

Broomlands Primary School



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March News

As the days are lengthening ever so slightly, there's a feel of change in the air as we move towards longer days and warmer weather! We are delighted that life seems to be returning to more of a sense of normality. It has been terrific to be able to bring some of the children together in school for events such as our Lady Busser elections. Huge congratulations to Scarlett and Skylar on being voted as our Lady Bussers for 2022. They both gave wonderful, heartfelt speeches and we wish them well for Civic Week and all that goes along with it. They will represent Broomlands brilliantly.

You may have read in Kelso Life magazine, or on the SBC webpage, of the brilliant work to rewild our school grounds being undertaken by our Eco-Team. They have been really busy in recent weeks, as we seek to create a sensory garden, to start to make use of our new poly-tunnel and raised beds, and plant the trees that will create our little school orchard. Aply supported by Mrs E Murray and Miss Scott, they are doing great things for the environment right here in school, as they work towards the nationally recognised 'John Muir Award'. Good luck to them with this!

As we look to 'Build Back Better' we are not simply returning to everything the way it was before, but are trying to find ways to improve. Hopefully many of you will have been able to connect with Showbie, giving you the chance to see photos and examples of learning from school, and perhaps to hear/see feedback given by the teacher to help support improvement in learning. Despite the access this gives you, we still feel a written report is important in keeping you informed about progress in learning. We have a new report format that will provide an overview of your child as a learner with comment on learning strengths & qualities, key areas of progress, individual attributes, character qualities, capabilities and so on. This will sit alongside recommendations of next steps in learning. The report will also give details of attendance, behaviour and homework, together with a comment from the child themselves and from one of our leadership team. One of our main changes as a result of the pandemic is that we have enjoyed more conversation and discussion with many of you, via email, phone or virtual parents night. We plan to follow the reports in April with just such a conversation in May, giving the chance to discuss successes and next steps with you.

Another example of how we are changing is that we will no longer send paper copies of letters home regarding trips etc but will send everything via Groupcall Xpressions App. Parents/carers will be able to view the letter and complete a form at www.parentpay.com giving permission for the child to attend the trip, parental contact details, any medical conditions and whether a parent can help on the trip. This will streamline the process and eliminate the need to chase unreturned slips as well as collating all the information on one sheet to give to the class teacher.

Staff continue to work hard, recently engaging in development work on nurture, professional judgement of learning, and looking at how high quality feedback can be delivered using technology. I remain grateful for all they continue to do to support the learning of our children.

Kind regards,

Mr Lindsay

Staffing

We are glad to welcome Ms Regulski into our cleaning team. As a Broomlands parent, Angela knows us well and will, I'm sure, be a positive addition to the team. We are also delighted that Mrs Allen has joined the Broomlands support staff as an Additional Needs Auxiliary.

Drop off and collection

For now, we continue to require masks in the school playground, please. We very much hope this restriction can be lifted in the near future, and will keep you updated.

Parking

Huge thanks to those parents who park responsibly (we know it's not always easy or convenient), avoiding the turning circle at the end of the day, and being prepared to park and walk a short distance in order to keep our children safe at 3.30. As previously mentioned, 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 again 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

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

Telephone calls from school

The telephone lines at the school have been updated and the caller ID will now be 01835 824000 rather than number withheld.

Groupcall Xpressions App

If you haven't already signed up to the Groupcall Xpressions app we recommend that you do it now. The Groupcall Xpressions app allows you to contact the school at a time that suits you and you will always get a reply so that you know your message has been received. This is particularly handy first thing in the morning as there isn't always a member of staff in the office. You can also access Parentpay, Parents' Evening Booking System, Facebook, Border Embroideries and other links that are used frequently at a touch of a button. Follow the information below to start using the app.

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>

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

School term dates for 2021-2022

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