

parents newsletter



24th September 2018

Dear Parents

I can hardly believe that Mike and I have been steering Brooklands for more than 5 years now. How time flies! During this time we have introduced many initiatives and improvements becoming the first Beach School in Suffolk, having our own woodland and habitat area on site, expanding all the fantastic work we do around learning outdoors and in. Expanding our technology and so much more. In turn we have seen our Early Years outcomes for children rise significantly from 57% in 2014 to 80% in 2018 and in phonics from 62% in 2013 to 90% in 2018. Brooklands has become a beacon to others for our outstanding teaching capability and innovative approaches to successful teaching in an environment that is becoming challenged more than ever before. Many of our achievements are recognised on the walls in the school's reception area where you will see our expanding collection of awards. However, when so much has happened we can sometimes forget to pause and recognise how much has been done and what we are continuing to do every day, making Brooklands a special and unique school for all our children.

Welcome everyone to a new academic year at Brooklands and here's to this year's goals and achievements both small and large.

Best wishes

Christine Davy
Headteacher

Making Reading Engaging

Following the successful implementation of Accelerated Reader (AR) in Key Stage 2 we are extending its use into Year 1 and Year 2 this year. All of our library books have now been organised by AR banding and children have recently been assessed in line with the programme and are starting to choose their books to bring home and read.

AR is a computer based system that helps teachers manage and monitor children's reading practice. Your child is able to choose books at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz in school about the book they have read. Each quiz is designed to assess their understanding of what they have read and enables teachers to discuss and feedback with each child on their reading practice.

This approach has been found to be very effective in helping children engage with reading and with your help at home, supporting and encouraging your child to read, is extremely effective.

Deputy Headteacher

Congratulations to Megan Glazin in her new role as Deputy Headteacher along side Mike Waddell. Although the school's leadership team has reduced in number I am delighted to have such a strong team working alongside me.

Talented Teachers & New Faces

We are delighted to be joined this year by Melissa Payne, Jasmin Clarke and Grace Glanville, all of whom come with a range of unique skills and talents. Over the coming weeks you will be getting to know them a little more.

Also joining us this year, we welcome the new faces of Jeff Farr, Katie Turner, Holly Milgate and Lucy Roper who will be supporting our children's learning.

Flow of Communication

I am attaching to the newsletter this week, our communication flowchart which helps to detail who to talk to if you have any concerns. In nearly all cases, your class teacher is the best person to contact initially to if you have any concerns or questions.

OMAT Spotlight

Across all schools in the Trust catering services changed to Chartwells from the beginning of this term. We have been very impressed with the range of freshly prepared, attractively presented, great tasting food that is being served each day.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Head of Kitchen, Fran Deer and commend her and her team on their rapport and attention with the children during service each day.

There is one problem, however, I am now having to work harder at the gym!