

# THE BROOK BROADCAST

## WOODLAND WONDERS

Since starting back at the beginning of September, we have been observing our children and identifying the areas we need to focus on in order to ensure all of our children thrive. The focus areas we are already identifying range from life and learning skills, such as being able to follow a sequence of instructions and increasing personal attention spans, through to phonic development or reading, writing and mathematics core skills.

As a team, we have been planning for how we can best support our children so that we can take everybody on from where they are. We believe that all of our teachers are the experts on what the children need and we also believe that through quality teaching in small groups the children will benefit greatly. However, we also know that we have to plan for continuing to develop the children's social, emotional and mental health (SEMH), along with the important life and learning skills.

Therefore, after half term we will start our 'Woodland Wonders' programme, beginning with Year Two and then moving on to Year One later in the year. This means that every week, all children in Year Two will get one afternoon in our woodland area with our Learning Mentor and two teaching assistants focusing on SEMH development; developing a deep connection with nature; along with improving their life and learning skills. They will go into the woods in groups of 15, leaving 15 children back in the classroom where the teacher and a teaching assistant will be able to work tightly with the remainder of the children on identified focused teaching. The children will be grouped fluidly so that all of the needs are met in all of the focus areas.

We are really excited about our new adventure in learning, especially as there have been studies into the impact a deep connection with nature has on brain development and mental health. One such study, focused on 50 geniuses looking for what they had in common. The overriding factor was their connection with the outdoors and nature by the age of 11 years.

On a practical level, we will be providing all of the children with waterproof trousers and raincoats for their time in the woods, but everyone in Year Two must have their wellies in school all of the time so that they can go into the woods at any point during the week. They also always need to have a warm coat in school that they can wear under their raincoat, along with a warm hat and gloves. The children will go into the woods in all weathers, unless high winds make it dangerous, in which case their session will take place in our Learning Mentor's room otherwise known as 'The Nest'. We are setting up two large bell tents that will be used during the session as shelter.



## FACE COVERINGS



We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our families who have been wearing face coverings when on school premises. Many of the staff at school are considered vulnerable in the world of Covid19 and we want to be able to keep them as safe as possible and do our best to avoid having to close bubbles due to self-isolation.

We want everyone to stay safe and so we thought we would share the government image regarding face coverings as it is so important that the face coverings are worn correctly and cover both mouth and nose.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

We would like to welcome Mrs Sonia Gouveia, who is already a cleaner in school, as she begins her other role as Midday Meal Supervisor with us.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Stephanie Dorelli, who has joined our 'Woodland Wonders' Team, having also helped to support our nursery team and having given a lot of time to the school through volunteering over the years.



## THANK YOU!

We wanted to say a huge thank you to our families who have helped by donating things to help the school. We have had everything from part rolls of Astro turf, to log seats and toys.

Thank you so much



## PARKING

We know it has been really rainy recently at drop off and pick up, but please can we ask you all to remember to park considerately. We have had to speak to car drivers who have parked up on pavements near our entrances, but we also know that some people are parking too close to junctions and roundabouts.

Please remember that people have to be able to see and that sometimes inconsiderate parking can result in accidents happening. We would never want one of our little people or families to be hurt because of this.



## HOME LEARNING IN THE EVENT OF A LOCKDOWN OR ISOLATION

Thank you to all the families who have completed the online survey on Internet and Facebook Access. The information has proved very useful to our planning process.

We have developed the tiered approach to our home learning in the event of a child being at home because they are isolating; or because the whole bubble is at home because it has been closed. This is not for children who are off poorly, it is only for those that are well and isolating.

Every fortnight we send home our 'Taking a Closer Look' pages that will give some focus for ways to support your child with their learning. This is for general home learning ideas and suggestions, but is also for parents to begin with in the event of a period of isolation.

In the event of one child isolating, the class teacher will make contact with the family via telephone and will ensure that what is happening for the children in school that week is explained to the family. In the event of one class having several children isolating, we will make contact via a group email. We will then make a welfare call to the home within three days, but are also happy to contact more often if there is a problem or a question. Please simply email [office@brookinfant.school](mailto:office@brookinfant.school) and we will respond asap that day. Please note that our teachers are all in their bubbles all day, with very short breaks and so that those calls might have to be at the end of a day.

In the event of a bubble closing or a local lockdown being enforced, we will revert to our system that carried us through lockdown, because the teachers will also be at home isolating. Therefore, children in Nursery and Reception will have uploads from the staff on Tapestry, then any learning the children do can be photographed and uploaded by home so that the staff can see it and comment.

As Year One and Two do not have Tapestry, we will again be operating our closed Facebook Groups. Therefore, children in those year groups will have uploads from the staff via this medium, then any learning the children do can be photographed and uploaded by families so that the staff can see it and comment.

If you are a Year One or Two parent, information about how you can get accepted to the relevant closed group will be sent home next week. You will need to answer three questions, including giving a password. Without this process, you will not be accepted to the group. **We ask all parents to register for this so that we are ready to get going with this immediately, but we can only hope this will never be needed.**

Please note there will be one group for Wonderful Year One 2020/21 and one for our Fabulous Year Two 2020/21. If there is no way you have access to Facebook, please contact the office as we will need to be able to support you in a different way.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 13th October 2020 - Individual Photographs for the Whole School and Nursery.

Tuesday 20th October 2020 - Flu Nasal Sprays for all Children - Pack sent home - **PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR FLU FORMS ASAP.**

Tuesday 20th October 2020 - Forest School Session for Squirrels - separate letter sent out to Year Two families. **PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR ONLINE PERMISSION FORM.**

Friday 23rd October 2020 - School Breaks for Half Term

### **Monday 2nd November - Back to School**

Tuesday 24th November - Forest School Session

**Thursday 17th December 2020 - School Closes at 13:00.**

**Friday 18th December 2020 - Inset Day**

