



September Newsletter

1st September 2020

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Dates for your Diary
including term dates
(calendar with **provisional**
dates issued shortly)

Additional academic
calendars are
downloadable from
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/schools/termdates

**INSET days planned for
2020 /2021**

23rd October 2020
28th May 2021
7th June 2021
(22nd July 2021 tbc)

Whitehall 2020/21

This has been postponed
to February 2021 and
more information will be
issued nearer the time.



Learning in BUBBLES! – Welcome Everyone

Welcome back to a new school year and may I offer a very special welcome to our new Year 3 children, new parents and to any other families who have joined the school. We hope you will all be very happy here. I'm sure your children will settle back to school quickly. The calendar is already filling up with what I'm sure will be memorable experiences including visits in the outdoors - (PDF online soon). We'll start off with a fun assembly about the wonder, science and fun we can have with bubbles. I intend to deliver it to every bubble separately.

The first piece of music we'll listen to is titled 'Heroes and Friends' (lyrics saying 'heroes will help you find good in yourself; your friends will stand beside you through thick and through thin...'). I'm sure all the children will find both heroes and friends in their bubbles. The staff are indeed brilliant and all are keen to start a wonderful learning challenge sharing the book, 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers.

We are continuing to plan for work in school as usual and also plan for any situation whereby individuals, classes or the whole community need to revert to remote learning. We'll keep you informed about these developments. Please expect homework to be mostly digital including use of your child's SeeSaw account. Family SeeSaw codes will be issued shortly.

Attendance matters are always discussed with you in partnership with each individual child / family circumstance considered in private. If you have any reason to keep your child away from school, please get in touch.

Your child is sure to succeed if we work together so do call us if you need to discuss anything, no matter how trivial it may seem. We look forward to working in partnership with you all.

Unfortunately, we must restrict visitors on site and in the buildings. Parents may not enter classrooms / the building unless invited. Please call us to speak to us. Here's the number **01246 278542**

We may need to contact you in an emergency. Please make sure that your contact details are up to date at all times. Texts will be sent during week 1. If you haven't received any, please get in touch.

Absence

Good attendance results in maximum progress – 95% would be a reasonable target. Please call us 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. Children with attendance below 90% are 'persistently absent' - note comment re attendance at start of letter.

Snacks

Your child may benefit from bringing a healthy snack for first break. Children selecting from lunch boxes are encouraged to choose a healthy option. Please also send a NAMED water bottle.

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. Whilst we cannot ask at this time, we hope to be able to do this during the year.

Discipline and Class DoJo

We will be sharing an addendum to our behaviour policy with the children in the next two days. This reminds them how they can stay safe and help protect others. I will send you a copy of this.

In school we'll be rewarding children with Dojo points and celebrating their success in bubbles.

Uniform

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE CLEARLY NAMED. Please be aware that we have a large green bin at the rear of the hall / changing room for all lost property. Staff will check it daily or you can ring and we'll look for any lost item.

If you wish to order from the school supplier please go to <https://uniformshoponline.co.uk/collections/brockwell-junior-school>. Alternatively, please feel free to purchase uniform from high street stores / supermarkets etc.

We have pride in all we do at school including our appearance. Please help us by ensuring your child has a full uniform including suitable black school shoes or appropriate sandals.

P.E Kits

Children are asked to come in PE kit on their allocated days. Whilst our supplier does stock Brockwell T-shirts and shorts, we understand you may not have these at this time. Please send your child in a plain T-Shirt (NO FOOTBALL SHIRTS), shorts or jogging bottoms and school jumper. If the field is wet, do remember we have a track around that can be used to keep trainers as dry as possible. We do go outside as often as possible so please send a coat in too.

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 including loom bands and necklaces are not necessary in school and should not therefore be worn. It is routine procedure for teachers to request children with studs in for PE (if they cannot remove them) to put plasters over them.

Unnecessary items/Mobile phones / Valuable items.

