

Broomlands Primary School



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September/October News

Greetings,

We are now well into the autumn and enjoying some lovely bright days as well as a few rather less pleasant ones! Please remember to send the children with warm clothes!

Children have continued to settle well to the 'new normal'. As school has settled into different routines and timetables they have been adaptable and sensible. We thank them for their responsible response to the current challenges.

We have a small number of important reminders to reiterate:

- **Social distancing** - it is the responsibility of every adult to adhere to social distancing guidelines when collecting children at the end of the day. We know how tempting it is to gather in groups for a chat and catch-up, but please ensure you keep the required distance from one another.
- Guidance remains in place that **parents should not currently be visiting the school**. We are happy to talk over the phone or via email if there is a pressing issue or a concern over a child.
- **Toys and Pencil Cases** – please do refrain from allowing children to bring toys, gadgets and pencil cases in from home. This helps reduce the possibility of any transmission between different places.
- **PE** - pupils should wear their school sweatshirts on PE days over their PE t-shirt.

We will shortly be sending out a little survey to gather your thoughts and comments on how we're doing in the 'new normal'. If you are able, please take a few minutes to feed back to us. It will come in the form of a link to an online form and should take no more than 10 minutes.

Best wishes,

Mr Lindsay

Staff

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Arnold, our Additional Needs Assistant, who is moving on to an exciting new business venture. We thank her for her commitment and contribution to the school in the time she has been with us. She will be a huge miss and we wish her every success in the future. In the short-term we have found suitable ANA cover and hope to have the post filled as soon as possible.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jamieson as a Curriculum Support Teacher. We look forward to working with her and getting to know her in the coming months.

We are currently recruiting for a permanent part-time position to replace Mrs King and will update you as soon as possible with any information about this appointment.

We also have additional hours in our Nursery and will be recruiting these positions in the coming weeks.

Staff have been working hard to develop and deliver a 'Recovery Curriculum', focussing on supporting children to settle back into school life and to ensure they are in a positive, healthy frame of mind to progress their learning. Here at Broomlands we are focussing on:

- *Physical, Mental and Emotional Wellbeing* – good health and wellbeing is fundamental to success.
- *Outdoor Learning* – keeping the children physically active and learning in the natural environment.
- *Learning through Play* – play is the essence of childhood and a key vehicle for learning.
- *Learning experiences* - that support knowledge, skills, enjoyment, relaxation and achievement.

Attendance

We have been pleased with attendance levels since we started back in August. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring children are at school wherever possible. All the evidence is that this is crucial in supporting their progress in learning. We will next review attendance shortly after the October break.

Groupcall Xpressions App

Please see information at the end of this newsletter regarding app for communicating with parents. There is a facility to contact the school regarding absences so that parents don't have to phone the school.

Allergies

A reminder that we have children in school with severe, potentially life-threatening allergies to nuts. Please ensure that packed lunches are nut-free and that snacks don't include nuts either. Thank you.

School Improvement Report and Plan

A full copy of the 2019-20 School Improvement Report is available on the school website. The School Improvement Plan is almost finished and will be submitted to Scottish Borders Council within the next few days. A copy will be added to the website in due course.

Free School Meals and Clothing

Please use the link below to find out more about what is available to you. Scottish Government continues to support free school meals for all P1-3 children. We urge all families who are entitled to register for free school meals as this opens up other support that you may be entitled to.

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20040/clothing_meals_and_transport/480/free_school_meals_and_help_with_schoolwear

Uniform can be ordered from www.border-embroideries.co.uk.

School Lunches

Please order school lunches online via 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. That would be greatly appreciated.

Please only order lunches for your child if they are attending nursery during the October break.

Road Safety


At our recent Parent Council meeting the issue of road safety at the turning circle was discussed. Please drive right round the turning circle, to the far end, to drop off. This prevents a build-up of

traffic behind you, tailing back onto the main road, causing a safety issue for children arriving at school. We appreciate your support with this.

Internet Safety

We recently sent a groupcall reminding our families of the age restrictions on social media platforms. Our experience is that where children have access to inappropriate social media and chat forums it can lead to real difficulties when comments are made or unhelpful things shared. We would ask you to consider very carefully the apps and platforms your children have access to, and to set any privacy settings to the safest levels.

What are the age limits for social media apps?



13 years	14 years	16 years	17 years	18 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitter • Facebook • Instagram • Snapchat • Pinterest • YouTube (with parental consent) • Google + • Tumblr • Raddit • Ask FTI • Muscally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LinkedIn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatsapp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path • Blender • Tinder (13 years with parental consent) • Youtube • Keek • Foursquare • WeChat • Kik • Flickr

Flu Vaccinations

A quick reminder that flu vaccinations will take place in school on Tuesday 6th October.

October Break

The school closes on Friday 9th October at 12.30pm and resumes on Tuesday 20th October at 8.45am.

Holidays

A reminder that information about school holidays is available on the SBC website at: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20009/schools_and_learning/621/term_holiday_and_closure_dates/2

Games/jigsaws

We are always looking for good quality traditional board games or jigsaws for pupils to play with when it is a wet break. If you have any that your children no longer use please leave them next to the letter box at the main door.

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>