

Broomlands Primary School



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December News

Hello everyone,

It has been a busy few weeks since the last newsletter. I am delighted that our Parent Council have worked so hard to support the school via the virtual Christmas Fair. My thanks to everyone who was involved in organising and attending this event. At the last count they had raised over £800 for the school, which is a huge achievement in the current circumstances.

Mrs Anderson would like to say a personal thank you to all the ELC staff that helped with this event. An enormous amount of their own time was spent making the gifts. A huge thank you to you, our wonderful Parents, Carers, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, we raised £468.50 for new equipment for our children.

I hope you were able to have a useful, informative conversation via the recent Parents Evening phone calls. I appreciate it is not quite the same as sitting together and sharing progress face-to-face, but let's hope that by the time the next appointments come around we are all free to meet together once again.

We have been hugely impressed by our P7 year groups' photographic art gallery. Use of their iPad's is teaching them not only how to use image editing tools successfully, but also to find beauty and interest in our familiar school grounds. Thank you to Miss Scott and her artistic eye for this!

Now that the St Andrew's Day public holiday is passed, we are well into the countdown to Christmas. Please see the separate communication detailing all the plans we have for the festive season. The staff are determined to provide the children with as much of the Christmas spirit as possible as we move through December.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our parents, carers and families a very happy and safe Christmas time. 2020 may not have been the year anyone was expecting, but with talk of a vaccine and changes in the rules and regulations, there might just be a sense that there is light at the end of the tunnel. On behalf of all the staff at Broomlands we want to thank you for your continued support of the school, and here's to a new year in which we can all be together again.

Keep safe & have a very happy Christmas,

Mr Lindsay

Staff

We are delighted to have been able to appoint two additional staff members in the nursery. In the coming few weeks we will welcome Leanne Cheyne and Jemma McGarvey to our team. Both ladies come with a breadth and depth of experience to add to our ELC team and we look forward to getting to know them. Leanne will start in December, with Jemma joining us in January.

Our negotiations to take a deployment from another school to fill our vacant Additional Needs Assistant post were unfortunately not successful, however the post of ANA is currently advertised and attracting a lot of interest. We will let you know as soon as an appointment is made. Mrs Allen, Miss Fairbairn and Mrs Pennington continue to fill the role on a temporary basis.

School Lunch and Snack

At the risk of sounding like the Grinch, we have noticed a marked rise in the quantity of sweets being provided for snacks and lunches. We are a health promoting school and would encourage you to consider carefully the contents and quantity of food provided in packed lunches. Thank you.

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 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.

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.

Road Safety

The majority of people continue to drive right round the turning circle, to the far end, to drop off in the morning. 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.

We have recently put a Cycle Safety message out to all classes following concerns raised by local residents. P6 have undertaken Level 2 Bikeability training and were praised for their improvement, attitude and listening skills. Well done to them. A key message is a reminder for children not to overtake cars, even though they are now travelling slower under the new 20mph restrictions. Drivers are liable to lose sight of children in their blind-spot and we are all desperate to avoid any accidents.

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



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>