

parents newsletter



9th February 2018

Dear Parents

You will see a theme running through this week's newsletter all about an important but often ignored skill - Respect. Respect is a core value for all of us at Brooklands. So much so that it is included in the "HEART" of our school's values.

Mutual respect, manners and courtesy are a fundamental triangle in our communication and a building block for developing strong relationships throughout our lives. When a person shows respect for someone it helps our young children to learn appropriate, polite and considerate behaviour enabling them to form good manners and become more socially attentive as they get older, building strong friendships and ultimately helping them succeed. This sounds like common sense, but the power of a simple "please", "thank you" or "good morning" are behaviours we learn early in our lives from all those around us and we will be placing a spotlight on "respect" in school over the coming weeks. So whether it's an interview for a job or meeting prospective in-laws the outcome will be influenced by the model behaviour our children are seeing around them today.

Christine Davy
Headteacher

Training a Muscle and Igniting a Passion

As older children's lives become increasingly digital, books and reading compete with the compelling lure of social media and sport. Scheduling reading time into children's busy days, even if it is just a short session encourages the habit of reading and opens up a window far beyond the temporary draw of social media. Alan Bennett described reading as "being like a muscle that has to be trained and developed" and with practice, opens up with ease a whole new world of wonder and discovery.

Home School Agreement

This week I am accompanying the newsletter with our Home School Agreement which explains how we can all work together to help our children.

What to do if Your Child Can't Come In

If your child is absent from school please inform the school office directly by 8.55am on your child's first day of absence. Please do not use ClassDojo or inform your class teacher as we may not be able to pick this up in time. We have strict rules that we have to follow for absence and if we do not hear from you we are duty bound to phone your contact numbers and if we do not hear from you this could lead to an unnecessary home visit by our staff, our Education Welfare Officer or even the police.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week the children have been thinking about the many ways that we are all similar but also considering how every person has their own unique strengths and qualities.

Children were reminded that if they struggle to find things about themselves that they like or they are worried that they don't have anyone to talk to, they can tell a trusted adult at school who can talk to them about this.

Safer Internet Day

Brooklands celebrated Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6th February 2018 with the slogan "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you".

Safer Internet Day is a fantastic opportunity to have a conversation with children about using the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

This year, the UK Safer Internet Centre (www.saferinternet.com) has produced a range of resources including conversation starters to help parents get involved.

Pond

Brooklands Friends and Family (BFF) are supporting the rejuvenation of the school pond area. The pond, within the school grounds, is one of our amazing learning resources that brings delight and learning each year for our children. The pond provides a home for frogs, toads, dragonflies, pondskaters and much more and also features on the '50 things to do before you leave Brooklands'.

If you are able to volunteer at school events and support BFF Maxine Milton (BFF Chair) would be delighted to hear from you.

Limited Edition Badges

Look out for badges on Student Story for children who have 'stayed in green' this half-term and share your pride and excitement for their achievement.