

parents newsletter



12th March 2018

Dear Parents

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is supporting and developing my team here at Brooklands, helping them grow and develop into leaders and subject specialists. A huge strength of Team Brooklands is how we work to support and encourage each other as well as get enthused and excited about trying new things. Our new leaders learn from those more experienced and this in turn creates a wonderfully positive environment filled with infectious enthusiasm, energy and passion for their subjects. Lily Loveday has recently taken on leading art at school and we are already seeing the impact this is having as the whole school is embracing the many aspects of this skill. Next time you are in school I encourage you to look at some of the marvellous art displays of children's work throughout the school, showing their progress. Rhian Brighton has recently taken on science and is leading the rejuvenation of our pond area whilst Charlie Goddard and Harry Legg are due to start their Forest Leader training next week.

Christine Davy
Headteacher

Development Through Collaboration

Our teachers have recently been working with teachers from schools within the Orwell Multi Academy Trust to familiarise themselves with the new end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 writing assessments. This provided an opportunity for our teachers to moderate their judgements with other teachers.

The Power of an Hour

Based on a huge body of evidence, the UK chief medical officer recommends that all children should engage in moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day and 30 minutes of this hour should be delivered in school every day, with the remaining 30 minutes supported by parents outside of school time.

Brooklands does a lot to encourage our children to be active every day and we offer an average of two hours of PE or other physical activities per week. We also encourage active lunch times through a range of activities delivered by sports coaches, we have active lessons and offer a large range of extra-curricular clubs. The benefits of getting active are enormous and exercising with your children can be great fun.

Specialist Leader of Education

Congratulations to Lara Fiddaman who has just become a Specialist Leader in Education (SLE). Based on her successful track record and experience Lara has been awarded this high level role which will involve sharing her knowledge and skills to help support leaders in other schools.

Special Educational Needs Policy

Our recently updated Special Educational Needs policy is now available to view on our school website. It details how special educational needs are identified and our graduated approach to supporting children's needs.

Mastering Multiplication

Brooklands places a strong emphasis on our children learning the multiplication tables and this comes ahead of the national roll out of the Multiplication Tables Check for all Year 4 pupils from June 2019. As well as being critical for everyday life, knowledge of multiplication tables helps children to solve problems quickly and flexibly, and allows them to tackle more complex mathematics later on in school.

The "Check" has been introduced to help ensure that children in primary school know their times tables up to 12 off by heart. To help support our children's learning at home Brooklands has purchased Times Tables Rock Stars and I encourage parents to make the most of this effective resource.

Through Kindness we Accomplish

One of Brooklands values at the HEART of our school's ethos is **respect** and understanding of ourselves and others. Manners and courtesy are sometimes an overlooked life skill but a very important one, which is why over the coming weeks we will be taking some time to focus on how we use kind words and actions around school beginning with how we greet people and communicate with respect. Modelling politeness and courtesy to our children, encouraging them to using phrases like "good morning", "thank you" or "excuse me" for example, are important social skills and we hope that you will help us by encouraging these behaviours throughout the day.