

parents newsletter



19th December 2014

Dear Parents

Seasonal excitement is upon us once again and our children have been taking part in a range of Christmas Workshops making decorations with woodland materials and creating their own mud recipes for Christmas mud puddings decorated with moss, twigs, leaves and anything else they collected outdoors (definitely not one for the Great British Bakeoff!).

As 2014 draws to a close I would also like to take a moment to reflect on some of the exciting things we have achieved this year at Brooklands from the continued development of our outdoor area with the redevelopment of the Early Years garden; planting of a new butterfly garden and the building of imaginative role play dens in our geology garden. We have also seen the installation of super fast broadband and new Interactive Whiteboards in all classrooms as well as 60 new LearnPads, not forgetting significant changes in the new curriculum in addition to the way we are now assessing our children's progress.

Wishing you all a good holiday filled with festive fun.

At the Beach!

In response to feedback received in our Parent Questionnaires we are looking into the possibility of becoming a Beach School. Being located close to the coast we have taken on board your suggestions and are exploring ways in which we might be able to use our beaches as an educational resource for our children. This might include activities such as games, creating sculptures, building shelters and discovering marine life.

Going for Green

Keep your eyes open for a flash of green as I issue 184 Going for Green letters to all our children who have shown outstanding behaviour over the last half term.

Going for Green letters are much celebrated milestones in your children's progress through the school and are always received with excitement and I hope you will share in recognising their significance.

Hanukah

An interesting feature of each half-term at Brooklands has been welcoming a visitor from a different faith to tell us about their beliefs and experiences. This helps develop our children's respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs in addition to providing first hand experience of other people's perspectives. This half-term we welcomed a representative from the Jewish faith and our children had the chance to learn about and discuss Hanukah.

Attendance Certificates

At the end of this term I will be awarding 77 certificates for outstanding attendance between September and December 2014.

Congratulations to all those who have achieved 100% attendance this term. I am delighted to be issuing so many certificates in recognition of this achievement.

We understand that sometimes children need to attend medical appointments but ask that where possible these are arranged during the school holidays or after school. We know that regular and consistent attendance makes such a difference to our children's learning.

Vision and Values

Much is talked about vision and values but here at Brooklands our values are at the "HEART" of everything we do.

I am attaching a postcard sharing Brooklands vision and values with you. My hope is that you will pin it somewhere in view for you and your children to see and chat about.

We have **high expectations** for all our children and want them to **enjoy** learning and **aspire** to be the best they can be. We want them to develop and promote **respect** for themselves and others whilst enabling them to have the confidence to challenge themselves and **try new things**.