



January Newsletter

1st January 2020

Brockwell Junior School Purbeck Avenue Chesterfield S40 4NP
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Dates for your diary:

Monday 6th January – School opens 8.50am

Thursday 9th January
Young Voices Choir Visit to Sheffield Arena

Friday 10th January
Height & Weight Y6 (live Life Better Derbyshire Health)

Monday 13th January Public Speaking launch assembly

Wednesday 15th January
KNEX Y3/4 tbc

Thursday 16th January – KNEX Y5/6

Friday 24th January
PFA Winter Warmer from 2.15pm

Tuesday 28th January Online Safety Workshops by Traci Good for PARENTS

Thursday 30th January
Be Bright, Be Seen
Non-uniform – any reflective accessories / bright clothes welcome.

HAPPY 2020 to Everyone

After a fantastic term and inspiring Christmas performance, I hope you have all had an enjoyable break. I'm looking forward to a great start to the new decade.

Many thanks to Amanda and all the members of the PFA who gave so much time last term. The Disco, Christmas Cards, Hamper Raffle and Shop raised funds to be used to further develop our play areas (multi use goals on the large yard) and fund more theatre visits. Looking ahead, the PFA are once again organising a 'Winter Warmer' coffee afternoon and Road Safety Day – 'Be Bright, be Seen'.

With the Public Speaking Competition, KNEX Workshops, BBC Ten Pieces, class visits, Young Voices and special fundraiser event by Madeleine Scott - there's much to look forward to this new year.

This term's Curriculum News and 'Did You Know' posters are now available on our website in the Learning@Brockwell pages. They give you a taste of the wonderful topics the children will be finding out about. Please discuss some of the vocabulary on these with your child. Very best wishes, Catherine Holmes

Attendance

Thank you for valuing each day of school and ensuring your children miss as little as possible. There is a link between high attendance and high achievement – every session counts. We'll send out letters and certificates in the next few days to inform you of your child's attendance.

In the case of **severe weather**, or if your child needs you in an **emergency**, we will contact you by text or phone as a priority so please ensure your details are up to date.

Date Reminder

Year 3 Assembly (Parents Welcome) is THURSDAY 6th February at 9.15am. Please use the main door.

Could you be our next school governor?

One of the most significant ways you can help us realise our vision to 'Work in partnership to achieve excellence at all levels' is to volunteer to be a parent governor. Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the governing board is aware of the views of parents and the local community.

The core functions of the governing board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation, its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The term of office for governors is four years except co-opted governors which is one year.

We will have a vacancy – possibly two – for new parent governors and will be seeking nominations for enthusiastic and committed parents or carers to join the governing board.

There are no particular qualifications required for the role but we would be particularly keen to receive nominations from someone with experience in education / learning and ideally someone who could visit school during the daytime to see it in action.

Governors currently meet as a board six times a year and meetings usually start at 7pm and are finished around 9.00pm. All meetings are held at the school. We also have a finance and resources committee and teaching and outcomes committee. All governors are invited to join the committee that their skills and experience match with, or they have a particular interest in. Committee meetings are held each term.

Governors are encouraged to visit the school during the day for monitoring visits to champion key areas. We offer new governors a comprehensive and supportive induction, and each new governor is assigned a mentor. Full training for the role is also available.

Should you have any questions about the role, please do not hesitate to contact me via enquiries@brockwell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk.

I will write again with further information and dates regarding nominations. For now, please take time to consider whether you could join us. We'd love to hear from you and please be encouraged to nominate when the dates are released – we really appreciate the support, guidance and challenge that governors ensure takes place.

INSET DAYS to July 2020 – school is closed to children on the following dates:

- **1st June 2020**
- **20th and 21st July 2020**

Safeguarding: Information for parents / carers regarding moving / transferring schools.

The Department for Education issues guidance regarding procedures schools must follow when children move schools. School must inform the Local Authority of any child that we believe has left and not provided forwarding information. If we are unable to establish a child's new school, we would have to refer them as a missing child to the Children Missing from Education Officer. At a point when parents / carers have decided to change school, please ask the school office for a **pupil exit form**. Thank you.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION - 2020

This is an annual speaking and listening event that gives children the opportunity to apply their skills such as research, IT and speaking. This event gives children a chance to develop their talents in research and presenting to an audience. Some time ago, a fantastic presentation about Alan Turing left us moved and speechless. Now we have a class named after him! Children were asking me last term if they could start on their title! Last spring the overwhelming majority of children enjoyed the opportunity to research and perform or present their information to other people. As a result, I would like to encourage all our children to get involved once again with the annual public speaking competition—the final of which will be a wonderful event **after the next holiday on FRIDAY 27th MARCH.**

An assembly explaining the competition will take place very soon so your child may come home keen to have a go. Children will be asked to prepare a talk, (maximum length 8mins—no minimum) **to present to their class during the week following half term break.** Two finalists are then selected to present in front of Judges from the Rotary Club. To ensure the final runs to time, children will be asked to stop after 8 minutes so please consider the time element carefully.

The children can work individually - in pairs or in groups (no more than four I would suggest) to carry out research and prepare a talk on a topic of their choice. The talk may include props, use of IT, or demonstrations to enhance the talk — but these are not essential at all.

Some children will naturally relish this challenge. If your child feels he/she does not want to present in front of others, I would ask that a piece of research on a topic of his/her choice be prepared and presented on paper—using a computer if your child prefers. That way if your child changes his/her mind during the talks, they will still have the opportunity. Children grow in confidence as the project develops. Please remember you are welcome to come and supervise your child using school computers after school on Mondays and Wednesdays until 5.30pm.

At the launch of the event, children may be offered some time in school to discuss options but the research side is intended to take place after the school day. Once started, they will be asked to work in their own time, at home, to develop the talk however they think. It is a good idea for them to consider this when deciding who to work with. Some teachers may consider this part of the class homework. Topics we have seen presented before have included animals, wacky facts, famous people, holidays, cars, sports, musical instruments, pets, hobbies, Horrible Histories...the choices are endless. Winners for several years running have included solo speakers so don't be concerned if your child chooses to work alone!

Each class will choose their favourite presentation (based on content, voice projection, pace, audience interaction / engagement and use of any props or pictures) that will go forward to our whole school final. The President of the Rotary Club and other judges will be on a panel to select four overall favourites. I'm sure they will be impressed and I would ask you to support your child in any way you can. We do consider formal feedback to children but our priority is to celebrate effort and success. Thank you for supporting your child with this opportunity.

Clubs this term include:

Young Voices Choir Wednesday 8th January only
Jumping Clay book at www.jumpingclay.co.uk Tuesdays to 4.30pm
Y5 & 6 Athletics Thursdays to 4.30pm (Not 9th Jan due to Young Voices)
Y5 & Y6 Basketball Club Mondays to 4.30pm
STEM Club - to be arranged
Reading & Maths Clubs Y6 – to be confirmed