

Broomlands Primary School



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October News

Hello everyone,

We are rapidly heading towards the October break and it is hard to believe that's a term finished already. I recently shared a few examples of learning visible around the school on our Facebook page, and hope it's not long before you can be back in the building in person to see this for yourselves.

I've been struck by the breadth of learning on offer this term, and looking ahead to next term it's equally as varied and engaging. We want to help our children to know, respect and value learning about local traditions, issues and ideas, whilst also helping them in their role as global citizens in a world with such diversity. Part of this is to understand the world from the point of view of others; to 'walk in their shoes'. We hope that the learning about natural disasters across the world in the upper school has done this in the past term, and that the middle school getting to know more about Zambia will do so moving forward.

I can't express how grateful we are for the kindness shown in providing items for the Food Bank. Hopefully our Harvest assembly and the little video from Rev Rodwell will help us see what good use this will be put to, supporting children and families in and around Kelso in the coming months. Thank you.

Children in school have been learning about the 'Building Resilience' strategy, 'Expect the Unexpected'. This certainly seems relevant given the 18 months we have all lived through, and life does have a habit of springing surprises on us, doesn't it! We want our children to be ready and able to deal with those surprises, changes and shocks whenever they come their way.

We are planning to schedule Parents Appointments with you next month to update you in terms of successes, progress and next steps in the children's learning. We met last week to plan our school strategy in our use of Showbie. We are hoping that as the year progresses, you will be able to have access to lots of examples of learning from your child through this. We will be hosting a parent workshop at some point before too long, to help you find out more and learn how to get the best out of this.

Staff continue to work hard to develop the school. Recently we have worked on improving our access to high quality resources in maths and numeracy. Children will start to notice some new opportunities as we explore how we use White Rose Maths to complement our existing offer. We have also received initial training around developing nurturing approaches, based on two of the six nurture principles – "All behaviour is communication" and "The classroom offers a safe base".

Finally, we want to direct you towards our new school website. It offers lots of information about the school, the chance to hear a story, learning supports and much more. If you want to provide any feedback you can contact us through the website – we're open to adding/improving it in any way we can. Thank you.

<https://broomlandsprimaryschool.com/home>

Mr Lindsay

Road Safety

This remains something we want to keep high on the agenda. We know that parking is less than ideal around the school, but we politely ask, again, that parents consider where they park, particularly at the end of the school day. Please **do not** block the turning circle, or block driveways in the surrounding area. Please do all you can to allow time to drop-off and collect children in a way that allows us to keep the roads safe for all, particularly our children. Our colleagues in the Police will continue to monitor parking pick-up and drop-off at intervals throughout the school year.

Remember, you are always welcome to 'Park and Stride' with your children from the Ice Rink car park, avoiding the difficulty of parking at the school. If you use the turning circle in the morning, please drive as far round as possible to allow cars behind you to pull in without blocking the road. Thank you.

Weather & Suitable Clothing

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

Thursday 7th October is our Pyjama Day, to help raise funds toward our playground project. The children are determined to improve and develop our play facilities through this, and we're determined to support them in doing so. A small donation via Parent Pay would be much appreciated.

Birthdays

As noted in the school handbook, please do not send birthday cakes or sweeties 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 you're 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.

Recycling

Please donate to the ragbag bin, 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.

School photographer

Tempest Photographers will be in school on Wednesday 20th October to take individual and family group photographs.

P3, P3/4 and P4 Rugby session

An additional session has been arranged for Thursday 21st October to replace the session cancelled on 7th October.

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

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>