



# Brookhurst Primary School

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## Staffing Changes : Summer Term

Mr Anslow will be moving from Year 3 to Year 6 to cover Miss Houlihan's maternity cover.

3A will be taught by a new addition to our team, Mrs Croucher, an outstanding candidate at interview. Mrs Croucher will be teaching in 3A on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mr Hughes will teach in 3A on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Jacobs is moving on to teach in Warwick and we will be looking for an outstanding Maths practitioner to replace him from September. Mr Upton, an experienced classroom practitioner will be working 3 days a week for us over the Summer Term and taking on the role of Maths subject leader which is one of his areas of experience.

Children in FAK have been used to Mr Jacobs covering for the time that Miss Anderson Kirby spends successfully leading provision for our SEN children across the school.

Mrs Uddin, who the children are already familiar with, will be teaching two days a week in FAK throughout the summer term to ensure some continuity.

## Diary Dates

20.03.14	Tag rugby Tournament
21.03.14	Sports Relief / Zumba day
25.03.14	Community, parent and Police meeting
02.04.14	Foundation Parents Eve.
07.04.14	Shakespeare Week
07.04.14	BSA Egg Tombola
09.04.14	Foundation Parents Eve.
09.04.14	Open Afternoon
14.04.14	Easter Holiday
28.04.14	Start of Summer Term— <b>INSET DAY</b>
29.04.14	First Day of Summer Term for children
01.05.14	Foundation to Umberslade Farm
05.05.14	<b>May Bank Holiday—school closed</b>
12.05.14	Year 6 SATs Week
12.05.14	Parents Forum meeting
14.05.14	FPP to visit Blue Bell wood
15.05.14	FAK to visit Blue Bell wood
19.05.14	Fire Brigade to Year 1
22.05.14	<b>Polling Day—SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
23.05.14	Last Day of Half Term
26.05.14	<b>Summer Half Term Holiday</b>
17.07.14	Last Day for Children
18.07.14	<b>INSET DAY</b>

Friday 14th March

Foundation and Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2	
FAK	93.7%	↑	3A	99.3% ↑
FP	91.7%	↓	3L	97.4% ↓
IF	96.3%	↓	4G	97.9% ↓
IM	91.7%	↓	4W	96.0% ↑
2AH	98.7%	↑	5B	98.3% ↓
2W	97.7%	↓	5S	95.3% ↓
			6H	98.0% ↓
			6T	97.9% ↑

**Attendance  
Week ending  
28.02.14**

**Whole School  
Attendance was down at  
96.4%**

We would also like to say a fond Good Bye to Caroline in the school kitchen who is leaving Brookhurst for a position in another school.

We want to send her our Best Wishes and Good luck at her new school.



## Important Information

As you may be aware there is a National strike organised by one of the teaching unions on **Wednesday 26th March.**

**We are currently expecting NO disruption to classes, but will update parents immediately if the situation changes.**

## Foundation Parents Evening

There will be an opportunity for all parents of children in Foundation to meet with the class teachers, Mrs Price and Miss Anderson-Kirby to discuss their progress in school.

Theses will be on **Wednesday 2nd and Wednesday 9th April 3:40-6:00pm**

Please book a time with the school office—[admin2330@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2330@welearn365.com)

**Friday 14th March**

## Snacks

At Brookhurst we are always keen to encourage healthy lifestyles. Children in Foundation and KS1 are provided with fruit or vegetables as a snack at morning break time.

KS2 children are also encouraged to have a snack at morning break time, however we ask that these only consist of dried fruit, fruit or vegetables. The kitchen also sells healthy snacks, such as fruit, fruit juice and toast.

**As we have children in school with severe nut allergies, please can we not have any nuts or products with nuts in them in school.**

## BSA's Easter Eggstravaganza!



Spring has sprung and to celebrate the BSA will be holding a children's Easter Tombola on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April** to raise money for new technology equipment for the school.

We would love it if every child who takes part leaves with a big smile and a prize! In order to make this happen, we are asking the ever-generous Brookhurst parents for Easter themed donations. Be it chocolate eggs – of any size or shape or perhaps an Easter toy, we would be egg-tremely grateful for all donations as it is only with YOUR help that we can make this a fun-filled fundraising success!

You can send your Easter donations into school. Class teachers will be collecting them and as a thank you, the class, which donates the most, will get an exclusive 'fast-track' pass and go in early for lunch on the day of the tombola rather than waiting to be called! It's like being a VIP!

The BSA can only raise money for school projects with your help and with an ambitious **£4,500 target** for new technology equipment, we are keen to get our 2014 fundraising off to an *egg-cellent* start!!

