

parents newsletter



17th October 2022

Dear Parents,

The acclaimed late poet and author Maya Angelou once said, "In diversity there is beauty and there is strength." When we think about diversity, each of us will apply our own lenses and experience. We might think about disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. Brooklands works hard to ensure that its curriculum reflects the breadth of diversity in all its richness.

At Brooklands we also believe diversity extends beyond this and that to be truly inclusive and diverse we need to create a safe space where everybody can be themselves. People should be allowed to have the courage to be vulnerable and talk about what they think and feel. Everyone's perspective should be respected and recognising that taking different views enriches us.

When recruiting for Brooklands we actively look for those loaded with ambition, drive and passion. During their time with us we are keen for them to express their ideas. We believe from these divergent perspectives comes learning and innovation. This extends to our children. With the support of two Educational Psychologists (Claire McGuiggan and Peter D'Lima), Brooklands is pioneering a new approach to supporting children to challenge themselves to speak up with confidence and shine a light on things they care passionately about. The programme seeks to support children to be curious about what others think and why. Enabling our children to tolerate disagreement, accept diversity, navigate and embrace differing views.

Christine Davy

Headteacher

Your Help Is So Important

Parent volunteers are crucial to us running regular Forest School activities. We are currently short of volunteers in most year groups and we are sending out a request for help.

The application process takes several weeks to complete as we have to ensure that everyone follows a range of steps that include: filling in an application form, a DBS check, an interview with our Designated Safeguarding Lead and attending safeguarding training at the school.

We are very appreciative to all those who have applied but a number of parents who have filled in an application over the Summer term have not completed the process. For some this is not attending the safeguarding session and for others it has been delays with references. We encourage these parents to complete the process and if you have any questions please contact the school office.

We are also seeking new interest. If you are able to offer your time please do get in touch.

Get a Flavour of Brooklands

Do you have a child starting school in September 2023? We are inviting children to a 'stay and play' with Little City on 5th November. Families are welcome to drop in between 10.00 and 12.00.

Putting Ideas Into Action

Thank you to all those parents who attended our recent Parent Forum, sharing ideas and offering suggestions. Over the next few weeks, look out for communications on how we have been implementing these.

Our next Parent Forum will be 28th November (2.30 – 3.20). If you would like to put forward a theme for discussion please get in touch.

Understanding Impact

One of the emerging themes that came from our recent Parent Forum discussions was the impact of the cost of living crisis and how the school can support with similar messages that families may be giving at home. Over the next few weeks in school we will be finding ways to increase children's awareness as well as helping them to get involved in a positive way whether it's turning lights out or their teachers sharing examples of where they have had to sacrifice treats and outings.

Dusting Off Ballot Papers

Thank you to all those who have expressed an interest in becoming a Parent Governor. Having a parental viewpoint is vital to Brooklands but with more candidates than vacancies, a ballot will be required. We will be notifying parents of the outcome shortly.