



# September Newsletter

1st September 2021

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## 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. Miss Sharratt and Miss Davies are also embarking on what I'm certain will be fantastic teaching careers ahead. We are so lucky to have both teachers with us. We hope you will all be very happy here. Over the holidays the classrooms have had significant upgrades and look super smart and welcoming. This has been much work and I'm very grateful to everyone for helping us get finished (almost!) ready for the start of the term. The new entrance and office will continue to be within DCC's jurisdiction until later in the term. I'm sure your children will settle back to school quickly. Once the children have had time in their new classes our first assembly will be all about the Brockwell Badger and stories associated with badgers.

The first piece of music we'll listen to is titled 'Everything has Changed' by Ed Sheeran and Taylor Swift. This is a nod to starting new schools and new year groups and it has a great video about the bonds of friendship through the school years.

Our Covid-19 risk assessment allows us to open with many restrictions lifting. However, if we have just a few cases we would need to instigate an 'outbreak plan'. It seems sensible to therefore be cautious. We will continue with year group bubbles for learning and playtime and we will pilot new dining arrangements to ensure everyone eats in a 'sitting' in the hall. We also continue to be mindful of the remote learning plan which DFE expect us to be ready to revert to if needed. This is on our website for new parents and relies much on Seesaw, our learning platform. To ensure children are familiar with it, we use it for much homework.

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.

### 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](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/schools/termdates)

### INSET days planned for 2021 /2022

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021** (in lieu  
of bank holiday)  
**1<sup>st</sup> November 2021**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021**  
**27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
**6<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022**

### Whitehall 2021/22

Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> September  
6pm School Hall  
All information shared at  
the meeting will be sent  
home.

Vist 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September

We will continue to restrict visitors on site and in the buildings to minimise risk as we approach the seasonal changes. Visitors are by invitation. To contact us call **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 (from 6<sup>th</sup> September. 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'.

## 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. PLEASE DO JOIN THE PFA IF YOU CAN It is a small group of parents who make a MASSIVE difference to so many children.

## Discipline and Class DoJo

We will be sharing an addendum to our behaviour policy with the children in the next few days. This reminds them how they can stay safe and help protect others, for example by applying the 'Catch it, bin it kill it' advice and regular handwashing.

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>. We have been trying to liaise with new supplier 'gogna' during the holiday. We expect tracksuits to arrive for the start of term but I am reluctant to make any promises! I'll update you as soon as they are delivered. 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. Once tracksuits are issued, please come in them on allocated PE days.

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.

## 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 8.50am and 9am Please say goodbye away from the class entrance to give others space to enter and do not come early. Please continue to drop off and pick up without remaining on site longer than necessary. Again, this may help reduce transmission risk as we head into the autumn / winter months.**

## 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. You may like to look through the 'Curriculum' pages I have added during the holidays.

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. 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 YEAR GROUPS 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).

## 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](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

## Music Tuition

Each year group has a term of specialist music teaching with Mr Jones and from the Music Hub too. 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.

## Clubs dates

TBC

## Performances in School

We have allocated year group assemblies and Christmas performance to our calendar. Following last year's virtual performance some of you asked if we would do that again. Others prefer to come in and hear children live. Both have benefits. We'll be led by how the term develops and will send more information to 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 2021-2022

**Last year, we further developed the Remote Learning Provision, Catch Up Plan and Curriculum areas along with responding to the changes within the pandemic.**

**This year we will be offering a broad curriculum, increasing experience of music and promoting writing for pleasure. We've also got our eye on girls' achievement in mathematics to ensure girls and boys do as well as one another by the end of the key stage.**

## 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.

If you have any queries or questions about homework please contact us at any time. Reading 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 2021-2022

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 via parentmail. 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 3rd 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 feel settled children are dismissed from class bubble doors. If you'd prefer a one-to-one hand over, have a chat with the teachers to arrange this. Children enter and leave through class doors as I explained in my July letter (I'll resend the attachment).

### 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. Please don't wait until the formal invites if you need to speak to us. End of the day is better for staff.

### Sports Day – in typical scenario

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.

### 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.**

**NEW PARENTS Please do not worry if this is not set up quickly. We will send you the letters after the start of term.**

### Clubs – usual scenario

Clubs are announced in assembly or class 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.