

Broomlands Primary School



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November News

Hello everyone,

School continues to keep moving forward in the usual busy ways, despite the obvious challenges. I hope you have been able to access some of the virtual tours, assemblies and other videos showcasing learning and have enjoyed a sneak peek behind the scenes of life at Broomlands.

As I write this we are approaching Remembrance Day, which we intend to mark with a special live whole school assembly. We will be learning together about the significance of the poppy, observing the silence and listening to the 'Last Post'.

Once again, a huge thanks for your kindness in providing items for the Food Bank along with our Harvest assembly. These have been gratefully collected by Kelso North Church and will support children and families in our local area in the coming months.

Children across school are starting to think about the next 'Building Resilience' strategy, 'Look on the Bright Side'. As things remain as difficult as they are, this seems like excellent timing to support our youngsters to look for the positives,

We have a couple of updates regarding Covid-19:

- **Mask Wearing** – The latest government advice is for adults to wear masks whenever they are within the school grounds. It has been heartening to see so many of you doing this to help keep one another safe. As I commented at the recent Parent Council meeting, the grown-ups are pretty well behaved!
- **Items from home** – just a quick reminder to please keep toys, teddies, and other similar items from home where they belong (at home!) to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

Thank you for the feedback you gave us about engaging with the school. In response to your preferences we are currently planning to offer 10-minute telephone consultations in lieu of our usual parents' evenings, to ensure we keep you up to date with the successes and next steps for your child. More details to follow.

And finally, we are beginning to work on Covid-safe Christmas plans, doing all we can to "Save Christmas". We feel strongly that after everything everyone has been through in recent times we want to do all we can to help the children enjoy as much of the magic and joy of the festive season as we can (but definitely not until well into December!)

Keep safe & be kind,

Mr Lindsay

Staff

We have been pleased to have the services of both Jennifer Fairbairn and Kate Allen on a supply ANA basis to cover the hours left vacant by Mrs Arnold. We are currently negotiating with another local school to secure a long-term replacement and look forward to this being finalised soon.

We were thrilled that Mrs Woodcock performed brilliantly at interview and has secured the permanent part-time position to replace Mrs King. She already knows the P3/4 class inside out and continues to work really hard to support every child within it. Well done Mrs Woodcock.

We have two recommended candidates due to begin work in the Nursery before Christmas and look forward to welcoming them into the school in the coming weeks. We will keep you updated.

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 continued commitment to ensuring children are at school wherever possible.

Late arrival

Please note that, for safety and security, the various gates into school are locked a few minutes after the children head into school. We appreciate that sometimes the morning doesn't quite go to plan and you may be late in dropping off. If this is the case and the gates are locked, please don't worry. Just head to the front entrance and a staff member will see the children safely into school.

Groupcall Xpressions App

Please see information at the end of this newsletter regarding an 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.

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

Nursery and Primary 1 Enrolment

Enrolment for Nursery and Primary 1 will take place in January 2021 – more information to follow.

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 on the In-Service Days (12th & 13th November). If you have already ordered lunches for these days, please cancel them so that you do not get charged.

Curriculum Overviews

Curriculum Overviews for the current term will be available for parents to view on the class pages very shortly. These are also getting emailed to parents/carers. Please take a few minutes to look over them. Thank you.

Road Safety

The majority of people are remembering to drive right round the turning circle, to the far end, to drop off. This is helping to prevent a build-up of traffic behind you, tailing back onto the main road, causing a safety issue for children arriving at school. There may be times it is better to wait in the line and move round before letting children out of the car. If we ask you to move further round, please remember that this is just to keep people safe. We appreciate your ongoing support with this.

A reminder also about crossing with the lollipop ladies wherever possible. Classes have recently been reminded by their class teachers about the importance of careful road crossing, particularly now cars are moving at slower speeds and it can be tempting for children to rush across when it might not be safe to do so.

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

The school will be closed on Thursday 12th November and Friday 13th November for In-service training. The nursery will still be open for pupils who have selected the 50 week pattern.

Cold/Wet weather

Now that the weather is getting colder please send your child to school with appropriate clothing and footwear. It would also be appreciated if pupils in P1-3 kept a change of clothes in their bag in case of any accidents in the playground.

Games/jigsaws

Thank you to those of you who have sent in donations of games, jigsaws, etc. They have been snapped up by the various classes who will make good use of them, particularly as we are entering the 'wet break' season.

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>