

THE BROOK BROADCAST

OUR WELL-BEING MATTERS!

Although we are always mindful of well-being and mental health, this week we took time to focus even more on the well-being of everyone in school and at home.

We know it is important in these challenging times that we all take time to focus on self-care and try our best to remember that what we are experiencing now is not permanent. In fact, we thought we would share a section of a lovely thought for the current times that was shared with us from a member of our team.

Tell the children ... This will not go on forever, that very, very soon, their life will begin again and it will begin in glorious technicolour.

On Wednesday, all of our children in school and many of our children at home looked lovely in their special 'express yourself' clothes. We had Batman, Captain America, Spiderman, Princess Elsa and Anna and we also had wonderful t-shirts of so many different designs, camouflage trousers and sparkly hats and skirts. It really was lovely to see all of our children radiating confidence from their choice of clothing.



This week we asked all of our children in school and at home to design a hot air balloon, plane or rocket to express themselves. Our plan is to use them all to create a display along our front fence, with the tag line 'We may be different but we all share the same sky'. It has been lovely to see all of the hot air balloons, planes and space rockets arriving at school ready to be displayed. It has also been a complete joy to see many of the children from home arriving at school to drop off their creations. Watch the fence for a display arriving soon!

NEW INTEGRATED FRONT DOOR (IFD)

West Sussex County Council have been working to design and implement an Integrated Front Door (IFD) approach to safeguarding and family support. The IFD creates one pathway with one telephone number and email address for use by professionals and the public for all concerns relating to children, regardless of risk or complexity.

This will simplify the process for the public and for us as professionals and the system has been designed to ensure that children's needs are reviewed quickly by an integrated Early Help and Social Care team.

If you ever have any concerns about a child, please use the following information to contact the service.

The new contact details for the IFD, which went live on 29th January 2021, are as follows:

Telephone Number: **01403 229900**

Email Address: **WSChildrenservices@westsussex.gov.uk**



CONGRATULATIONS!



We have some very exciting and very happy news to share with you all. Mrs Daisy Masters, one of our Year One Teaching Assistants, is expecting a baby and is due in August.

It is such special news for the family. However, it does mean that Mrs Masters will not be working in the Year One classrooms as often because due to being pregnant, she has to ensure that she social distances.

GOOD NEWS!

In other good news, we are thrilled that Mrs Reed is returning to school on Monday and she is so excited about coming back to be with the children.

We know you will all welcome her back in true Brookie style as we have all missed her so much!

Later next half term, on Monday 22nd March, Mrs Turner will be returning from maternity leave. This will mean that for the two weeks prior to the Easter Break, the children in Dragonflies will have both Mrs Reed and Mrs Turner on Monday and Tuesday. This time together will enable a smooth handover and will allow children and parents the chance to get to know Mrs Turner.



EMERGENCY!

Our little Owlets have begun learning about the different emergency services. They are currently having 'virtual' visits from many emergency staff including a paramedic, call handler, nurse, police, dog handler and fire arms officer. We are still working on sorting a fire service visit. We are very grateful to the families who have helped us to set this up for our little people as it has really made a difference to their role play.



The children have particularly enjoyed the role play hospital this week and some of the children seem to like giving us all vaccinations which we find very topical at the moment.

SPARKLE AND SHARE

We are missing hearing the voices of our children at home and we really want to connect our children who cannot be here with some of their friends and their teachers. Therefore we are going to set up, for next week, small group 'Sparkle and Share' events on Microsoft Teams.

If your child is learning at home, by early next week, you will be receiving a Teams invite to a group session that will be hosted by one of your child's class teachers.



During this 'Sparkle and Share' session (maximum 30 minutes) there will be a chance for the joy and excitement of seeing each other. Then we will mute the children and we will ask them to share with their group (one at a time) their favourite toy. Please help them select a toy ready for this session. After that we will run a three item scavenger hunt which will involve the children finding and showing things as suggested by the teacher. The session will end with a good wishes for a restful half term.

To ensure that we operate within safeguarding parameters, a parent must be in the room with the child for the duration of them being online. Please can we also ask that everyone on the meeting is dressed appropriately and it is recommended that you are positioned in front of a neutral backdrop, a wall or curtains, etc. The staff will all be conducting these meetings from school and so will be within the school environment.

The device you use to join the meeting will need to have a camera and a microphone so that your child can be seen and heard.

We are excited by the idea of connecting with our children at home and look forward to these sessions.

OUR WONDERFUL WRAP AROUND CARE

Don't forget that we are still operating our wonderful wrap around care for the whole of our Maidenbower community.

It is always a delight to see how happy and active the children in our Breakfast (BFC) and After School Club (ASC) are every day.

We can offer plenty of care, fun, activity, craft, outdoor play and even woodland sessions from 07:30 until 08:30 and then from 15:00 until 18:00 at night. We then ensure all children get to and from their school (within Maidenbower).

If you are interested in booking, please contact the Manager Mrs Caroline Clack by emailing brookclubbookings@brookinfant.school.



AMAZING NURSERY PROVISION



If you are looking for an amazing nursery for your child, we are fully open and happy to take bookings. We offer early years care and education for all children aged two and above and we ensure a fabulous transition from nursery into school.

We are able to offer our outdoor learning 'Woodland Wonders' to our little people regularly and so we often have sessions in our woods.

If you want to know more, please email enquiries@brookinfant.school.

REMEMBER WE ARE HERE!

As we keep saying, if things gets tricky, try **NOT** to worry and do **NOT** suffer in silence. We are here to help and even if we cannot help directly we can signpost you to people and agencies who might be able to. Simply email support@brookinfant.school.

You are all amazing and our children are very lucky.

Keep smiling and keep learning with love and laughter.



IMPORTANT DATES

We do not profess to know what might be happening in one week, let alone one term, but here is what could happen!



Half Term - Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021 - Inset Day

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 - School reopens for keyworker and vulnerable children only

Monday 7th June 2021 - Inset Day