Please note that unnecessary items, mobile phones, smart watches and electronic devices are not allowed in school. I would also strongly recommend that other valuable or precious items are not brought into school. Any items deemed absolutely essential may be stored in the office but school accepts no liability for any damage. We ask that you name any items you need to be handed to the office (they will be taken to the office by staff in bubbles).

Cycles and Scooters

Children in Year 6 may cycle to school independently and are required to wear a helmet, dismount whilst on site and lock the bike in the racks provided. All other cyclists must be supervised by an adult please. I continue to ask for your help making sure all our path / road users are safe. Please encourage your child to scoot carefully being aware of others and the driveway.

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILD'S SUPERVISION UNTIL THEY COME INTO SCHOOL BETWEEN 8.40am and 9am Please say goodbye away from the bubble entrance to give others space to enter and do not come early. Please observe social distancing etiquette on site (2m from others whenever possible).

Kindness - Honesty - Determination - Respect - Responsibility

School Website

Please keep an eye on the school website during the year. In addition to our Twitter feed, Blog and many fantastic examples of collaboration projects, each term we will add the 'Learning Challenges' and update papers including our Special Needs, Pupil Premium and Sports Funding Statements.

Also on the website will be policies and the newsletters including any date changes. Term dates and provisional school dates are also in the key information section. There are links to homework websites and year group spellings too. Please refer to the PDF calendar online at this time. Regarding Twitter followers - please be aware that you need to follow your child's year group feed to see what the classes are experiencing. These are in addition to @brockwelljun where you will see much sport and whole school initiatives. See the Learning@brockwell pages.

Use of the school grounds and play equipment

Playtimes should be enjoyable and play equipment gives children choices. You will see a garden area, trim trail, tyre park, theatre, play trolley with equipment and playground markings. 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 receive instructions in how to use the equipment safely and when they may access it.

Please reinforce the above and the following with your child:

The equipment can only be used during the school day – school accepts no liability for incidents out of school hours (8.50am to 3.25pm).

Children must be closely supervised by the responsible adult / parent after school. The trim trail is designed for junior age children only.

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.

THE ADVENTURE TRAIL IS ALLOCATED TO ONE BUBBLE EACH WEEK PLEASE DO NOT USE IT AFTER SCHOOL.

By giving permission on the Pupil Permission Form we know you're happy for your child to play on the equipment (new parents to sign and for other year groups we will use existing papers so let us know if you change your permissions please).

Music Tuition

Each year group has a term of specialist music teaching with Mr Jones. 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, keyboard, violin and a variety of brass instruments with peripatetic teachers who come into school during school time. The charge for these lessons and your contract is made directly to the teacher concerned. If your child is interested in playing an instrument, please contact school, in writing, at any time (requests addressed to Mrs Murcott please) and we'll do our best to arrange it for you. We are working with the teachers to create a safe space to access these lessons and will refer to DFE guidelines.

Free School Meals

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you (or the young person themselves, where appropriate) get any of the following:

Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month); Income Support; Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; the guarantee element of State Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit (WTC) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) as assessed by HRMC; Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If you would like further information or would like to apply you can do so at www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Clubs dates

We hope to begin after school clubs later in the term.

Performances in School

We hope to prepare virtual performances to share with you. More information to follow once we've established new routines.

Documents available online and on request:

Many policies are available on our website including the Complaints, Behaviour, Curriculum Statement, Charges and Remissions, Pupil Premium and Sports Funding. If you would like information such as our Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing), Financial Summaries of the Private School Fund (The Chair of the Parents and Friends Association publishes an annual report and treasury report also is available 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. Our GDPR and data protection papers are on our website too.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2020-2021

Last year, we further developed the 'Learning Challenge' curriculum, enhanced our family support through 'Positive for Young People' work in school and did our absolute best to react to the coronavirus pandemic.

This year we will be focusing on the remote learning plan and also a catch up plan that I intend will provide something for all learners to reflect the challenge all our children have faced. I know I've got support from the teachers so I'll be in touch once I have more news to share.

Homework

We encourage children to read daily, learn tables and spellings weekly and complete any topic based extended research with your support if possible. Learning Challenges are set termly – you can really encourage your child to go for it.

