

# parents newsletter



21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents

If you ask most teachers why they go in to teaching they will say it is to make a real difference to children's lives, as well as their own. Many of you will remember from our own school days the impact a great teacher can have on our lives, making learning fun, engaging and building positive memories that last. As a headteacher I was motivated to move into leadership to make a difference beyond my own class and shape learning for the future. I still hold this dear to my heart today and in an ever demanding educational landscape it is important that teachers are encouraged to make a difference outside of their year group from early in their careers. Here at Brooklands we actively encourage and support this which is why for example you see Jasmin Clarke organising our fantastic Spelling Bee and Harry Legg accompanying our Year 5 children to Grafham Water. We want our teachers to thrive on the enjoyment that comes from leading change and shaping those lasting memories for our children.

It is also vital that we support and encourage our children to be changemakers for the future. At Brooklands we see many examples of this every day; children who don't stand back when they see a problem, but instead step in to make a difference. Every child has the potential to become a changemaker if we provide the right experiences, support and encouragement. You too can help, by finding that issue or cause that engages your child and helps them become a difference maker. Joachim in Year 5 inspired the school community with his passion to make to a difference to the environment and as a result Brooklands is now working towards becoming a plastic free school (details to follow). It is inspiring and rewarding to see our children having the confidence and desire to make a difference.

Kind Regards  
**Christine Davy**  
Headteacher

## Inside and Out

Brooklands will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week (4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February) and this year's theme is called "Inside and Out".

When we think about healthy living, we tend to focus on looking after our bodies and our physical wellbeing through food, being active and getting enough sleep, however, in order to be healthy overall, it is equally important that we look after our mental wellbeing too.

With this in mind we would like to hear from anyone who has any suggestions on how we can raise awareness of mental wellbeing.

**Children's  
Mental Health  
Week 2019**

4-10 Feb #ChildrensMentalHealthWeek  
[ChildrensMentalHealthWeek.org.uk](http://ChildrensMentalHealthWeek.org.uk)

## Music Clubs

Run by Holly Millgate, children will be enjoying new music clubs starting this term beginning with a singing club and a recorder club.

## Spelling Challenge

Following on from the success of previous Spelling Bees, Year 6 will be representing Brooklands in East Bergholt High School's Spelling Bee this March. A Spelling Bee involves children competing against other spellers in an exciting challenge to find who is able to spell the most words correctly. Brooklands will be competing against other schools, including Halifax Primary School in Ipswich, who are part of Orwell Multi Academy Trust (OMAT).

Later in June Brooklands will also be hosting its own Spelling Bee involving all year groups as well as this we will also be introducing a Brooklands Spellathon to raise funds for the school. Details to follow.

## OMAT Spotlight

Handford Hall Primary School in Ipswich has been recognised for the outstanding progress its pupils have made. In the recently published primary school league tables Handford performed second place across the whole of Suffolk and first place in Ipswich. The average across 3 years' of progress data also puts Handford at the top of all schools across Suffolk. A huge achievement for the team at Handford.