

parents newsletter



11th June 2024

Dear Parents,

On Sunday 16th June this year, many families across the UK will be remembering their fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. In some countries, Father's Day has been celebrated as far back as the middle ages but, for us in the UK, it only became an officially recognised day far more recently (1970's).

Positive father figures and their key role in our lives deserves to be celebrated. Fatherhood is very often a journey filled with love, joy, and challenges, and no one understands this better than proud dads. Dads serve as a source of motivation and encouragement but also have a profound impact on their children's lives.

In my day, there were very few dads at the school gates. Fast-forward a few decades and this has changed significantly. We also see high profile and aspirational dads like Chris Hemsworth, Ben Affleck and Hugh Jackman frequently doing the school run.

Brooklands reflects a striking change in the gender mix at the school gates. Dads are as likely to do the school run as their equally busy partners. Very often at the schools I visit the presence of dads is not as distinctive. Whether it's at the school gates, joining us for Learning Together sessions, learning alongside your child, volunteering at Forest School sessions or being there in the audience. These efforts made by dads, reaffirms the significance of their influence on their children's upbringing. So, to all those dads reading this, including my own, Happy Father's Day!

Christine Davy
Headteacher

Making a Sustainable Change

We are pleased to share that our cleaning provider, Accelerate Facilities, will soon be introducing an innovative sustainable range of cleaning products.

OMAT Spotlight

Next week, Trust Professional Development Day will have a special educational needs focus looking at neurodiversity approaches in the classroom.

Sounds Amazing

We are thrilled to have recently installed a new school hall sound system. This technology will enhance school productions and we will be putting the new system to work in our Year 5 and Year 6 children Olympic themed performance coming up in July.

New Record

This year we will be welcoming a record number of new children here at Brooklands. 56 children will be joining our Early Years as a result of our expansion. We look forward to welcoming them all as they begin their learning adventures with us.

Bikeability

Our Year 5 children will be taking part in the Bikeability Programme. With their new skills and understanding of how to cycle on roads and a larger cycle store, we hope this will encourage our older children to get out their bikes and cycle to school.

Fines Are Increasing

Fines for parents taking children out of school without permission (e.g. for term time holidays) will rise across England from September. From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will increase to £80 per parent, per child. Please be aware that these fines and regulations are mandated by the Government. In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Please see reverse for term dates aimed at supporting parents with plans. We encourage you to share these with wider family.

Leading Forest Adventures

A big congratulations to Hannah Brown for successfully passing her Forest School Level 3 qualification.

Millie Tudge will also be starting her level 3 qualification over the summer.