

THE BROOK BROADCAST

OUR FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS BEGIN

This week saw the beginning of our monthly Forest School sessions. Firstly we would like to thank Mrs Gidman, Mrs Badman and Nanny Jean for supporting the children so well throughout the day and for giving them all fabulous experiences. We would also like to thank the families of our Badgers children as you ensured the children had the needed equipment, such as wellies and waterproof coats for the session. Finally, we would like to thank the Badgers children for being very sensible and truly using their listening skills, which is essential to us keeping every child safe.

The children all had an amazing time in the woods and every child experienced using a bow saw to cut discs of woods; using a palm drill to make a hole in their wooden disc; ageing a tree by counting the rings and collecting bark rubbings from different tree trunks.



CENSUS DAY!

On Thursday 1st October, we have our special census day. On this day, the funding for our school for the year ahead is worked out based on how many children we have on roll.



It helps us as a school if as many children as possible try a free school meal, even if they also bring their packed lunch. This is because again we are funded for the year on the number of children who take a meal on Thursday. Therefore, if you intend to ever take a free school meal for your child at some point in this academic year, including our brilliant Christmas Dinner, please take a meal on Thursday to at least try and taste or we will struggle to fund the meals if you later choose to take one.

The menu for census day is a choice between Beef Burger or Quorn Nuggets and many of our non specialist diet children happily refer to the nuggets as 'Chicken Nuggets' because they like the taste and do not recognise the difference.

WELL DONE TO OUR NEW RECEPTION CHILDREN.

Our new Reception children have very successfully completed their first full week at school. They have settled into school life so well and have had many experiences already.

On Thursday there was the sound of complete joy coming from the hall as the children had great fun trying out some parachute games and throughout the week, the children have been creating their self-portraits.



HELP PLEASE!



At the end of the day, we try to match children as quickly as possible to their collecting adult. We thank you all for wearing face masks, but to help us to match our children to their adult, please can we ask that on sunny days hats and sunglasses are removed when waiting for your child to come out, so that the teachers can recognise people more easily. On a rainy day, please can we ask that hoods are lowered for the same reason, even if just briefly.

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. If you have not yet completed it, please use the link or QR code below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rsrcEDy7k0GYx5qZ-0TUUEAyICEaubZFjiM5I701mAxUOTVFNFVLUzE0N0s5SUo1VExlN0ZSRllxVyQlQCN0PWcu>



PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT (PPG)

If you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed below the school can receive a Pupil Premium Grant to support your child's education.

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

This gives the school extra funds to support your children if you meet the criteria.

Once a child is identified as receiving the PPG we will work with parents or carers alongside the child to look at the individual child's needs and invite parents or carers in termly to co-produce a plan to support them.

If you feel you will meet this criteria the form can be completed online via:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/free-school-meals-online-application-form/?formcheck=checked>

Alternatively it can be completed by:

- printing out the Funding Form from the link below and emailing to fsm@westsussex.gov.uk;
- printing and completing the form below and give to the School Office who will email off for you;
- posting to West Sussex County Council, Free School Meals, Pupil Support, 2nd Floor, The Grange, County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RG.

THANK YOU!

We wanted to express our gratitude to Toni, the Cultivation Street Ambassador from Haskins Garden Centre, who has worked on behalf of Haskins to generously donate many things to our nursery. We have been given plants, compost, bark chippings, stones and much, much more.

Crawley Garden Centre have also been generous with their donations for Reception and the outside area is now full of colour.

All of the donations have been put to good use in making the school environment look lovely, whilst bringing a sensory feel to our outdoor learning areas.



CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking to increase our selection of small world toys for the whole school. If you happen to be having a clear out and you have some small world that you no longer need, please will you consider donating it to us, as long as it is in good and safe condition. If you have any of the following, please send in a photograph to head@brookinfant.school so we can ensure it is what we need.



The list below is merely a guide and we will be adding to it, so if you have other things, please get in touch also. We are currently looking for:

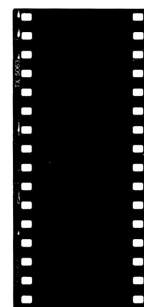
- Small world animals.
- Small world people, such as hand size dolls and Lego figures.
- Doll clothes, ranging from Barbie clothes and accessories to life size baby doll clothes.
- Any cuddly woodland creatures in great condition.
- Cars and other vehicles.

These items do need to be in good condition. Under Covid19 restrictions, we will wash and sanitise any donations that are brought in.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS AND CHRISTMAS

At this early stage, we simply wanted to flag to you all that we are clearly having to rethink many normal parts of the school year, such as parent consultations and Christmas performances.

We simply wanted to say, do not worry, these things will happen, but they will happen in a very different way. Parent consultations will potentially happen via Microsoft Team meetings or telephone conversations. Our Christmas Extravaganza will have to be created in a very different way and will potentially come out to all families as a recorded film. In true Brookie style, there will of course be dancing and this may well become a feature length film!



We are currently making plans and will keep you all fully informed when we have final solutions.

LAYERS ... LAYERS ... LAYERS!

Today has been our first idea of how cold the building will get during the autumn and winter months. The staff have all been freezing, even though they are wrapped up in our warm school fleeces. Some of our children have been cold, mainly because the temperatures have so suddenly changed.

Please can I remind everyone that all children (and staff) need layers so that we have options available if we get hot, but also so that we are not too cold at any point. All children must from now on always have a jumper and coat in school. Please also remember that girls as well as boys can wear trousers, but if in a skirt, tights might be needed now.

A hot lunch might also help to keep the children warm, so do remember these are available to you all.

Staff might take their inspiration from Joey off of the show Friends!



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

