

# parents newsletter



17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

What a difference a year makes! With the long-awaited end to most of the controls and restrictions that we have all been adhering to over the past months, it's been such a joy to see our community coming together this week.

We have welcomed many new families to the school, some of whom you have already helped to make feel part of Brooklands through conversations at the start and end of the school day. In school it has been great to see our children extending kindness and welcoming new children to their class and our older children supporting those joining us especially all those children starting school for the first time, in Early Years. It has also been lovely to see the whole school back together again this week for playtimes and assemblies and another highlight has been Celebration.

A big congratulations to our new Head Boy and Head Girl Daniel and Rebecca and well done to this year's Team Captains. Congratulations too to our first Raffle winner of the year Arabella.

Over the next few months we look forward to welcoming you in to school again and hearing the rapturous applause of proud parents clapping, learning together and the laughter enjoyed over school lunches. Teachers have shared with their classes a little more detail about exciting events that they will be taking part in this term including up and coming trips, school productions and thrilling sports tournaments. It definitely feels like a celebration of togetherness.

Welcome everyone to the new term at Brooklands!

**Christine Davy**  
Headteacher

## Feeling the Wind in Your Hair!

We encourage our children to cycle or walk to school and you will see many of them doing this.

Our Year 6 children have undertaken Bikeability training. Bikeability is a cycle training programme to ensure that our children have the practical skills and understanding of how to cycle safely on roads.

## Flourishing in a Diverse World

One of our priorities at school this year is supporting our children to thrive and flourish in a diverse world. The books children read during childhood are powerful tools for representation that can serve as both "mirrors and windows", reflecting a culture or identity or opening a "window" into another world or the lives of others.

It is crucial that all children, no matter their identity, have the opportunity to explore books that both show them the world and show them a reflection of themselves. As part of this endeavour we continue to invest significantly in books that reflect the breadth of diversity within our society including: disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Look out for the wealth of books coming home. Will they be a mirror or a window?

## Keeping Communication Flowing

To help parents to communicate easily with Brooklands we have attached, our communication flowchart which helps to detail who to talk to if you have any concerns. In nearly all cases, your class teacher is the best person to contact initially if you have any concerns or questions.

## Thinking of 2022?

Brooklands will be holding an information evening on 6<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00pm for parents with children hoping to start school in September 2022. If anyone wishes to attend or would like a tour of the school please contact the school for details.

## Joining Research, Values and Knowledge

Knowing that our curriculum at Brooklands is informed not just by best practice but is supported by strong evidence-based research is an important part of what makes Brooklands outstanding. Over the next few weeks our subject leaders will be receiving training delivered by Alex Bedford (Pupil Book Study) to learn more about how an evidence-informed approach can help quality assure the curriculum. Our leaders will be also be talking more to our children with their books and gathering insights into our children's 'lived experiences'.