

# parents newsletter



24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents

To kick off the festive fun Team Brooklands will be taking part in an inflatable 5k Santa Run. 15 of us will be pitting our wits against ten giant inflatable obstacles that will let us flip, bounce and boing our way around a 5k course in Santa outfits! Sounds crazy? It will be. I have also been reliably informed by the "Big Man" himself that Elf on the Shelf will be returning to Brooklands again this year, reporting back regularly to Santa's workshop headquarters. Last year he had staff and children giggling with excitement with his elfish shenanigans. Santa will also be leaving a collection of parcels under the tree as we countdown to Christmas with the children unwrapping Christmas books. Seasonal treats to look out for include: 'Rudey's Windy Christmas', 'Nuddy Ned's Christmas' and 'The Sheep that Saved Christmas'. There will be tinsel bombing, giving Brooklands a tinsel make over not forgetting the often hilarious staff secret santa. Lots of fun and laughter has been ordered and delivery is imminent!

Kind Regards  
**Christine Davy**  
Headteacher

## Anti-Bullying Week

Thank you to everyone for helping to make our Anti-Bullying Week a great success. The leadership team at Brooklands was heartened by their review of data of how effectively bullying is being managed in the school and I thought I would share some of the data with you from a recent external adviser who interviewed 8 children who had expressed bullying concerns. 7 out of 8 children said the bullying was quickly responded to and was taken very seriously. All of the children interviewed felt that the school's response had helped to sort out their issues and 7 out of 8 of the children felt confident that they could talk to a trusted adult in school if further bullying occurred. One child preferred to talk to their parent in the first instance.

## The Spark To Ignite Imagination

Strong correlations exist between parents reading at home and the frequency with which children read (Scholastic, 2013). For example, among children who are frequent readers, 57% of parents set aside time each day for their children to read with them compared to 16% of children who don't read regularly with their parents. Simply by keeping books in your home, reading yourself and setting aside daily time for you to share reading with your children has enormous impact on their enjoyment of reading. In response to this and your feedback, I will be reigniting the reading at home spark with a new reward system. Watch this space for details coming soon.

## Absence

We are required by the local authority to analyse attendance information. Managing student absence can be a challenging part of my role as a Headteacher.

Please be aware that merely providing an explanation for your child's absence does not automatically constitute an 'authorisation' for this absence. Authorising any absence is a decision that I have to take in line with strict guidelines and these can often appear strict and inflexible.

## Brooklands Young Explorers

Many of you will have noticed the building work taking place next to the school in and around the bungalow. I am delighted to see this building being given a new and exciting lease of life as the home to Brooklands Young Explorers (BYE). Suffolk County Council have signed over the building to BYE for pre-school provision.

Graded "outstanding" by Ofsted in October 2016, the pre-school will continue to use Brooklands' grounds to support their children's transition into school making the most of our fabulous woodland, library, hall and outdoor space. BYE will continue to offer wrap round provision offering care from 7.30am to 6.30pm including breakfast and afterschool clubs.

## Lunch Times Go Swimingly!

Britain's Olympic success might be seen as a hard act to follow for the Ipswich-trained paralympian Ryan Crouch but Brooklands is rising to the challenge!

Ryan inspired our children in the summer term when he shared with us his own sporting successes including competing at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio. More recently, Ryan has been involved in the Invictus Games supporting servicemen and women.

We are delighted to welcome Ryan to team Brooklands to support us at lunch times.

