

# parents newsletter



19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents,

Brantham is enriched by its proximity to the coast and rich historical links to our rivers. Sadly, however, drowning is still one of the most common causes of accidental death in children. This is one of the reasons why learning to swim is an important life-saving skill and you may never know when you need it. Learning to swim allows your child to build their self-confidence, try something new and learn a new skill. It's also a great place to make friends too.

We are also fortunate to have a range of local venues from Alton Water to Constable Park offering water based activities for your children to enjoy.

Our PTA recently hosted a free family swimming event at Leisure World, Colchester funded through their fundraising efforts. Our Year 5 and Year 6 children will be taking part in swimming sessions at Fore Street swimming pool this term. Linked to this, Brooklands is keen to promote our children as positive Difference Makers and support them in promoting the campaign called S.W.i.M (Safe Water in Manningtree). Aimed at getting bathing designation off Manningtree Beach. Campaigners will be coming into Brooklands this term to share what they are doing to promote and activate public engagement in this endeavour. They are also inviting families to join them at a Beach picnic on (May 27<sup>th</sup> from 4.30pm) where there will be live music, children's beach games and a group swim.

I would like to encourage all parents to support their children in learning to swim outside of school as much as possible.

**Christine Davy**

## **Flying a Rainbow Flag**

Brooklands is currently working towards the Rainbow Flag Award. The Rainbow Flag Award focuses on positive LGBT+, (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus other related identities), inclusion and visibility.

Please make a date in your diaries for an upcoming family event – Manningtree Pride. Manningtree's first ever Pride will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> June (12 – 5pm).

## **Charging Trolleys Of The iPad kind!**

We are delighted to have taken delivery of 30 iPads and a secure charging trolley recently in readiness for use in our new teaching block.

## **A Man Ahead Of His Time?**

Ahead of the King's Coronation our children will be learning about King Charles as a Difference Maker. King Charles has often been outspoken about his passions and charity work from architecture to climate change. In this, a historical year, in which our children will get to see his coronation, they will be finding out more about the work that the King has been doing. We also wish to thank Brantham Parish Council who will present each child with a commemorative coin. Brantham Leisure Centre will also be holding events across the weekend (5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May). See their FaceBook page for details.

## **Pick Your Own Toppings**

Following our change to a new school meal provider (Lunchtime Co) our children are already positively commenting on changes from a new salad bar display to yoghurts with pick your own toppings.

## **We Have A Few Places Available**

I am delighted that so many families have been offered a place at Brooklands for September 2023. Over the next few weeks we will be sharing ways parents can support their child's start at school. As a result of increasing our pupil admission number to 45 children we still have a few places for September. If you know anyone moving to the area please ask them to get in touch.

## **We Are Off To The Beach**

Our Early Years children will be experiencing Beach School this term with visits to Manningtree. We are the only school in Suffolk to be recognised as a Beach School which is something we are extremely proud and pleased to be able to offer. Manningtree provides us with great opportunities for roaming, play and exploration. We run activities from paddling to shelter building, beach art to scavenger hunts, foraging and the obligatory wild cooking!