

Brockwell Junior School

Purbeck Avenue,
Loundsley Green,
Chesterfield,
Derbyshire,
S40 4NP
Telephone: 01246 278542
Fax: 01246 278542

Email: enquiries@brockwell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk



Headteacher: Miss Catherine Holmes
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Therese Sedgwick

5th September 2013

Dear Parents & Friends,

Welcome back to a new school year and may I offer a very special welcome to our new Year 3 children, parents and to any other families who have joined the school this term. We hope you will all be very happy here.

Dates for your diary including term dates (I have included my annotated calendar with *provisional* dates)

Please see calendar that is available to download from www.derbyshire.gov.uk/schools/termdates

INSET days planned for 2013 /2014:

October 25th, April 11th, June 2nd, July 23rd

Absence

To help us maintain records, may I ask that you inform us, **in writing**, of the reason for all absences on your child's return to school. **In addition** to this, we ask all parents to **inform the main office by telephone by 9.15am** on the first day of absence if your child will not be in school. This enables us to know exactly where all children are and therefore helps us to ensure their safety.

School Website

Please keep an eye on the school website during the year. Each term we publish 'Curriculum News'. This information informs you of the work children are doing in each subject area under a topic title heading. When you receive your end of year report the progress in these areas is linked to the objectives stated in the Curriculum News. They can be sent home as a paper copy on request.

Also on the website will be my monthly newsletter and any updates. Term dates and provisional school dates are also in the key information section. When your child is on a school trip I can also use the site to give you any immediate information such as a delay - please put Brockwell Junior School into a search engine and the first option is our website.

Music Tuition

In addition to the music that takes place in school as part of the normal curriculum, we are able to offer children tuition in piano, flute, keyboard, violin and a variety of brass instruments with peripatetic teachers who come into school during school time. The charge for these lessons is made direct to the teacher concerned. If your child is interested in playing an instrument, please contact school in writing ASAP (requests addressed to Miss Holmes please).

Working Together to...be Safe, Smile and Succeed

Dress Code

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE CLEARLY NAMED. Year 3 parents please be aware we have a large green bin at the rear of the hall for all lost property. Please feel welcome at any time to access this facility.

If you wish to order from the school supplier, please use the link via our website. Any problems, give us a call. Alternatively, please feel free to purchase uniform from high street stores / supermarkets etc.

For safety reasons, we ask that only **simple** jewellery is worn at school. By this we mean simple stud earrings, with only one hole in each ear and watches. **Nail varnish, rings, bangles and necklaces** are not necessary in school and **should not** therefore be worn.

These requests are in line with the school's policy on dress and we hope therefore that you understand the reasons behind them and that you are able to support us in this.

Mobile phones / Game Boys / valuable items.

Please note that mobile phones and Game Boys are **NOT** allowed in school. I would also strongly recommend that other valuable or precious items are not brought into school.

Cycles and Scooters

Our policy regarding cycling is as follows:

Children in Year **Six** may cycle to school and are required to wear a helmet and lock the bike in the racks provided. Cycles should take priority in the storage over scooters.

Children cycling are asked to dismount at the gates and push the bike to the lock up.

Scooters - Children may use a scooter and 'scoot' to the storage area by Year Five. They may also scoot off site. Children using scooters **MUST use the scooter sensibly** - one person on the scooter, scooting away from pedestrians, particularly those with small children.

Please discuss acceptable use of scooters with your child. If a child is found to be using a scooter less than sensibly, a week ban will be issued with absolute ban if the behaviour is not corrected the following week. I ask you to support this policy so that our children have the option to scoot to and from school. Any complaints about individual cyclists or scooter users should be forwarded to the Headteacher who will keep Governors up to date with this matter.

Can you help?

In previous years, we have been very lucky in securing help in school from many parents and friends and it would be wonderful if this continues over the forthcoming year. If you feel you would like to help with any activities (reading, art, library etc etc) please contact your child's class teacher directly.

School Dinners. (£1.95 per day)

Mr Jones specifically allocates time to processing dinner money on Monday mornings. It really helps if you send money into school on **Mondays** in a sealed envelope with the amount, child's name and class clearly marked. Wherever possible, cheques should be sent. You can pay for several weeks' dinners in advance if this helps. If your child has school dinners and would like to change to sandwiches, we need **two weeks notice** because food is ordered two weeks in advance.

Working Together to...be Safe, Smile and Succeed

School Trips

We enrich the curriculum with visits out and events in school. These are often the most memorable experiences for children.

Please separate trip/visit money with dinner money. If the trip money is for Whitehall it is essential that you send the money with the record card. We invite any parent to set up a payment card to save for trips that take place during the year. If you are interested please contact Paula Knowles in the school office. We subsidise many trips using school budget or PFA funds. ***If you are unable to pay for a trip please let us know in advance of the trip. Although contributions are voluntary we may need to cancel trips/visitors if insufficient funds are raised.***

Curriculum

Many of you will know that a new curriculum will be statutory from 2014. Our personalised curriculum allows us to plan subjects under topic titles so we will be able to adapt our topics. Between now and next September we will be gradually altering the content of our topics so the implementation is as seamless as possible. Please be aware that the 'Curriculum News' leaflet that teachers issue at the start of a new topic will be adapted as the new objectives are implemented. These are also useful to keep and to have alongside school end of year reports. We will be looking at the teaching and learning of spellings in particular from September 2013 and see the new word lists and content as a great opportunity to evaluate spelling and ensure good practice is consistent throughout the school.

