

# parents newsletter



5<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents

As we begin 2018 I have been reflecting on some of the unique and exceptional opportunities we have at Brooklands. For example, the role sports play in both our school day but also in our wider society and the benefits are much more than physical health. Much of young children's learning comes from participating in sports and games, and helps lead to happier, healthier and more productive lives. Through playing sport, children can develop a host of skills and abilities including leadership, teamwork, confidence, self-resilience and critical thinking. Importantly, it is the development of these skills and attributes that when applied in the classroom can lead to academic success and ultimately greater life choices. Brooklands is extremely fortunate to have many staff with sporting talents from marathon runner, Alex Hoskings and Paralympian, Ryan Crouch. Our staff at Brooklands are important role models for our children helping to develop their mindset and attitudes for learning, encouraging them to work hard, try new things and aspire. With talented staff and exceptional facilities at Brooklands, the opportunity to participate in sports provides our children with valuable skills that will take them beyond the field, pitch, and court. Sending my very best wishes to you all and here's to an active 2018!

Christine Davy  
Headteacher

## #NewTeacherRecruitment

Pippa Wake left us in December and we are looking to recruit a permanent replacement teacher from September 2018. The year group that the successful candidate will teach will be determined by their strengths and skills and in order to attract the right candidate we are beginning the recruitment process now. Quality teacher selection can be challenging which is why we will be using social media once again as this has proved very successful in the past and I will keep you informed of progress.

## What The Teachers Did Without The Children

This Wednesday staff had a PD day (Professional Development Day) which they used to develop their skills and receive training focused on supporting our new school leaders. Lily Loveday, leading art and music and Rhian Brighton, leading science across the school did an amazing job and the day was extremely productive. A significant amount of time was also spent focused on how we can monitor the impact of their work in these areas.

## Getting Us Active

We are delighted to have Joshua McLaughlin join Team Brooklands as a sports coach. Josh will be working alongside Haz and Ryan Crouch to make lunchtimes active for all our children. Josh will also be teaching sport across the school and helping to get us all moving and enjoying the benefits of sports and games.

## Broken Weeks

We know from research and experience how irregular school attendance seriously disrupts children's continuity of learning, and can lead to underachievement. Broken attendance can also unsettle friendship groups. Broken attendance may not always appear to be significant but a pattern of absence where a child misses one or two days a week over a period is known as 'Broken Weeks' and when this occurs a process is triggered by the Local Authority.

As a school we work closely with parents and the Education Welfare Officer to avoid 'broken weeks' and the impact this can have on our children.

## Get Inspired

Alexandra Marshall, Director of Engagement at Women in Sport describes how influential women are in the lives of our young girls in encouraging them to become more active. From mums, sisters friends and teachers.

We are seeing this in a small way at Brooklands with increasing numbers of girls joining our football clubs.

Having our football club led by an amazing female role model in Haz is quite unusual and often sparks comment when attending tournaments. The power of having a female coach helps to break down barriers and dispel myths about what a footballer, cricketer or sports person looks like. If you have a child interested in joining football club please contact Haz (07793 971627).