



Dear Children,

On Thursday we look forward to welcoming you all back to Brooklands. For some of you this will be the first time you have been in school for many months. For others it's only been a few weeks since you were last in school with us. For some of you, you will be full of excitement about the thought of coming back to school. For others, you may feel anxious and concerned or perhaps you feel a mixture of emotions. There's no right or wrong way to feel and each of you will have different thoughts about coming back for the start of a new term.

All the grown-ups in school are looking forward to seeing you all and hearing about your Summer holiday and the special times you have had with your families. Perhaps you went away, or you enjoyed days out.

You will also see some new faces in school when you return. Look out for the many new children and their families we have starting. Perhaps you have someone new in your class. Make them feel welcome as you have always done before. They will welcome your kindness and friendship.

Whilst you have been away from Brooklands, we have been busy making changes around the school. Like we do every Summer holiday, we have had lots of decorating done, like painting and new flooring. See if you can spot where things have changed when you come back to school. We also have lots of new resources for you including new wet play time games like Chess and Draughts and look out for our new 'Raffle' prizes too. I've tried to think very carefully about prizes I know you'd like.

We have also put even more plants around the school. Plants always make me feel calm and relaxed and remind me of outdoors. We are also pleased to share that Forest School visits will be going ahead next term.

Some changes around school might perhaps be ones that you don't even notice like our habitat area on the playground. We've had the stones removed and replaced with bark. I know lots of you used to graze your knees on the playground when these stones used to spill over. Hopefully less grazed knees now 😊

We also have a new bark chip coated pathway at the front of the school. I remember how lots of you used to take this short cut before.

Brooklands also has some changes to help keep you safe because of the virus. All classrooms have new tables with drawers underneath so you can keep equipment like pens and pencils in just for your own use. Year 1 and Year 2 also have new lockers to store their coats and PE kits. The girls changing room in the top area has been changed into a medical room. This means that if anyone has symptoms of the virus they can be looked after in this room safely. Do not worry Year 5 and Year 6, you are also having new lockers soon. Your lockers are being installed towards the end of September. Apologies that this wasn't possible for the start of term, but we hope you understand.

When you come back to school you will be asked to wash or sanitise your hands a lot more often. I think one of the biggest and possibly hardest changes will be that whilst we are all back at school it will be sometime before the whole school is all back together again for things like play times and assemblies. I'll miss this because one of the things I love about Brooklands is just how much the older children support the new children starting school in Early Years. There are also so many things I enjoy when we all come together like Celebration, school productions and sports tournaments that I'll miss. For now though Early Years and Year 1 children will be able to mix, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4. And Year 5 and Year 6 we will be able to mix. Sometimes we'll call these combined year groups 'Bubbles'. These bubbles will share drop off, play times and home time together. They will also eat lunch together and share the same toilets.

During lockdown it was great to see so many of you joining in school events like 'Brooklands Got Talent' and 'Bake Off'. It was great to see you entertaining others. When we come back to school it will be good if you can continue to take part in online events on ClassDojo. Keep your eyes out for lots of new events. Taking part in these events will be an exciting way for you to stay connected with the rest of the school. You can also stay in touch with friends in other Bubbles by commenting on whole school posts on ClassDojo.

Early September, will also see us announce our new Head Boy and Head Girl. Like Maisey and Cameron last year I think our new Head Boy and Head Girl will continue to engage with you lots online.

Thank you for how adaptable you have been over the last few months. You have spent many weeks, away from your friends and your teachers who care so much about each one of you. You have shown huge resilience, strength and empathy. In the new term ahead continue to be that friend, that team member, who is always there to lend a hand. Take time to ask others how they are doing. Be kind to all those around you, and when you look around look for the good.

Keep working hard on your return back to school. Bring enthusiasm and energy to your learning. Push yourself to do your best. One of the first jobs I've asked the teachers to do is to make sure you have new reading books to take home. Try and start to get back in to good habits by reading at home daily. You will spot lots of new books which I've chosen carefully to make sure you all have stories that you enjoy and want to read.

Over the last few months we have also seen wonderful stories of kindness and generosity from you bringing a smile to neighbours and friends by creating rainbow pictures and sticking them in windows, to Year 6 raising a whopping £830 for Cancer Research. One of my hopes moving forward this term is that together we continue to make a difference to our community. Children at Brooklands are great 'Difference Makers'. You always rise to the challenge and go above and beyond, energised by the desire to make a difference. If you have an idea or an act of kindness you think is good, let me know. I'd love to hear them.

I've asked your new teachers to post video messages welcoming you back to school. Look out for them on ClassDojo. I hope that these messages will make you feel a little more settled about returning to school.

When you return to school it is understandable that it might feel a little strange at first. There will be new rules to follow and your classrooms will look different, however, you will soon get used to them and I look forward to seeing our classrooms filled once more with your smiles and your friendships. We will learn and laugh together again. You will continue to support each other in the ways you always have.

Whilst you may have worries, your grown-ups may also have similar worries and it is important to share these with the people around you. Continue to ask the questions that puzzle you and talk honestly about how you feel.

I can't wait to see you all, along with some new faces as we welcome Giraffes, Miss Storey and Miss King to Brooklands.

See you in a few days,

Miss Davy