

parents newsletter



13th July 2023

Dear Parents,

How often do you find yourself focussing on a destination point and forgetting to reflect on the journey?

This September Mike Waddell and I begin our eleventh year together as a leadership team. During these years we have been part of so many improvements to Brooklands from the introduction of Beach School to the curriculum, to the completion of the addition of a new teaching block, working towards, and receiving numerous awards, record high pupil numbers and converting to an academy to name a few. I feel so incredibly fortunate to have had Mike by my side for these years. As we move forward together with strategic plans for Brooklands we are able to provide reassurance, direction and guidance to team Brooklands and recognise the shared benefits that come from this long standing collaborative leadership.

Alongside this, Department for Education figures show teacher vacancies and temporarily filled posts rising again. Across the country we are seeing the impact of staffing challenges within schools. As we move towards the next academic year it is noteworthy for us to share that we are fully staffed with permanently contracted teachers. We are retaining all our teaching staff this year into the new academic year affording us the opportunity to build on our successes and innovate whilst extending our community reach. Not just this, but we will be entering the new academic year with experienced staff which brings me to pass on congratulations to Paige Allen and Kirsty Haddock who have completed their 2 year induction period under the Early Career Framework. We also look forward to welcoming Millie Tudge in September who has also recently completed her induction period. We look forward to supporting and seeing their continued growth and the impact this has on Brooklands.

Christine Davy

OMAT Spotlight

We recently welcomed our new OMAT CEO, Alastair Heath-Robinson to Brooklands. Alastair will be starting his role formerly in September but joined us at Brooklands for a school tour and took time to speak with staff and children.

Alastair was particularly impressed with Brooklands high standards and commented on its intentional leadership and mindful approach to managing teams. He picked up on the way people across the school behave, speak, influence and lead with their values, leadership strategy and the way in which we recognise and respond to pupil's needs.

We were delighted to share Brooklands with Alastair and look forward to seeing him in post soon.

Do You Know Anyone..

... who is looking for a school place. We still have a number of places available. If you know anyone in the local area needing a school place ask them to get in touch.

Needing New Uniform?

New uniform can be purchased online: <https://pmsgschoolwear.co.uk>. Remember that school sweatshirts and cardigans need to display our logo.

How Far Can You Swim?

You may be aware that all schools are required to provide swimming instruction. But you may not know that children are required to be able to do the following:

- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- Use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]
- Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

At Brooklands our Year 5 and Year 6 children swim at Fore Street Swimming Pool, Ipswich and with the active support of our families supporting outside of school activities the majority of our children meet the expected standard. Parents play a vital role in encouraging and helping their child to swim and learn about water safety, survival and lifesaving.

Get Pedalling!

Our Year 5 children have recently completed their Bikeability training. Whether it's supporting your child to learn to ride a bike or riding on roads for a longer distance, the Summer holiday is a great time to develop your child's skills to ride confidently and safely. Dust off those bikes and get pedalling!