

# parents newsletter



16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents,

How do we become the best version of ourselves? A question that's not as straight forward as it sounds. Self-discovery takes courage, tenacity and an environment in which we feel supported.

It can be so easy to be drawn into limiting and sometimes harmful stereotypes from the way children perceive themselves, the jobs they think they can do, to the way they deal with their feelings. Research reveals that: girls by the age of 6 already believe that they are less intelligent than boys; children as young as 7 limit their career ambitions. Data also shows us that shockingly only 13% of our STEM workforce is female, and only 11.4% of nurses are male.

At Brooklands we aim to break down gender stereotypes and empower the next generation to realise their true potential. We want every classroom to be a safe, supportive, open environment where children can explore their interests and express their feelings. Our library is filled with books from 'Pink Is for Boys' to 'Fantastically Great Women Scientists and Their Stories'. Our visitors feature real and diverse people breaking gender stereotypes for example Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell (astrophysicist). Our new teaching block incorporates a unisex toilet and washroom and Brooklands is extremely proud to have 3 talented male teachers as part of our amazing team.

Letting a child explore their curiosities, predispositions and inner creativity beyond their gender enables them to discover the best version of themselves. Girls need to see that they can grow up to fight fires, build things, and fight crime. Equally, boys need to see that they can grow up to be primary school teachers, full-time parents, or share vulnerability.

**Christine Davy**  
Headteacher

## Look Out! Voracious Readers About

It's easier for children to build reading skills when they enjoy reading. At Brooklands we want to ensure that every child is given the chance to become a voracious reader and to support our children we regularly search high and low to find books that interest them and actively encourage our children to make book recommendations for their peers.

## Learning From Our Parents

Our parents influence us in so many ways and one of those can be the way in which they make a positive contribution to those around them and the community in which we live. If you are making a difference in our community we are keen to hear about it. Perhaps you help out at a local care home or assist with a charity, maybe you regularly help with a neighbour's shopping, whatever it is, small or large, it would be great to hear your stories and inspire our children.

## Big Dreams

World Book Day (3rd March) will see our staff inspired by the Little People, BIG DREAMS series this year. Dressing up as historical and inspirational figures we will be introducing children to artists, trailblazers, and dreamers who each made a big impact in the world around them. Look out for Michael Jordan, Frida Kahlo and Marie Curie.

## Digger Watch

SEH French have been marking out the trenches ready for the excavation work in readiness of building foundations for our new teaching block. Our children have been enthralled and excited watching the digger at work.

## Putting the Sparkle Back in Green

Brooklands uses a traffic light system to manage behaviour with green recognising good behaviour. In response to pupil and staff feedback we are reintroducing 'Sparkly Green' to recognise those children who are demonstrating exceptional behaviour.

## Stretching Our Offering

Brooklands is keen to extend its range of clubs and as part of this we are delighted to be able to offer a range of new clubs next term including drama, art and yoga.

## A Hearty Welcome

Luncheon times are a special part of the school day. A time when children enjoy the company and conversations with friends as well as enjoying good food. We are very pleased to see soaring numbers of children enjoying a hot meal at lunch time and as a result we have welcomed Sarah Woodgate to the catering team.