In the spring all children have additional research in preparing their presentation for our annual Public Speaking Competition which may need to be in a different format this year. More information will follow. If you have any queries or questions about homework please contact us at any time. Books may be changed at any time and there are some super websites to support homework including Abacus, Oxford Owl and 'Interactive Resources' games (via school web 'Online Links' if it helps).

Please make reading a priority. Please try to develop inference skills by asking a question that requires them to give a reason or explain an answer. New vocabulary comes with regular reading so please read with your child in all year groups.

The majority will be set remotely to remain familiar with SeeSaw.

Fundraising 2020-2021

This year we will focus our fundraising activities on our chosen local and global charities. Harvest collection will be for Chesterfield Food Bank.

Classes will be looking at charities associated with their inspirational person or books they are reading.

Children also like to support Children in Need, Comic/Sport Relief and the Poppy Appeal. More details will follow.

The PFA raise money for school fund. They plan the discos, hampers, special activities like mug making, summer fair and class sponsor event. This work is crucial to ensure the extras such as theatre groups continue and we appreciate any help you can contribute.

The AGM will be during the term once the arrangements are agreed. Text to follow. Please do join and support the PFA. It makes all the difference in terms of special events and equipment for the children. It relies on parent volunteers.

Further information for the year ahead

Communication

I try to avoid sending little slips of paper home as these can get lost in child post. Instead, I put as much news and dates into the monthly newsletter and further updates as possible. This is issued on the first day of every month, usually published on the website first. Newsletters will be sent via email. The email you gave on your registration form or submitted on Parentpay will be used. If you have not received the September Newsletter by Friday 4th September, please get in touch (a text will be sent letting you know the email has been sent).

We send frequent texts; sometimes more than one a day so do keep an eye on your text service from us. It would be unusual to go a week or two with no messages so do get in touch if you don't appear to be getting any. We tend to send you updates close to the date so if you've read the newsletter and noted the dates rest assured more information will follow.

Each class has a Twitter feed that teachers are trying to remember to use as learning is taking place. You can see these through our website or by following the class on Twitter.

Dismissing children from class (typical scenario outlined here as teachers will dismiss when they see you).

For the first week or two, teachers in year 3 will dismiss the children looking for their responsible adult. This will give you time to feel increasingly confident about where you prefer to collect your children from. Children are taught to go to the office or back to class if the grown up they expect has not appeared at their collection point. Please talk to your child to reinforce this and explain that they must never go home with other parents without school and home knowing. Once they are settled children are dismissed from class. If you'd prefer a hand over have a chat with the teachers to arrange this.

Parental involvement

You'll get letters inviting you to a parent consultation in October and February/March but don't hesitate to ask to speak to a teacher before these dates if you feel you or your child would benefit. This term / year, the meetings are likely to be telephone calls or conferencing. Please don't wait until the formal invites if you need to speak to us.

Sports Day – in typical scenario

Your child will need a T-shirt of their house/team colour for our sports day. On this day parents are welcome to come and sit on the bank. Just make your way to the field at 1.15pm. Please leave the children to us and collect them at the end in the usual manner. Refreshments are on sale in the hall during the afternoon. Helpers for the refreshments are always appreciated. Please do let us know.

School Dinners (£2.20 per day)

Parents of children in Y3 will soon receive a letter to set up ParentPay – an online system to pay for trips and dinners. Please set it up even if you are not paying for dinners as we use it for other payments too, including Breakfast Club (you can use childcare vouchers for Breakfast Club too). We'll also use this service to send newsletters in time so having your up to date email on it will really help. 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 working weeks notice because food is ordered two weeks in advance. **If your child is going to be out of school, please let us know by 9.45am or you will be charged for the meal.**

Clubs – usual scenario

Clubs are announced in assembly usually with an open invitation to the relevant year group. Those interested are invited to take a letter home to request your permission. Please check the letters for dates for each club. If you are interested in the Before / After School Club to help with child care, please request a letter and terms / conditions. This runs every day.