

Broomlands Primary School



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October/November News

Greetings

As we've raced through the school year so far, apologies for not having a newsletter to you in September.

As we're well and truly into the beautiful season of autumn, please make sure the children have a jacket with them every day and keep snuggly and cosy! Also, as the days get shorter and the nights draw in, please think about them wearing something that helps them be seen when they're out and about – white, cream, yellow, orange, even Barbie pink! As we approach the start of November, we have Bonfire Night approaching. This year we have a joint visit from the Police & Fire Service to remind children of the importance of safety at this time of year. There seems to be lots of coughs and colds, and it's definitely Lemsip & Vicks Vaporub time of year, so please do remember to let us know as early as possible if your child is going to be absent! Xpressions is the quickest and easiest way to do this.

We have restarted class assemblies, with Primary 6 recently delivering a brilliant one about their study of Africa, so look out for these as the year progresses. Also, Parents evenings are approaching in November, on the 21st and 22nd. These will be face-to-face appointments and we look forward to seeing you there. Details to follow neared the time.

You may have noticed that we have had a real focus on issues around race and identity recently. I am so pleased at how maturely and sensibly the children have responded to the various lessons, homework and assemblies related to this. We have explored Black History month, learned about influential black figures in the history of the arts, medicine, music, government and so on. P6 taught us all about Nelson Mandela in their recent assembly.

You will see a banner going up at the turning circle shortly. It is a visual reminder to please, whenever possible, drive all the way to the end of the turning circle to drop-off, allowing cars behind you to pull off the road, reducing risk to children crossing the road. Can we remind you of the car parking rules. We have recently had cars parking on the zig-zags, blocking the car park entrance, and abandoned in the turning circle at the end of the day. Please give yourselves a little extra time and park safely. We know it's not a perfect situation, but we all need to do everything we can to keep the children safe as they travel to and from school. We've also had a number of staff vehicles damaged in the car park – please remember the car park is for staff and disabled badge holders only, as below.



Mr Lindsay

- 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.
- Neither **dogs** nor **smoking** are permitted anywhere on school grounds.
- **Peanut allergy** – it is very important that children do not bring food containing peanuts in the lunches/snacks. We have children in school with severe allergies and must ensure their safety.
- **Spare clothes** – We ask that P1-3 children could have spare clothes in their school bag (pants, socks joggers, etc.)
- **Label Clothes** – please ensure all clothes, water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly labelled.
- Please be aware that staff can only administer **medication** prescribed by a medical professional. A form is required which you can fill out from the school office.
- **Recycling** – Please donate to the ragbag bin, with items bagged prior to being deposited. We are paid by each kilogram received; money which we use to improve resources for the children.
- **Parent Council** – this is open to all and we would all be delighted if you could come along and have a voice in how the school runs.
- **Crossing Patrol** – we will no longer have Suzanne Gillie manning a lunchtime crossing patrol, so please bear this in mind in respect of home lunches. Also, please remind your children of the importance of using the crossing patrol to safely make their way to school – we have had a number of reports of children running across the road in locations that are unsafe. We will remind the children in school too.

Staffing

Miss Horsburgh has a new arrival in her family and she is very much in our thoughts as she starts her journey into parenthood. We are also delighted that Miss Fairbairn has successfully interviewed for Pupil Support hours and is working with us for the foreseeable future.

Mrs Liddle will be working alongside our nursery colleagues one morning/week in a supportive role that will benefit both nursery and P1 as they share elements of early level practice. The class will be covered by Miss Bays.

Attendance

This year we are again mindful of attendance and have been delighted by the positive start to the year. Thank you. 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.

Free School Meals and Clothing Grant

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 DO SO TO REGISTER FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS AS THIS OPENS UP OTHER SUPPORTS THAT YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO AND BRINGS ADDITIONAL FUNDING INTO THE SCHOOL.

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.

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

Dates for the Diary

St Andrews Day/November Holiday – Monday 27th November & Tuesday 28th November, returning Wednesday 29th November.