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Broomlands Primary School
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October Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

Staffing

We are delighted to tell you that following recent interviews we have appointed Miss Bays for the post of Support for Learning Teacher. She is very experienced in this area and will join the team after the October break. Mrs Anderson has been successful in being appointed as the Senior Early Years Officer in the nursery hub. Her current post of Early Years Officer is being advertised with interviews taking place after the October break. Once a candidate has been recommended we will share this with you. We also welcome Mrs Abbott, Mrs Renton and Mrs Laing on a permanent basis who will join the nursery after the October break as Early Years Practitioners. We are extremely thankful to Mrs Pennington for covering since the summer. We hope that we will get the opportunity to work with her again.

Nursery

As you may be aware Broomlands was chosen to become the Early Learning and Childcare Hub for Kelso from this session. This means our provision will operate from 8am to 6pm daily including In-Service days and school holidays. The nursery will be closed for 2 weeks over the Christmas period as well as May Bank holiday and St Andrew's Day holiday. Children living in the Kelso and many of the surrounding areas have the opportunity to access 1140 hours of care from the hub and are also able to purchase additional hours. Children attending over a lunchtime will also be given a hot meal cooked in the school kitchen.

We are delighted at the way the new nursery team has worked together to make improvements to the setting enabling it to run as a hub nursery. It is hard to believe that the staff have only worked together for 7 weeks when you see the relationships in action in the playroom.

Absence, Attendance and Punctuality

It is important that your child arrives at school on time to ensure they do not miss important information and instructions. Any child arriving after the classroom door has closed will be marked as late. If your child is absent please contact the school office by 9.00am. If we have not been informed of an absence the office will send a Groupcall to ascertain the reason for absence. If we do not get a response to the Groupcall we will then contact emergency contacts. If we are still unable to establish a reason for the absence we would have to contact partner agencies such as Social Work and Police. This procedure is in place in all Borders schools and is to ensure the safety of our pupils.

We constantly monitor attendance and punctuality as this has an impact on pupils' learning, attainment and achievements. Parents/Carers whose children's attendance or punctuality falls below Scottish Borders Council accepted level of 95% will receive a letter to inform them of their attendance level, which will continue to be monitored and if concerns continue the matter could be passed on to the Children's Reporter. Please contact the school at any time if you need support with punctuality or attendance for your child.

Please make dental and doctor's appointments out with school time whenever possible. If you do have to take your children out of school for an appointment please send a letter, in advance, to their class teacher.

Children arriving at school after the bell should report to the office to sign in. All children being collected from school during the day for appointments should be collected from the main reception. They should sign out in the pupil book and back in again if returning.

School Improvement Report & Plan

In line with the improvement shared with you in the September newsletter this term staff have been analysing and using reading data to improve teaching and learning experiences for the children. The staff in early level are currently being trained in Emergent Literacy and have started to introduce this in the classrooms.

Planetarium Visit

On Thursday 3rd October some of our classes had the opportunity to visit a Planetarium workshop held in a dome which filled the school gym hall. The children had a wonderful time learning about planets and space. This experience was funded by the school.

P7 Residential

It was an honour and privilege to take our whole Primary 7 class to Hexham on the annual residential. They worked really hard to achieve personal goals and overcome challenges. Many thanks to the staff who gave up much of their own time to make this possible. We are sure that these memories will stay with the children for many years. We are still at the early stages of planning 2020 residential for current P6 pupils but if you would like to set up a savings plan please contact the office for more information.

Harvest Assembly

We will be holding our annual Harvest Assembly on Wednesday 9th October. A letter has already been sent home via e-mail with a list of food that can be donated.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Wednesday 23rd October to take individual and family photographs. Due to the increase in school roll it will only be possible to take photographs of nursery and school children.

If you are able to volunteer to help on this day by collecting children from classes please contact the school office.

Change of clothes

It would be helpful if pupils in the infant classes have spare clothing in their school bag which they can change into if their school clothes get wet due to them falling in the playground or accidents. (pants, socks, joggers etc). If anyone has any excess girls and boys underwear we would appreciate it for spares to use in school.

Fruit tuck shop

Fruit shop continues to be very popular. Please ensure that your child brings their money in a named purse.

Parental helpers

We are always looking for volunteers to become involved to support learning at Broomlands Primary School. If you have any time to do this, either on a regular or less frequent basis, please let us know. We know there are a lot of valuable skills amongst you all that we may be able to tap into. A letter will be sent home in the first week after the holidays. If you or family members are able to help please return the completed form.

Peanut allergy

We would politely ask that children do not bring foods containing peanuts in their snack/lunch boxes. This year we have children in school with severe allergies and your co-operation would be really appreciated in ensuring their safety.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council event will be the Halloween Disco – watch out more information.

Charity Begins at Home

Every class has now spent the £150 they were allocated from the £1500 donation received from Charity Begins at Home in June. The children are very excited about their new books and this supports actions detailed on the School Improvement Plan in relation to raising attainment in reading.

We would like to encourage you to visit the shop and have a look at the stock that they have. There are currently lots of children's clothes, several which are designer and labelled brands. We have also been informed that they have a very healthy stock of children's books. All the items in the shop are good quality and excellently priced.

Eco Committee

The new Eco-committee of 2019/2020 has already been busy! Last year's committee got in touch with charities who recycled specific items. All the resources have arrived and we are pleased to announce that Broomlands Primary School is now a recycling centre for the following items:

Crisp packets - there are 2 designated bins in the playground specifically for crisp packets. Terracycle will collect these from the school to be recycled.

Dental products - we have teamed up with NHS Childsmile to recycle toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and any packaging. There is a box in the entrance hall of the school and a box upstairs. Please send your child in with any of the used products on the sheet attached to the newsletter.

Batteries - please also send in any used batteries and we will arrange for them to be collected and recycled. There is a box at the entrance and a box upstairs.

Let's all do our part in conserving our world!

Thank you.

Broomlands Eco-committee

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Matthews

Mrs Michelle Matthews
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Below is a list of dates for the coming term. I am sure there will be more put in the diary as the term progresses and I will update you on this when necessary. Details of any relevant dates below will be published nearer the time.

7 th October	P5 workshop with Kelso Music Society
7 th October	P5 Rugby Festival
7 th October	P7 Hockey Festival
7 th October	New P1 Parents' Evening at 6pm
9 th October	Harvest Assembly
10 th October	School closes for October holidays
21 st October	In-Service Training
23 rd October	Photographer in school to take individual and family photographs
28 th October	P5 workshop with Kelso Music Society
4 th November	Parents' Evening – information to follow
6 th November	Parents' Evening – information to follow
7 th November	In-Service Day
8 th November	In-Service Day

Achievement Assemblies		
4 th December	29 th January	18 th March
6 th May	17 th June	