Questionnaires - Thank you so much for returning these. The data and comments will be collated and shared with our governors. I've already considered some of your helpful suggestions. If during the year you feel unable to agree or strongly agree with any of those statements, please get in touch and I'd welcome a discussion with you.

Documents available on request:

Shortly our new families will receive a letter including our 'Freedom of Information' policy. If you would like information such as our Confidential Reporting Code, Financial Summaries of the Private School Fund (The Chair of the Parents and Friends Association publishes an annual report and treasury report also if you would like to come to the AGM or request a copy), ICT Acceptable Use or any other school document, you are very welcome. Please put a request in writing addressed to the Headteacher.

Fundraising 2013 -2014

Thank you for all your support last year. The sponsored walk and summer fair raised hundreds of pounds for our children and our other events helped those less fortunate in The Gambia and through Comic Relief. This year we will focus our fundraising activities on our chosen local and global charities. Harvest collection will be decided with Councillors as soon as possible.

For our global charity we will be raising money for the Children's Village we continue to sponsor. The village is in The Gambia and funds will be used for education, food and medicine. We receive photographs and updates showing how our money is being used during the year. Our children will learn about another culture and country and see just how much impact a small amount of money can have. Children also like to support Children in Need, Poppies and Operation Christmas Child appeals. A coffee meeting is planned to support MacMillan. More details will follow.

The PFA raise money for school fund. They plan the discos, hampers, special activities like mug making, summer fair and sponsored walk.

Working Together to...be Safe, Smile and Succeed

RAGTEX - The red box on the car park is accessible by everybody. Please bag up any unwanted clothes or brick a brace and put it in the box at any time.

Performances in School

During the academic year we invite you to come and see your child's year group perform on stage. Years 3 & 4 will lead the Christmas concert but everyone is involved; Year 5 will perform a spring assembly and Year 6 will perform at their Leavers Concert in July. Children also perform in our weekly special mention assembly and may be involved in our Harvest, Carol and Easter assemblies. Please look on the calendar for our proposed dates.

Use of the school grounds and play equipment

We have developed the grounds to make playtimes more stimulating, to encourage active play and to help support our anti bullying aims. You will see a garden area, trim trail, tyre park, theatre, play boxes with equipment and playground markings. Detailed, comprehensive risk assessments have been carried out and we are satisfied all are safe to use, if used appropriately. Children are expected to use the facilities for the purpose they are designed for. They will also receive instructions in how to use the equipment safely over the next couple of weeks.

Please reinforce the above and the following with your child:

- The equipment can only be used during the school day - not on the way home from school.
- If it is wet or muddy it is sensible to remain away from the equipment.
- (Children take full responsibility for their clothes and should not go on the tyres for example if it is wet)
- We have 'Do and Don't' instructions for how to use the tyres and trim trail which must be observed or children will be told they cannot use the equipment.

If you agree that your child may use these facilities please sign the consent statement on the permission letter attached.

21 Day Books - Now called 'A day in the Life of...'

Each term your child should do all the work for one day in a special book that comes home. This informs you of the standard of work your child is producing in school and can help you develop links with the class teachers. Thank you to all of you who make sure your child returns the book once you have written your most appreciated comments. Teachers can only continue this initiative if all the children return the books. Please help us with this so we can make sure all our children have this opportunity.

Homework

All children are expected to read daily, learn tables and corresponding division facts weekly and complete any topic based extended research. In January and February all children have additional research in preparing their presentation for our annual Public Speaking Competition. More information will follow. If you have any queries or questions about homework please contact the class teacher at the time.

I can recommend www.ictgames.co.uk for an interactive LCWC to help homework!
Also, please look at www.oxfordowl.co.uk for online books that are interactive and linked to reading schemes. If your child is using books from reading schemes and forgets to change the book, this will be a great help to you.

Working Together to...be Safe, Smile and Succeed

Clubs - This term: Choir (Wednesdays to 4.15pm), Football in the Community (tbc), Filmclub Mondays from 23rd September, School Football (Fridays all year groups to 4.30pm). If you have skills and would be able to run a club, please drop us a line.

At Brockwell we '**Work Together to be: Safe, Smile and Succeed.**' Only by working in partnership with yourselves can we ensure your child and others will enjoy school life and make progress, whilst becoming increasingly independent. We approach all situations and learning experiences in this order and value any offer of help or constructive suggestions for development. An anonymous parent suggestion box is in the entrance.

Our Home School Agreement will come home with pupils in year 3 later in the week. It will be on the web site should anyone else wish to revisit the document.

Please arrange to speak to your child's class teacher as soon as you have a query or concern. **Nothing is too trivial** and all questions are more easily clarified or addressed if mentioned early.

We are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful year. Please contact the school if you have any concerns at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Holmes

'Working Together to...be Safe, Smile and Succeed'