

# Brinkley Grove Newsletter

Reaching for excellence, creating understanding and opportunities for all



## This month at Brinkley Grove ...

### School attendance is absolutely key to helping a child settle

in to school routines and for them to be able to maximise their life chances. A recently published report from the government shows a clear link between attendance and children's results at the end of primary and secondary school. We take attendance seriously here at Brinkley Grove and ask all parents to phone in when their child is not well. If a child's attendance is at risk of falling below 90% we will be in touch to let you know. This is because once a child's attendance falls below 90% they are considered to be 'persistent absentees'. All parents should also be aware that we work with Attendance Solutions Limited who assist us with monitoring and improving attendance. You can help us by ensuring that your child attends school as much as possible as well as keeping them off school for 48 hours when they have an upset tummy to help prevent spreading any infections. Your support is much appreciated.

### CLASS DOJO MESSAGES

Class Dojo provides a wonderful means for you to communicate with staff and particularly your child's class teacher. We do ask that for important messages to non-classroom staff that you consider email instead of Class Dojo as messages may be missed. We also want to let you know that staff will not respond to messages later in the evening but they will get back to you the next day.



## READ WHILE WATCHING TV

Helping your child learn to read can take many formats such as listening to them at least four times a week and talking to them about what they are reading. However, have you ever considered just turning on the subtitles when you are watching TV? It can make a huge difference as the children are just as drawn to the words whilst they're watching. Give it a try and let us know how you get on.



## Children in Need 2017

Just like last year, we will be marking Children in Need with a cake sale and Pudsey-related clothing on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November. We will be holding a cake sale at break time for all the children and if they would like to buy a cake they will need to bring in no more than 50p. Of course, we also ask for families to contribute a few cupcakes, or more adventurous bakes, so that we have some to sell.

Children will be allowed to wear Children In Need clothing and accessories on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November but it is not a general non-uniform day. There will be no donations needed to wear your Pudsey-fashion.

## Fireworks

Lots of us enjoy firework and as 5<sup>th</sup> November approaches we ask all families to follow the Fireworks Code.

Public displays are a great place to watch, but if you have some at home remember to keep them in closed, non-flammable box out of reach of children, light them at arm's length with a taper, keep a bucket of water nearby and never return to a lit firework.

The fire service also recommends that children under 5 do not have sparklers. Have fun and stay safe.

## Handwriting

Your child may have told you that we have updated the system we use to encourage children to use their best writing in all of their books.



Children will receive a star to place on a book mark when they demonstrate appropriately joined and neat work. Once a child has received ten stars, they will be awarded a pen licence. This system will allow us to be more consistent across classes as well as showing children exactly what it is that they need to do to earn a pen. If you have any queries, speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

**“A truly wonderful teacher, very informative and encouraging to the pupils who keeps parents well informed at all times.” Parent comment from report 2017**

## NEW WEBSITE

We work hard to ensure that we communicate effectively with families and those who are interested in finding out more about our school. To make this even better we are about to relaunch our school website. It has been rebuilt entirely with the help of a local company and will be totally mobile friendly so you can check out dinner menus whilst on the move. We hope you like the new site when it goes live in November and we welcome any feedback you feel would be helpful.

# Diary Dates

Monday 6th November	Year 2 trip to Ipswich Transport Museum
Tuesday 7th November	New Intake Parents' Tour 9.45 - 10.45am
Wednesday 8th November	Parents' Meetings
	Individual and sibling photos
Thursday 9th November	Parents' Meetings
Monday 13th November	Royal Hospital School Visit
Tuesday 14th November	New Intake Parents' Tour 1.45 - 2.45pm
Wednesday 15th November	Year 6 visit to Town Hall for Debate
Thursday 16th November	Children In Need Bake Sale
Friday 17th November	Wear your Children In Need clothing day
Thursday 23rd November	Writing with children workshop 9 - 10am
Friday 24th November	Non uniform day
Tuesday 28th November	Writing with children workshop 2.15-3.10
Thursday 30th November	Flu nurse visits
Friday 1st December	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 6th December	Year 3 / 4 Christmas Production 2 pm
Thursday 7th December	Year 3 / 4 Christmas Production 5 pm
Friday 8th December	Christmas Dinner for all school
	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 11th December	KS1 Nativity 2.15 pm
	Reception Nativity 5 pm
Tuesday 12th December	Reception Nativity 2.15 pm
	KS1 Nativity 5 pm
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of term
Tuesday 2nd January	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 3rd January	First day for pupils