

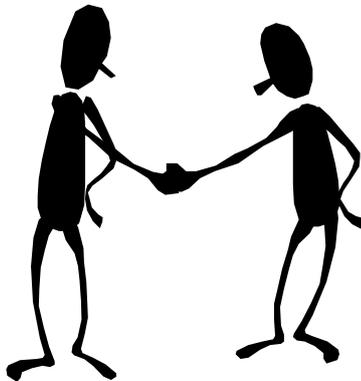


Brookhurst Primary School

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Welcome back and we hope that you all had a really good summer holiday. We are all looking forward to another fantastic term of learning.

A big welcome to all of our new families that have joined us over the summer holiday and to our two new members of staff—Miss Polly Dunkerton who is working in Year 4 and 5 and Mr Timothy Beer who is teaching Year 5.



Meet the Team evening

A reminder that on Monday evening (9th September) there is an opportunity to meet the teachers and teaching assistants who will be teaching your children this year. They will give you some information regarding what your children will be learning, year group expectations, home learning ideas, how you can support your children with their learning and how you can help in school.

There will also be the opportunity to ask any questions that you have. Please come along at 6:30-7:00 or 7:15-7:45—there is no need to book a time—just come and visit us in your child's classroom.

Diary Dates



09.09.13	Meet the Team Evening
10.09.13	Foundation children start in school
11.09.13	BSA meeting—7:30
12.09.13	Year 5 to St John's Museum
23.09.13	Year 2 to Coventry Cathedral
24.09.13	Year 6 Height and weight checks
24.09.13	Parents Forum meeting
27.09.13	Year 4 Macmillan Coffee Morning
30.09.13	Whole School photographs
28.10.13	Half Term Holiday
03.11.13	BSA Fireworks



The next BSA meeting will be on Wednesday 11th September at The Cricketers, 7:30pm.

All are welcome to attend

Parents Forum

Tuesday 24th September.

See page 8 for further details

Friday 6th September

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 will be updated to reflect the change in legislation and will be available on our website soon.

Friday 6th September

“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 6th September

Class Assemblies

Class assembly dates for the Autumn term are listed below.

These assemblies are a great way of you being able to share in the fantastic learning that your child has had.

It is always great to see so many parents come and watch their children's assemblies.

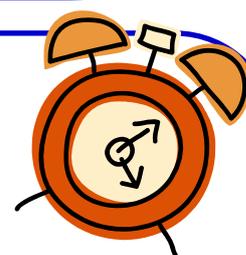
Date	Class
Wednesday 16th October	3L
Thursday 17th October	3A
Wednesday 23rd October	2W
Thursday 24th October	2AH
Wednesday 6th November	4G
Thursday 7th November	4W
Wednesday 13th November	5B
Thursday 14th November	5S
Wednesday 20th November	6H
Thursday 21st November	6T
Wednesday 27th November	1F
Thursday 28th November	1M



School Photographs

School Photographs will be on
Monday 30th September.

A single photograph of your child will be taken as we are required to keep a photograph as part of our records. If you would like to have a family photograph taken, please complete the attached booking form and return to the school office by **Monday 23rd September.**



A quick reminder that children should not be on the playground until **8:45** when there is a member of staff on duty.

Many thanks.

Friday 6th September



Lunchtime Supervisor

We require a lunchtime supervisor from September. If you are interested in this role please speak to Mrs Moon, Mrs Lindsay or Mrs Tattersfield in the school office.

Snacks

At Brookhurst we are always keen to encourage healthy lifestyles. Children in Foundation and KSI are provided with free fruit or vegetables as a morning breaktime snack.

KS2 children are also encouraged to have a breaktime snack, however we ask that these only consist of dried fruit, fruit and vegetables. If they want to bring a drink for breaktime, we ask if this can be fruit juice or water.

The kitchen also sells healthy snacks, such as toast, fruit and fruit juice.



Year 4 will be hosting a coffee morning in support of the Macmillan charity on

Friday 27th September.

More details later.

Books and Blankets!

Do you have a picnic blanket or children's books that you no longer need and could donate to school?

