



Brinkley Grove Newsletter

January 2017



Welcome back to school after what I hope was a fantastic Christmas break. January is a time for looking forward and setting some resolutions. Rather than the traditional ones, such as eating more healthily or getting more exercise, can I suggest that one this year be focused on reading. The amount that a child reads has a direct impact on how well they get on in school as well as helping them to enjoy reading a pursuit on it's own. This resolution need not take huge amounts of time and can actually be very enjoyable; snuggling up with your child to share a book can be one of the great joys of parenting. With this in mind, I encourage you to spend 10 minutes four times a week reading with your child. I know from experience that sometimes hearing your child read can be a challenge, particularly if they are reluctant readers or you have a very busy household. To help overcome some of these barriers, Mrs Patmore and myself are holding a series of workshops to give some suggestions and ideas to help your children succeed and enjoy their journey into reading. If you would like to come along, let the office know or speak to me on the gate.

Darren Smith

Hall for Hire

As a school we are keen to make sure that we make full use of our facilities both during and after the school day. We are happy to hire our school halls / fields to local groups and are actively looking to increase the range of users. If you know anyone looking for a regular place for their group, please get in touch with Miss Dawson in the school office.



Hall Hire

e-safety

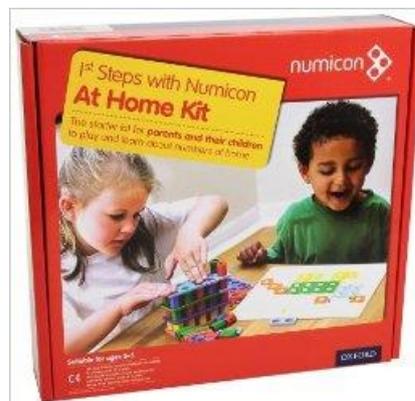
Christmas is a time when many receive new electronic gadgets and devices, from games consoles and mobile phones to laptops and tablets. It is incredibly important that families have checked all the security settings for these new devices and that you are aware of the apps and programs that your children are accessing. Getting these levels of access right for even tech-savvy parents can be a real challenge, especially as children these days seem to have moved on to a new photo sharing / messaging service before parents have fully understood the old one!

In order to help keep families up to date with how to protect your children from stranger danger in the 21st century, we have arranged for two renowned e-safety advisors and ex-police officers to give a talk sharing some of the key issues to be aware of. This will run on **7th March** at **9.00** and we encourage as many parents as possible to attend. Keeping your child safe on line is one of the most important things a parent can do.



Maths at home

We have been using Numicon in school for a year now and it is becoming an essential part of the children's learning. It is very good at helping children to visualise numbers and realise how to manipulate numbers. To take this further, we have a number of Numicon at Home packs that class teachers will be sharing with some children over the coming weeks. If you feel that your child is just starting out on their maths journey and would benefit from some additional resources at home, then speak to your child's class teacher.



PlayPod

Lunchtimes are a vital time in the school day and we work hard to ensure that all children enjoy their meals and their playtime. In order to further improve our offering on the playground we are working with ScrapStore to put in a Play Pod. You may have already seen the shipping container in the corner of the playground which Mr Watts is converting into storage for the new recyclable material that will be arriving later this term. We are making all the arrangements this half term, ready to open the PlayPod on 1st March 2017. In order to help families understand the new arrangements and activities, we will be putting on a session for families on 8th March straight after school. You will be able to see what the children get to do and to find out more about our philosophy of play.

New KS1 Reading Scheme

The children in KS1 were assessed and allocated new reading books before the Christmas holiday.

Can we remind all parents that these books need to be returned to school after your child has read them.

Please make sure your child brings in their books daily. If you have any questions regarding the new books, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Patmore.

Diary Dates

10th – 12th January 2017

17th – 19th January 2017

9th – 20th January 2017

Friday 27th January 2017

Thursday 2nd February 2017

Wednesday 8th February 2017

Thursday 9th February 2017

13th – 17th February 2017

Wednesday 22nd February 2017

27th February – 3rd March 2017

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Thursday 30th March 2017

KS1 Reading Workshops for parents

KS2 Reading Workshops for parents

Year 6 Bikeability

Year 4 trip to Colchester Castle

Year 3 trip to Barleylands

Internet Safety Day Years 5 and 6

KS1 Magic Show 3.15 – 4.15

KS2 Disco 5.30 – 7.00

Half Term

Year 2 trip to Natural History Museum

Opera Brava working with Year 5

Parents' Evenings 3.30pm – 5.30 pm

Parents' Evenings 3.30pm – 7.00 pm