Log onto <http://mybsa.org.uk/> for more information about the BSA's fundraising mission in 2014 and how YOU can help. Visit us on facebook for the latest events and meetings.

Speak to Mr Anslow for more information about the exciting technology projects the BSA is funding in 2014.



Brookhurst School Association  
MyBSA.org.uk



**Friday 14th March**

## Open Afternoon

Each year group will be hosting an Open Afternoon for parents and carers to come along and find out what the Year group have been learning this term and have a go at some different activities with the children.

Our Open Afternoon this term will be on **Wednesday 9th April, 2:30-4:30pm**

**Foundation will have their open afternoon until 3:00pm because of parent's evening.**



Brookhurst Primary School was nominated by Claire Cobbold and the school was entered into the draw with a number of other schools around the country. The standard was extremely high but after going to a panel of judges Hand on Heart felt that the school was a very worthy winner and we have won last month's Gold Defibrillator package which is worth over £2000 worth of equipment and associated training.

The prize includes an AED (defibrillator), adult and paediatric pads, other equipment, AED training for 8 members of staff and CPR training for a class of children.

Medical experts believe many children could be saved if an automated external defibrillator (AED) is used within minutes of a collapse. However, there is currently no national system in place in the UK to ensure AEDs are present and in working order in schools.

For further information about this fantastic charity visit their website— [www.handonheart.org](http://www.handonheart.org) or follow / like the @HandonHeart Twitter feed and “Hand on Heart” Facebook page.

This is a relatively small charity doing some great work and one of the best ways we can “thank” them is by helping to raise that all important awareness.

Thank you again to Claire for nominating us.

**Friday 14th March**

## Year 5 Visit Kenilworth

On Friday 7th March, Year 5 went to visit Kenilworth to extend their learning.

In the morning they spent time at Kenilworth acting out their news stories based on Robin Hood. Here's what Caitlin said about her learning...

" I found it really interesting at Kenilworth Castle. We got to explore a different place. This helped us get into character because we were in a relevant setting"

In the afternoon children carried out surveys into local amenities on the Kenilworth High Street. Here's what Nathan said...



" t helped me learn that everybody uses the High Street for different reasons."

Friday 14th March

The children were so well behaved and an absolute credit to the school, as Rebecca's mum noticed. Here is what she said about the trip:

*On Friday 7th March I went on the school trip with Year 5 something in all honesty I was not looking forward to at all however I feel like I should send you an email to say how impressed I was with the attitude of year 5.*

*I was placed in a group of 5 lively boys and Rebecca we explored the castle to its full potential all the children were very interested in the exploring but also engaged in learning about the history of the castle. They were incredibly polite at all times and always asked to go places and stayed within the group and followed instructions 1st time of asking.*

*Over lunch and through out the afternoon I had contact with the whole of year 5 and must say the children all demonstrated a positive and polite attitude a real credit to the school.*

*It was also nice to see the bond Mr Beer had with the children the children all seem to respect him.*

Tina Swanson

## **Children's Charter for Learning**

We have been contacted by the National Education Trust to inform us that we have been invited to attend a meeting at Compton Verney to help create a second "Children's Charter for Learning", We will be 1 of 20 schools from across the country that have been invited ! A real honour.

At a time of curriculum renewal and change, the NET will be asking small groups of Year five / six children from primary schools across the country to come together and tell us what, how, where and when they want to learn. This will form the basis of the new Children's Charter which will be presented to the Office of the Children's Commissioner and will be published on their website.

When we know more about this exciting project we will inform you all via the newsletter



**Friday 14th March**

*Congratulations!*

## To Mr Beer !

Mr Beer has been nominated for the Free Radio Classroom Heroes competition. We have received an email telling us that they thought Mr Beer's nomination should receive a Highly Commended Award, as such a lovely nomination– it was too good to let go!

Due to the high number of nominations that were received, Mr Beer was not shortlisted for the Classroom Heroes, however Mr Beer will be presented with his Highly Commended trophy, certificate and hamper soon!

Congratulations and well done to Mr Beer!



## Biscuits for Bo

Year 5 will soon be making biscuits. We hope to sell them next week to raise money for our partner school in **Bo Town, Sierra Leone**.

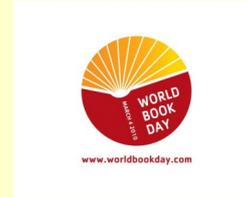
The biscuits will be on sale on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** throughout playtime. Biscuits will cost between 20 - 30 pence each and will be sold by volunteers from year 5.

