

Broomlands Primary School



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November News

Greeting folks,

We start our monthly newsletter with a few goodbyes. Firstly to Rachael Horsburgh, our Modern Apprentice in the Nursery, who has done so well to secure a job at Busy Bees, Melrose. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her well for the future. We are also wishing all the very best to our Active Schools Coordinator, Lorna Esson, as she moves on to work in Midlothian, nearer home. She has been an energetic and positive role model for children in Kelso and will be missed. We also bid goodbye recently to our Home School Link Worker, Becky Bass. Becky has worked with many families across all our Kelso schools and things won't be quite the same without her. We wish her well in her new job across in Berwick. We are currently recruiting to this position and hope to have someone in place shortly.

We are excited about the partnership we have with Opportunities Zambia, and Primaries 3, 3/4 and 4 are all now working together to learn more about Zambia and the work of the charity. They will be working together to create a Zambian Room within the school, showcasing their learning. A recent photograph of learning in a Zambian classroom (below) sent to us by the charity reminds us how privileged we are to have access to all the latest technology and a wide range of brilliant resources here at Broomlands.



Staff continue their professional learning, having recently completed work to integrate 'White Rose Maths' into our planning and progressions and now we are moving on to audit our teaching of reading to ensure we fully understand the development of learning in reading all the way through the school. This will allow us to tailor our teaching better to the needs of every child. In the wider Cheviot cluster we are working across schools to look at our professional judgement, helping us to make ever-more accurate decisions about children's progress and next steps. A copy of our approach to maths and numeracy is available in the Information section of the new school website. <https://broomlandsprimaryschool.com/home>

We are looking forward to celebrating World Kindness Day on 12th November. All classes will be joining in a special online assembly as we think about this important aspect of how we treat each other. Similarly, we have recently been part of a special NSPCC input called 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' which has been well received by classes and teachers.

Given the ongoing restrictions all schools are facing, Parents Appointments will be by phone call on 23rd, 24th and 25th November. This is an opportunity to hear about the progress and next steps your children are making. We look forward to this chance to share with you, and also to hear a little more about your children in their wider world. More information will follow.

Mr Lindsay

Road Safety

The JRSO's recently carried out the annual Walk to School Week surveys. Whilst we know it is not possible for everyone to walk to school, we were nonetheless pleased to see that over 60% of our children were active and walked to school every day. Well done to all.

Could we again ask that if you are dropping off at the turning circle in the morning, you drive as far round as possible, to prevent traffic backing up onto the road and causing both a traffic jam and a danger for children arriving at school. It takes very little extra effort to walk to the gate from the far end of the turning circle and there is always a staff member at the gate to look out for the children. Please do be mindful of the queues building up behind you.

Weather & Suitable Clothing

Every day we are making judgement calls about the weather (how wet is too wet!?) and where possible we like the children to have the chance to be outdoors. To facilitate this, please ensure that children come to school with a suitable jacket. All staff are insisting that children take jackets outside at break and lunch time as the weather can turn so quickly and we want to do all we can to give them outdoor play opportunities and fresh air.

Pyjama Day

Thanks to all those who entered into this in such good spirits. We were delighted that the P7 children involved in the playground project took the initiative to organise this, and were amazed that we raised well over £500.

Birthdays

As noted in the school handbook, please do not send birthday cakes or sweets into school. We have a number of children with allergies of various kinds and need to keep them safe. An alternative to buying a birthday cake is to consider buying a birthday book, which can be read by the teacher to celebrate the special day, and leaves a positive legacy in the class for the rest of the year.

Attendance

At this challenging time we are especially aware of attendance and have been delighted by the positive start to the year. Well done everyone. 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.

Covid-19

Social distancing: at drop-off, please remember only to come into the playground if your child needs you to do so. The children settle into their lines ready for the day ahead. At pick-up time it is everyone's responsibility to adhere to social distancing guidelines, please. Masks remain important and we thank you for your support.

Guidance remains that **parents should not currently be visiting the school**. We are happy to talk over the phone if there is a pressing issue or a concern over a child.

If a child tests positive for Covid-19 a 'Warn & Inform' letter will be shared and all the latest guidance will be followed to ensure we keep one another safe and well.

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. Please see information below.

Poppy Scotland

If you wish your child to make a small donation to Poppy Scotland our P7 helpers will be collecting during the fortnight beginning 1st November.

Recycling

Please donate to the ragbag bin, situated just inside the school car park gate, to the left, with items bagged prior to being deposited. We are paid by each kilogram received, usually receiving about £100 every month, money which we use to improve the learning experiences of the children.

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

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.

Flu Vaccine

Pupils will receive their Flu Vaccine on Wednesday 10th November 2021.

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

Please note the school and nursery will be closed on Monday 29th November for St Andrews' Day holiday.

School term dates for 2021-2022

Autumn term

- Monday 16 Aug 2021 - Staff resume, in service day
- Tuesday 17 Aug 2021 - In service day
- Wednesday 18 Aug 2021 - Pupils resume
- Thursday 7th Oct 2021 - Last day for pupils and staff - mid term holiday
- Monday 18 Oct 2021 - Staff resume, in service day
- Tuesday 19 Oct 2021 - Pupils resume
- Monday 29 Nov 2021 - St Andrews' Days - schools closed
- Tuesday 30 Nov 2021 - All resume
- Thursday 23 Dec 2021 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

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

CHILDCARE INFORMATION

My child/children..... Class(s).....

Will be collected by.....(provider) on Monday

Will be collected by..... (provider) on Tuesday

Will be collected by..... (provider) on Wednesday

Will be collected by.....(provider) on Thursday

Will be collected by.....(provider) on Friday

Please complete and return to school if your child regularly gets collected by an adult other than Parent/Carer.

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>