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Broomlands Primary School  
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## January Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

This is my first newsletter as Head Teacher here at Broomlands. Can I say what a warm welcome I have received from staff and children, even in the midst of the Christmas madness! I was so proud of the children who delivered such a great pantomime, bringing the story of Hansel and Gretel to life for us with great humour and energy! And, boy can they sing! It was also a pleasure to be part of the church service, the various parties and the carol singing in the playground.

Similarly, those with children in our nursery were treated to a super show as our youngest learners entertained with their brilliant Christmas show. They were just terrific in their singing, reading and enthusiasm. What a great group of children they are.

I hope everyone enjoyed a restful break over the Christmas period and that the children are all in good fettle and ready for a busy term ahead. We have lots planned and to help take their learning forward. As a staff we will be looking closely at how we work effectively and efficiently, planning for high quality learning. My first job is to hear from all our staff and support them to be the very best they can be for our children here at Broomlands. We will be looking closely at how we plan, particularly how we can help staff give their energy to delivering creative, engaging and exciting learning experiences that inspire curiosity and help children develop skills for life. I have been so encouraged by the quality of teaching and learning that I have had the chance to see so far.

We have a busy term ahead and appreciate all the support we get from families. We couldn't do what we do without that support. Thank you.

### **Staffing**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Simpson to our Nursery Hub. Mrs Simpson is a very experienced Nursery Practitioner and we look forward to working with her and getting to know her in the coming weeks.

### **Head Teacher Awards**

The following young people have been sent to me for all the right reasons:

Jack Wright (P7) – for demonstrating excellent behaviour in school. Keep it up!

Kenny Thomas (P5) – for a brilliantly written persuasive letter. Excellent!

Nicholas Harrison (P3) – for a super story all about pirates in space! Well done Nicholas!

Dale Scott (P5) – for brilliant support work in PE – he carried out the instructions perfectly.

### **Attendance**

We continue to strive for full attendance at school wherever possible. If your child is unwell and unable to come to school, please do remember to keep us informed so we know you and your child are safe and will be back with us soon. The easiest and quickest way to keep in touch is by using the Xpressions App that was launched in November – more details at end of newsletter.

## **School Lunches**

Parents need to order school lunches online at ParentPay. Meals can be ordered weekly, monthly or up to a term at a time. If you order weekly can we please ask that you do it at the weekend in order to save admin time on a Monday morning.

## **Changeable Weather & Playground**

We are now well into the time of year that has changeable weather so please ensure your child brings a coat to school with them. Where possible we like the children to still get out and play even when it's raining but we can only do that if they have a coat on. Please also remember that playground supervision begins at 8.30am. Children dropped off before that time cannot be supervised, unfortunately.

## **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.

Please do NOT send birthday cakes in to school as some children may have allergies, which mean they cannot eat certain foodstuffs. We celebrate birthdays in class by singing and the birthday child talking and sharing his/her news with the group. This also ensures that all children are treated the same.

## **Cash for Kids**

P3/4 pupils baked and sold cakes in aid of Radio Borders "Cash for Kids". They raised £91.12 which was used to help families across the Scottish Borders and North Northumberland have a Happy Christmas. In total 1700 children received a large sack full of gifts and in total £109,000 was raised which P3/4 contributed to.

A huge THANK YOU and a very Happy New Year from all at Radio Borders.

## **Church Collection**

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection at the Christmas church service in aid of Cancer Research. £150.06 was raised.

## **Healthy Tuck Shop**

Through the Parent Council a group of volunteer parents prepare a healthy snack for pupils. This is very much appreciated by the staff and pupils alike. The cost of the snack is only 20p which provides great value for money. Please send money on the day. Tuck shop starts again on Friday 17th January.

## **Civic week.**

It is that time of year again when we start to look ahead and plan for Kelso Civic week. This week Primary 7 girls have been invited to apply for the position of Lady Bussers, the presentation and elections will take place at the beginning of February.

## **Re-awarded Cycle Friendly Award**

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in our re-application to Cycle Scotland and have been awarded Cycle Friendly Award.

## **Parking**

You may have noticed that the little people "Caz & Gaz" are back on the roadside to remind people about safe parking around the school. Please can we remind you to park considerately and safely and only use the turning circle for its intended purpose.

## **Parent Council**

Thank you very much to our dedicated Parent Council who organised the Christmas Fair in December raising a fantastic total of £1900. Funds this year will continue to support school trips as well as replacing and renewing reading books/materials throughout the school.

The next Parent Council meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the school.

Yours faithfully,

*Adam Lindsay*

Mr Adam Lindsay  
Interim 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.

20 <sup>th</sup> January	P4/5 and P5 visit to Kelso Old Parish Church
24 <sup>th</sup> January	P1 assembly at 9.15am
24 <sup>th</sup> January	P7 Curling at Border Ice Rink
31 <sup>st</sup> January	P7 Curling at Border Ice Rink
5 <sup>th</sup> February	P5 Café for Parents
7 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 Curling at Border Ice Rink
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Lady Busser Elections – to be confirmed
13 <sup>th</sup> February	P4/5 Class assembly at 9.15am
14 <sup>th</sup> February	In Service Day - Nursery open for pupils using 50 week service
17 <sup>th</sup> February	HOLIDAY – Nursery open for pupils using 50 week service
18 <sup>th</sup> February	HOLIDAY – Nursery open for pupils using 50 week service
19 <sup>th</sup> February	HOLIDAY – Nursery open for pupils using 50 week service
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Swimming starts for P4/5, P5 and P6
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Swimming starts for P3 in P2/3 and P3/4

Achievement Assemblies		
29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2020

# Groupcall Xpressions App

## View your child's information on your mobile phone!

An exciting new service is now available for parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. **Groupcall Xpressions** is a service created by the award-winning school communication company Groupcall Limited.

The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices and you'll be able to see information for your children. You can also login on a web browser at <https://xpressions.groupcall.com>

If you have children in different schools and those schools also use **Groupcall Xpressions**, you will be able to view information on multiple children within the same app.

### What do I need to do now?

Please ensure we have your correct mobile number and email address on our school database to ensure you can use the new app as soon as it is available. Forms are available from the school office to check and update your details or simply email them to the school. You'll need to make sure you keep these details up to date in future to maintain access to the service.

### What happens next?

Groupcall have to set up the system in school. Once that is complete you can install the app and login in order to get access to your child's information.

Once installed and set up you will be able to see some or all of the following information depending on the school's system:

- Free messages sent by the school delivered directly to the app
- Updates regarding selected partner systems, used by the school such as homework, lunch topups and survey systems
- Attendance records and absences\*
- Marks and grades\*
- Achievement records\*
- Behaviour events\*
- Timetable\*
- School calendar\*
- Exams Timetable\*



\*Enhanced Service

Groupcall provide a dedicated support website for parents to also help you get up and running with Xpressions, or answer any common questions parents have on using the app:

<http://parents.groupcall.com>

