



September Newsletter

1st September 2022

Brockwell Junior School Purbeck Avenue Chesterfield S40 4NP
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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 several new families in other year groups 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. Once the children have had time in their new classes our first assembly will be all about the Brockwell Badger and stories associated with our motto – 'Safe, Smile, Succeed.'

I hope you have had a pleasant summer. The school orchard is brimming with pears, damsons and various varieties of apples which was such a pleasure to return to. The sunny weather has certainly benefitted the fruit trees! Everyone is excited to embark on a new school year with lots of new resources too.

Seesaw has had several updates. They have merged the two apps into one and there are some great new features. We'll be doing some tuition with the children during next week so home learning set on Seesaw will start the following week. We'll send you an update to help get you familiar too.

We are very mindful of the impact of inflation and I am concerned about how our families will manage over the winter period. We will think carefully about any extra costs and will subsidise enrichment whenever we can. Please come and have a chat if you are struggling. We have a wonderful pastoral team and we'll find a way to help you.

Regarding drop off and pick-ups, please 'park and stride' where possible. If driving using Ashgate Valley Road, please know that once you pass Brooklyn Drive turning by the entrance becomes inevitable and can present risk to children. Please drop off before this junction to help.

To best care for your child we are keen to work together in partnership with you. Do call us if you need to discuss anything, no matter how trivial it may seem. Please find this summary of reminders helpful. Warmest wishes, *C.A. Holmes*

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
2022 /2023**

**September 1st 2022,
September 2nd 2022
31st October 2022
22nd December 2022
5th June 2023**

Whitehall 2022

Meeting 6th September
5pm School Hall
All information shared at
the meeting will be sent
home if not already sent
before the summer break.

Visit 12th to 16th September

To contact us call 01246 278542 or use

enquiries@brockwell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk

Please only use Seesaw for curriculum related matters as the inbox may miss urgent issues and any comments may remain on your child's journal.

We may need to contact you in an emergency. Please make sure that your contact details are up to date at all times. Texts are sure to be sent during week 1 (from 5th 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. If you have skills with gardening, we'd especially like your help.

Discipline and Class DoJo

We will be sharing our behaviour policy with the children in the next few days (on our website).

In school we'll be rewarding children with Dojo points and celebrating their success in the weekly celebration assembly.

- Star of the Week
- Reader of the Week
- Always Always (a child nominated by peers for always trying their best)
- Do Jo team points

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 regularly or you can ring and we'll look for any lost item – or pop in after school.

If you wish to order from the school supplier, please go to either

<https://www.gogna.me/> (Tracksuits and leggings from here only) OR

<https://uniformshoponline.co.uk/collections/brockwell-junior-school>.

Please help us by ensuring your child has a full uniform including suitable black school shoes or appropriate sandals. If you prefer to purchase navy items from local shops this is acceptable too.

P.E Kits

White T-shirt and dark / blue bottoms. There are school items available from the above suppliers or use high street items that are of these colours please. Children are asked to come in PE kit on their allocated days. We would be delighted to see children in the school kit, including tracksuits. Certainly, we ask you to ensure the clothes are plain - NO FOOTBALL SHIRTS for example. 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.

With the cost of living and sustainability at the front of our minds we will endeavour to recycle pre-loved uniform including PE kit. If you'd like to send preloved items in a bag please send them to the office and we will display items in the old entrance until the area is reworked into a group learning space. If you have time to volunteer to help with this, please get in touch.

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 8.45am and 8.55am Children are marked late after 9am and unauthorized late after 9.25am.

School Website

Please keep an eye on the school website during the year. In addition to our Twitter feed, 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 or year group pages too. Here you will find Curriculum News and year group spellings for example.

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. Regarding Twitter followers - please be aware that you need to follow your child's year group feed to receive any posts which are in addition to @brockwelljun where you will see much sport and whole school initiatives. You can see the posts too through the website.

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. 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 (8.45am 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 informed that it is unsafe for them to access the equipment.

THE ADVENTURE/TRIM 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).

Music Tuition

Each year group has a term of specialist music teaching with Mr Jones and year 3, 5 and 6 will have wider opportunities from the Music Hub too. Following an evaluation of last year, with swimming and Forest Schools and music with Mr Jones all in Y4, we have decided to not allocate wider opps to Y4 to ensure there is sufficient time for all subjects. In addition to the music that takes place in school as part of the 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.

Free School Meals

Qualifying criteria:

- 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 and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) as assessed by HMRC
- 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

PE Days

YEAR 3 – Tues & Thurs

YEAR 4 – Tues & Weds

YEAR 5 – Mon & Weds

YEAR 6 – Thurs & Fri

Performances in School

We have allocated live year group assemblies and a virtual Christmas performance to our calendar and this will appear on the website version soon.

Year 5 – Friday 11th November 9am

Year 3 – Friday 17th February 9am

Year 4 – Friday 28th April 9am

Year 6 – TBC – Friday 30th June 2pm

We usually aim to include all children in our Christmas performance and we have found the benefits of doing them virtually are significant. This year we are likely to once again have an evening premier but we will be making more plans as the term goes on.

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.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2022 - 2023

We will finish the implementation of our new Art Curriculum and then review Design & Technology.

We will be developing a systemic approach to how we ensure children retain key learning in their long term memories.

We would also like to review our writing and the teaching of spelling and grammar through writing across the curriculum.

Homework

We encourage children to read daily, learn tables and spellings weekly and complete any topic based extended research with your support if possible. Soon Doodle will be available for all children again and we'd like to encourage regular practice using this tool – more info to come.

If you have any queries or questions about homework please contact teachers at any time. Reading books may be changed at any time and there are some super websites to support that teachers will promote in school and let you know about on Seesaw if appropriate.

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 2022 - 2023

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

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.

Please know we are most mindful of the cost of living challenges and will be carefully thinking about any extra costs. Please make any contributions only if it does not cause hardship. Please get in touch if you need help.

Further information for the year ahead

Communication

We 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 email and teachers make announcements through Seesaw. 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 2nd September, please get in touch (a text will be sent letting you know the email has been sent).

We send frequent texts 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.

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 from year group exits. If you'd prefer a one-to-one hand over, have a chat with the teachers to arrange this. Children enter and leave through year group doors. If these are closed (from 8.55am), please come in through the hall door or main entrance.

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. Our SENCO, Mrs Crutchley, is often available at the start or end of a day so don't hesitate to arrange a discussion if needed.

Sports Day – Last year we had two events – one for Y3 & 5 and one for Y4 & 6 which were fantastic.

On these days 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

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 and for requesting your consent for visits.

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 just let us know. **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

Clubs are announced in assembly or class usually with an open invitation to the relevant year group (although we are extending our use of the text system to include 'Forms' so this may change very soon). 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. Outside providers Premier and Jumping Clay will be back and you can book with them directly (letters will be sent via email to all).