

parents newsletter



17th May 2023

Dear Parents,

With each ending there comes new beginnings. Children move from home to nursery; nursery to primary school; primary to secondary school; secondary to 6th form or college; college to University or the world of work. Each stage brings elements of uncertainty; the evolution or loss of friendships and relationships, different routines, new environments to navigate and for some, from being the oldest in one school to being the youngest in another. With each of these transitions also comes excitement and the promise of new beginnings. Here at Brooklands, we have been expertly managing these changes for years and as we prepare our children starting Early Years in September, we are also preparing our Year 6 children who, after spending 7 years with us, are moving on to secondary school.

For our Year 6 children moving on to high school each year we plan a number of memorable activities, from signing shirts when they leave school, our Year 5 and Year 6 Production, our Summer Musical Festival giving them VIP access and their leavers' party. All these elements have become a rite of passage for our children over the years, as well as our leavers assembly, where we celebrate our children's achievements through prize giving and sharing with them through a video montage, memories of their time at Brooklands.

So over the next few weeks reminisce over how little their hand was when you held it on the first day of reception. Hold that hand again as you walk with them one last time and celebrate those landmark moments past, as well as their next steps as they go on to make a difference in the world, taking a moment along the way to recognise the great job you've done!

Christine Davy
Headteacher

OMAT Spotlight

It is hard to believe that Brooklands has been part of Orwell Multi Academy Trust (Orwell MAT) for five years. During this time the Trust has grown in size, with the addition of Grange Primary School in Felixstowe and Grace Cook in Stowmarket, bringing the total number of primary schools within the Trust to seven.

In September, we look forward to welcoming Alastair Heath-Robinson as the new CEO for Orwell MAT and supporting him as he shapes the next stage in OMAT's development.

The Desert Dilemma!

Brooklands has welcomed a really positive change with our new hot meal provider. Children have commented on how much they have enjoyed the meals. Popular changes include the new salad bar, choice of desserts and familiar favourites from hot dogs to macaroni cheese. Lunchtime Co have also made a positive difference through their vegan and vegetarian menu as well as details of allergens on their menus.

Over the next few weeks we will be carrying out a more detailed survey of the children's views to make further improvements to the menu and service.

Thrilling Adventures

With over 140 acres packed with adventure, PGL, Bawdsey will be an experience our Year 6 children will remember for years to come. In June they will experience their amazing residential enjoying everything, such as shooting and high ropes, led by well trained, enthusiastic instructors.

Planning Your Diaries

Term dates for the next academic year are now available (see reverse) to enable families to plan events to avoid term time absences.

Carefully Planned

In response to increased pupil admissions numbers our youngest classes, as with other schools of a similar number, may move through the school in a mixed-aged class. The structure may change each year depending on numbers. Our class structure will be as follows for 2023/24:

Early Years
Early Years
Year 1
Year 1 and Year 2
Year 2

Families will be notified of their child's class next half-term but please rest assured that our curriculum is carefully planned to ensure children cover everything set out in the National Curriculum.