

Brinkley Grove Newsletter

Reaching for excellence, creating understanding and opportunities for all



This month at Brinkley Grove ...

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a wonderful break and got a chance to enjoy some family time together.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all of our new parents whose children have joined Brinkley Grove. We aim to be a very open school and if you have any concerns at all please make sure you speak to your child's class teacher. There are a few changes this year that will have a big impact on what we do: ensuring a practical science curriculum with lots of experimental work; a new approach to teaching reading and writing (with parent workshops coming later this term); a revised system for homework and continuing our work to inspire our pupils to become wonderful readers. Here's to a great year ahead.

BOOK BAGS

As many of you know we have asked for the children to bring in smaller book bags rather than rucksacks this year. We did receive a few comments about how practical this would be in particular circumstances and, of course, there is some flexibility. Children do not need to bring any stationery to school as we provide everything so all that is required to carry to and from school is a reading books and diary / homework book. On days where additional PE kit is needed that can come to school in a small bag in addition to the book bag. This helps to keep everything organised and safe. If a child cycles to school and needs a back pack for safety reasons, please make sure the class teachers knows so that we can store the bag safely. Thank you for your help with this matter.

FRIENDS OF BRINKLEY GROVE

Over the summer holiday FoBG have been busy planning the event for the coming year. First of all there is a Halloween Disco planned for KS1 (3.15 - 4.15) and KS2 (5.30 - 7) on 19th October. Later we have the Christmas Fair on 1st December with a non-uniform day on 24th November where we ask for donations to be made. If you want to volunteer and get involved, please speak to the office.

Homework

Homework, if it is to be productive needs to be well supported both in school and at home. In order to improve how homework functions at Brinkley Grove we have revised our approach. All homework across the school will be issued on a Thursday and will need to be handed in by the next Tuesday. In addition to the maths / English and occasional theme-related homework, it will be expected that all children read 4 times a week to an adult at home with it being recorded in their reading records / homework books. For children in Years 3 - 6 we will be using WorkABooks this year which contain all the homework tasks and will also act as a reading record. Class teachers will sign these each week to say the homework / reading has been checked, but it is not expected that teachers mark the homework. If your child has found a piece of homework a challenge, please make a note in the relevant place and the teacher will arrange some additional support as required. This will be discussed further in the 'meet the teacher' meetings next week.

Parents' Meetings

We have arranged a series of meetings where your child's class teacher will talk through the key parts of your child's new class. It is important to attend so that you know the key information for the coming year as well as getting to 'meet the teacher'. You will also be able to talk informally to the teacher after the meeting if you have any queries. The times are as follows: Tuesday 12th September - 5.00 pm Year 1, 5.20 Year 2, 5.40 Year 3 and Wednesday 13th September - 5.00 pm Year 4, 5.20 Year 5, 5.40 Year 6.



School Uniform

The children have come back to school looking very smart this week, with lots of new shoes. Can I remind all parents that PE kit should be brought into and preferably left in school. For PE children need a white t-shirt, blue shorts and for children in year 2 and above trainers for outdoor PE. A plain tracksuit is also needed when the colder weather is upon us. You can read the full uniform policy on the school website. Thank you for your support.

“Her time at Brinkley Grove has been amazing. I feel that she has had a brilliant start to her education and is well equipped to move forward to secondary school with confidence in her abilities.” Parent 2017

STAFFING UPDATE

We would like to welcome Mrs Wickison as the new Year 1 class teacher, Mrs Evers as school business manager as well as Mrs Jagger, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Gillon, Miss Heron and Mrs Dixon as learning support assistants. We would also like to give our thanks to Mrs Carrigan for all her hard work as she has decided to take on a new challenge.

Diary Dates

Monday 4th September	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 5th September	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 6th September	First day for pupils
Tuesday 12th September	Welcome to Year 1 / 2 / 3 meetings being held at 5.00 / 5.20. / 5.40
Wednesday 13th September	Welcome to Year 4 / 5 / 6 meetings being held at 5.00 / 5.20. / 5.40
Wednesday 4th October	Individual and sibling photos
5th and 6th October	Prayer Space
Tuesday 17th October	Reception Phonics Meeting @ 2.30pm
Thursday 19th October	Halloween Discos @ 3.10 and 5.30pm
23rd - 27th October	Half Term
Monday 30th October	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 8th November	Parents' Meetings
Thursday 9th November	Parents' Meetings
Friday 24th November	Non uniform day
Thursday 30th November	Flu nurse visits
Friday 1st December	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of term
Tuesday 2nd January	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 3rd January	First day for pupils