We recently bid farewell to Mrs Feller in our cleaning team. Linda has done a sterling job in keeping the school clean and safe in these difficult recent times. We thank her for her hard work and commitment and wish her well in the future. We welcome Mrs Paula Douglas to the Cheviot cluster as she starts in her role as Home-School link worker. I am sure she will be a great asset to the Broomlands team.

## **Drop off and collection**

We thank you for continuing to respect our drop-off procedures, and remind parents of the importance of social distancing and mask-wearing whilst in the school playground at collection time at 3.30pm.

## **Parking**

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 would 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](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).

## **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)