

Brinkley Grove Newsletter

Reaching for excellence, creating understanding and opportunities for all



This month at Brinkley Grove ...

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term. I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed your time together.

It is time for looking back whilst also considering the future and to this end, I'd like to draw parents' attention to the School Performance Tables that are published here: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/131219> It shows that as a school we are certainly moving forward. We are in line with national scores in reading, writing and maths and have closed the gap compared to last year. We continue to work hard to ensure excellent outcomes for all pupils, with regular monitoring and staff training. Here's to an even more successful 2018!

NEW YEAR NEW ELECTRONICS

Christmas is a time when many children receive new electronic items and often these are internet enabled, be it phones, tablet computers or laptops. It is hard for parents and carers to stay informed of the new devices and apps and how best to make sure that their children stay safe. The NSPCC have written a helpful guide for parents on the most popular apps that children use which can be found here: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/#>

We also ask that if you give your child/ren permission to bring a mobile phone to school that it is left in the school office during the day and, if used on the way home, is done so responsibly.

FOODBANK



Due to your generosity, we have been able to donate 185kg of food and £231.15 to the Colchester Foodbank.

These donations came from the collections at the end of the Christmas productions and for the Christmas Jumper Day.

Thank you very much for supporting such an important local charity.



Headlice

As a school, we follow government guidance and do not issue alert letters if headlice are in a class. We do ask that all parents check their children's hair regularly and make sure that if there are signs of headlice that they are treated promptly. As the treatments are fast working, there is no need to keep your child off school.

Online Payments

We want to make it easier for all parents to use the SIMS Agora method to pay for meals and other items so we have reduced the payment limit to £5. This means you can now pay for trips and the occasional school meal online rather than having to pay at the office. We hope that many of you will take advantage and use the online system. Please speak to Mrs Emms in the office if you need any more information.

Sickness Bugs

A reminder to all parents that children should be kept off school for 48 hours if they are suffering from sickness and / or diarrhoea. We have had a number of cases recently and ask that you follow this rule in order to minimise its spread.



Friends of Brinkley Grove

A huge thank you to the Friends of Brinkley Grove for their efforts in putting on a super Christmas Fair. Lots of fun was had by all and it raised over £1600. Thank you for supporting us!

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is a fund that allows the school to support children from families who have modest incomes and gives us the opportunity to support your child even better. We have used the funding to pay for additional teaching time, emotional support, speech therapy and even to help fund trips. If you are on a low income, please speak to the office in confidence and we will check to see if you are eligible. This extra funding can make a real difference to your child.

Fostering

Help Essex County Council build better, brighter futures for hundreds of children across Essex. Foster carers provide loving, safe and stable homes supporting the most vulnerable children in the county to grow in confidence and achieve their potential. Weekly earnings will depend on skills and experience.

Visit the Fostering website or attend a local event to find out more. Alternatively email adoptionandfostering@essex.gov.uk or call the team on 0800 801 530.

APPLYING FOR SCHOOL PLACES

The deadline for Primary School applications for children to start in Reception at a Primary School in September 2018 is 15th January 2018. This is for parents of children born during the period 1st September 2013 to 31st August 2014. Please make sure you apply for a place before this date if you have not already done so.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 2nd January	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 3rd January	First day back for pupils
Thursday 11th January	NSPCC Workshops for year 5
Monday 29th January	Mayor's assembly
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesady 7th February	EYFS / KS1 Magic Show 3.10 - 4.00
Thursday 8th February	KS2 Disco 5.30 - 7
Friday 9th February	Chinese New Year Day for Year 1
12th - 16th February	Half Term
Wednesday 28th March	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 29th March	Parents' Evenings
30th March - 13th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 16th April	First day back for pupils