

parents newsletter



18th October 2021

Dear Parents,

The weeks between September and November are a wonderful time of year, perfect for those who love pulling on a snug jumper, relaxing by the heat of a roaring fire and all things pumpkin-spiced!

There's something very special in the air at this time of the year. A crisp autumn breeze, crackling log fires and bristling leaves, floating delicately towards the ground, inspire many people to celebrate this picturesque season. From the excitement of costumes and trick or treating on Halloween to the thrill and excitement of Guy Fawkes' Bonfire Night, Autumn is the perfect time of year for celebration.

So what makes a Brooklands Autumn? We kicked off the spooky season last week with our Halloween Disco. The excitement was palpable with zombies, ghosts, witches and any number of dressing up creations to thrill and amaze. I never cease to be amazed at the creativity and imagination.

Over the next few weeks our youngest children will be getting creative with pumpkin carving. Delving into the heart of the pumpkin with their hands and relishing the messy removal of the pulp and seeds as well as thinning the walls. Developing their tool use with knives. Our children will also be appreciating the kaleidoscope of Autumn colours with Forest School visits. Look out for our newly added selection of spooky books in the library for that added Halloween spirit.

Christine Davy
Headteacher

Making Progress

Ensuring that your child is making excellent progress is one of our teachers' top priorities and to support them in this aim our teachers make good use of assessment information.

We formally assess children's progress and attainment using PiXL at data capture points throughout the year. Using this data, helps teachers to identify starting points and gaps in every child's knowledge and skills. With this information they are able to plan and tailor their approach to support each child's learning.

Evidence Informing Us

As a result of the pandemic, the Government released a one off payment to support children and young people to catch up when they return to school. We are using evidence-informed approaches to support our decisions around how to apply this money.

Guided by solid evidence, Brooklands is implementing effective interventions following assessment thereby ensuring that support is well-targeted to best effect. It's application will be based on each child's current rate of progress and their potential to achieve Above Expected Standard as well as those that may be unlikely to achieve Expected Standard without further support but have the potential to do so.

Developing Our Teachers

As part of our PD Day, teachers will be receiving training targeted at primary schools to support them with the skills to assess and manage incidents of sexualised behaviour.

Learning Together

This term we will be focussing on reading in our Learning Together sessions. Irrespective of whether your child is only just beginning to learn to read or whether they are fluent, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. We know from experience that one of the key elements to unlocking children's passion for reading is finding out what interests them. You know your child better than anyone and helping them to find books that they will find engaging, fun and want to read can make a world of difference. Keep topics wide ranging and spend time reading diverse children's books.

Representation and inclusion in books is important for all children because it can affect how children see themselves and make sense of the world around them.

Difference Makers

Brooklands is keen to identify and develop links with community groups. If you have any suggestions on ways our children can contribute let us know.