**We hope you can help us raise money for this worthy cause!**



**Friday 14th March**

## World Book Day



The children had a fantastic time on Thursday and enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. They looked great dressed as their favourite book characters! Thank you to all the parents who came in and read to the children, this really helped to make the day special.

Benjamin 'liked the activities and all the fun costumes.'

Jaspreet enjoyed 'the treasure hunt', finding out about the books people like to read.

I liked the activities and all the fun costumes

Benjamin

The day was very cool because of the fantastic activities.

Daniel

On World book Day it was fun because the activities were really amazing.

Alexandra

I liked it because I got to meet lots of different characters that I did not know about

Aaliyah

I enjoyed the treasure hunt, finding out about the books people like to read.

Jaspreet

Friday 14th March

We also used this day to re-launch our school library. Over the past few months we have been replacing both fiction and non-fiction books. They were either worn out due to their popularity or in some cases the information was no longer accurate.



A HUGE thank you must go to the BSA for their support in this project.

**Friday 14th March**



## Wellington Boots



As many of you may be aware, we are developing the spinney area and as a result it is being used by more classes in the school. It is a fantastic resource and enhances the children development in many ways.

For a large part of the year children need to have boots on when they in the spinney because it is wet and muddy and school shoes are not practical in these conditions. Most children have their own wellington boots, which they bring into school each week, but on occasions they forget them and we would like to keep a small selection of boots for those occasions.

If your child has grown out of their boots we would welcome their old ones in school. As an ECO school we encourage recycling, so even if the boots leak we can use them as plant pots or mini-beast habitats.

## Netball Coaching



EVERY THURSDAY from 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH –10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Years : 5 & 6: 3.35 - 4.35pm

COST £16.00 for 4 weeks

These Coaching sessions will take in a safe yet fun environment led by a qualified and experienced coach who has undergone all necessary DBS (CRB) checks.

Players will take part in activities designed to introduce and develop skills, improve fitness, and to understand and enjoy match play and basic tactics . Through these activities children will have the opportunity to develop their confidence, their ability to work in a team and the skills of self-evaluation and problem solving.

Children **SHOULD** wear games kit and trainers, bring their own drink, have their hair tied back and have short nails. The **SHOULD NOT** wear jewellery or watches. Please fill in the slip attached and return it to Brookhurst School Office together with payment (cheques made payable to S.K. Thomas) by Tuesday 18th March . For further information please contact Sarah Thomas on 07931755814

**Friday 14th March**

## Changes to pupil holidays in term time

As you may be aware the Department for Education has made changes to the granting of pupil holidays during term time. These changes came into force on **September 1st**.

Below is some information for parents reflecting the changes.

Previously, the regulations have allowed Head Teachers to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday during term time in “Special circumstances” of up to 10 school days leave per year. Head Teachers were also allowed to grant extended leave for more than 10 school days in “exceptional circumstances”.

The amendments that have come into effect on September 1st 2013 have removed references to “holiday” and “extended leave” as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days. The amendments make clear that **Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances**. Head Teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

The government has not defined the “exceptional circumstances” and it is therefore for the Head Teacher to decide what they view as exceptional circumstances.

Parents are asked to respect these new regulations under which we must now work and that if there is a need to take a child out of school during term time, it must be made very clear in the request how the circumstances are exceptional.

*Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.*

**Applications for leave of absence which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being unauthorised which may result in legal action against the parent, by Fixed Penalty notice if the child is absent from school during that period.**

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued and is not paid within the timeframe set out in that notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council’s Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings.

Our school’s Attendance policy has been updated to reflect the change in legislation and is available on our website.

**Friday 14th March**

“Evidence shows that children with poor attendance are unlikely to succeed academically and are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment or training) when they leave school.”

“If children are taken away for a 2 week family holiday every year and have an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, they will have missed the equivalent of a year off school by the time they are 16”

*Improving Attendance at School—Charlie Taylor—published by DFE 2012*

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with all of our parents to enable your children reach their academic targets and to support their social development and for this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible and we all need to play our part.

### **Why attendance matters:**

- ◇ Less than 5 days absence = 98%+ attendance
- ◇ 14 days absence (approx.) = 93.5% attendance
- ◇ 20 days absence (approx.) = 90% attendance
- ◇ More than 30 days absence = 88% attendance

Warwickshire Primary School pupils recorded **32,213** half day sessions of absence due to holiday in Autumn Term 2012 alone.

This disrupts the learning of all not just those who are away.

**Friday 14th March**