If so we would really like these for the children to use at lunchtimes on the field to sit on and share books with each other.

If you have any donations please bring them into school.

Many thanks



Friday 6th September

Community News



Vocal Generation

Leamington Community Choir

Come and join us at

Vocal Generation Choir

6-7pm

It's *free* to join and all ages and abilities are warmly welcomed

Our Lady & St Teresa's Primary School

10th, 17th, 24th September

1st & 8th October

5th & 19th November

3rd December

To find out more please contact Michelle Hutton

Tel: 07980366196 Email: hutton.m1@welearn365.com

Friday 6th September



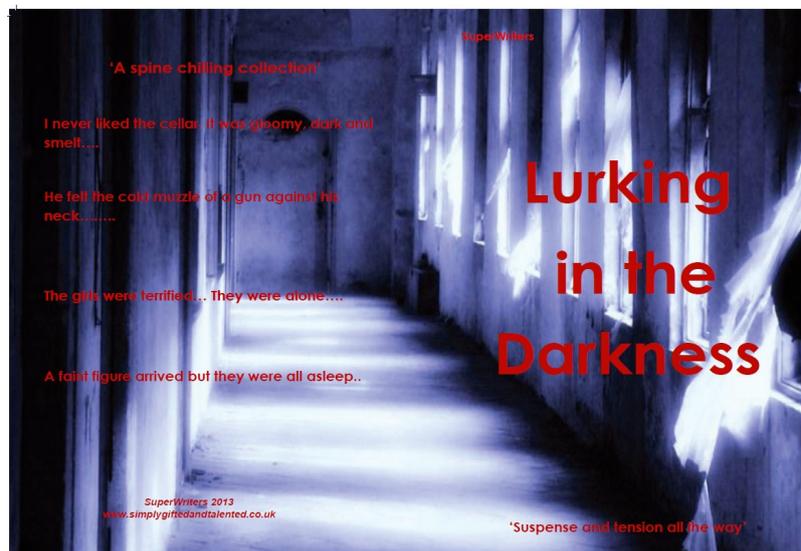
Superwriters

Last term a group of children in year 5 had the fantastic opportunity to spend some time with suspense story writer, Ken Simpson.

Along with children from Milverton and St Peter's schools, our "Super Writers" met on a weekly basis to develop all the skills needed to create an amazing piece of writing.

They are learned about how to structure a story, build tension and keep the reader on the edge of their seats!

Copies of the book have now been printed and each of the superwriters will receive a copy! There will also be 2 copies of the book in school so that we can all read the amazing stories!



I have been most impressed with what I have read. I can see elements of the series of workshops and suggestions we have made. But what impresses me most is the sheer individual inventiveness, maturity and control. Brilliant.

If I gave the stories that I have read to anyone they would be hard pressed to believe that they had been written by ones so young.

I sensed that the group had talents but they have used them so well as independent writers and I would love the opportunity to congratulate them.

I am sure the published volume will be well received.

Thanks again Ken Simpson

Friday 6th September



Brookhurst School Parents Forum

Do you have any suggestions for topics to be discussed at the next Parents' Forum meeting? Perhaps you have a school related question that you'd like to raise?

If you do, then come to the next meeting on

Tuesday 24th September 7.30pm – 8.30pm

The Parents' Forum meets once a term to discuss school related issues and is for all parents / carers from across the year groups. Topics for discussion are suggested by both parents / carers and school staff with the aim of strengthening the partnership through open communication.

Topics suggested for discussion so far are:

- Feedback from end of term activities: sports day, music concert etc
- How to further engage parents / carers in school activities?
- Receiving an update on the school website and learning platform

Creating a Parents' Forum logo

If you have any suggestions for the agenda, please do email or drop a note to the school office or just turn up to the meeting.

Code of Conduct

In school we have a code of conduct that we ask all people in our community to follow.

- We are ready to learn
- We listen to each other
- We look after our school and the things in it
- We walk when inside school
- We treat everyone as we would like them to be treated

Please spend some time with you child going through the Code of Conduct.

Friday 6th September