

## Newsletter 3: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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Things have been busy but exciting since returning from half term. As you are aware, we have introduced a house system to improve our range of activities on offer as well as allowing us to provide rewards and motivation to pupils. Our Heads of Houses are Mr Kitching, Miss Moore, Mr Dunlin and Mrs Inchbold and they will be keeping you updated with events they are running. They have been busy recruiting teams of pupils to help run activities and to provide support for pupils. We will also be using our house system to reward children who are working hard, wearing the correct uniform, reading and learning their times tables regularly at home etc...

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete our recent parent survey. As always, the results of the survey are included in this newsletter and all comments and suggestions have been gratefully received. Once again, the response has been overwhelmingly positive, so thank you. We are always looking at ways to improve further and your feedback is always welcome.

*Tim Attwater, Headteacher*

### Shoebox Appeal

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to our Shoebox appeal in support of Real Aid. We collected an amazing 282 shoeboxes this year which will make a huge difference to children overseas. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity.



### Sporting success

Congratulations to the Under 11 girls' table tennis team who represented Hull in the Humber Regional Finals last week and came 2nd. A fantastic achievement!

Our Girls' Football team also made it through to the regional finals following a series of wins in the Hull Schools' tournament. Well played!

We have also been awarded Gold Level in the School Games Mark. The School Games Mark is a Government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.

Congratulations to all involved.



### Christmas Activities

The Friends of Bricknell have planned their Christmas Fair for 9<sup>th</sup> December at 3.15 in the main hall and the dining hall. Our Reception children will be performing their play to parents on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 1.30 and our Key Stage One children will be performing to parents on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30. Christmas Dinner will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Year 3 will be holding a carol concert in school 2.15 on 12<sup>th</sup> December and the carol concert for Year 4 will be on 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you will be able to join us for our Christmas activities.

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### Parent Questionnaire Autumn 2016 (270 responses)

Thank you to all the parents who completed our recent survey. The summary results are below and all comments received by parents have been listed, including our response to any issues raised.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at school.	78%	22%	1%	0%	0%
My child feels safe at school.	83%	17%	1%	0%	0%
My child makes good progress at school.	77%	22%	0.4%	0.4%	0%
My child is well looked after at this school.	84%	15%	0.4%	0.4%	0%
My child is taught well at this school.	85%	14%	0%	0.4%	0%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	70%	27%	2%	0%	0.4%
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	73%	24%	1%	0.4%	1%
This school deals effectively with bullying.	50%	20%	1%	1%	27%
This school is well led and managed.	71%	26%	1%	0%	2%
This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	63%	28%	1%	0%	8%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	64%	34%	0%	1%	1%
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	75%	23%	0%	0.4%	1%

## Positive Comments

- *Fantastic ethos and positive approaches continue to be clearly evident, well done all!*
- *Thank you for all your hard work x2*
- *Lovely school and teachers.*
- *As always, Bricknell is doing a wonderful job x2*
- *My child is very happy x6*
- *My child loves the school and all the opportunities and after school clubs it provides.*
- *All good.*
- *I am very pleased with the school and her teacher x7*
- *My child is really enjoying year 4, the teacher has been really helpful.*
- *My child has settled in well and making super progress x4*
- *My child has really enjoyed her first half term.*
- *My child is making great progress x 6*
- *This school is awesome and provides a brilliant environment for our child to progress.*
- *My child has settled in well and speaks very fondly of all of the foundation stage staff.*
- *My child loves coming to school and was very disappointed that it had to close for half term!*
- *I couldn't ask for better care for my son. He is happy, settled and secure. Three major factors I want for him.*
- *I am pleased parent's evening is early this term.*
- *Very pleased so far with year 5, Pen portrait is soon in place and the teacher is aware of her needs.*
- *My daughter has settled into year 6 well these last few weeks after a rocky start. The year 6 staff have been great in supporting and encouraging her this half term, thank you.*
- *My child has had some great support so far this year which has helped her settle into year 3 and is now enjoying her time at school.*
- *My child is progressing well, the feedback was so supportive and we aim to support her in her progression.*
- *I am particularly pleased how staff have dealt with my child's health issues.*
- *My child is well motivated at school and very stimulated by the topics taught.*
- *My child is progressing reasonably well. I am satisfied with additional help she receives with her reading.*
- *Really happy especially how maths is taught this year.*
- *We have no bullying issues, we are very happy with the school so far and my child absolutely loves it. Long may it continue!*
- *She feels as though she is well supported and encouraged to meet her potential.*
- *She likes to try and read her own books and enjoys many of the creative activities.*
- *Fortunately, we have no bullying issues.*
- *My child is shy but the teachers know this and are great.*
- *The staff are always so caring, I am extremely pleased my child attends Bricknell.*
- *Extra sports clubs have started which is great.*
- *All issues have been dealt with which is great.*

Thank you very much for all these positive comments. We are pleased that so many parents are happy with the work we are doing

## Suggestions and areas for improvement

### Progress

- *I am a little disappointed about my child's progress this year. I felt in reception he was exceeding progress and this is no longer the case.*

Please come and discuss any issues regarding progress with your child's teacher. It does sometimes take time when a child moves to a new year group, but if any parent has concerns then please let us know.

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## Suggestions and areas for improvement (continued)

### Behaviour

- *My child is concerned by the behaviour of other children and what they get away with.*
- *When incidents happen during a lunchtime, it may be hard to see the reasons for the incidents due to minimal supervision, ending in maybe the wrong action taken.*
- *I am concerned how rough some of the behaviour is at school and not sufficiently addressed at school.*
- *There is no link between home and school on helping children deal with bullying and how bullying effects others, this could be done regularly through homework projects. My children have never been bullied and hope have never been a bully but then they need to be well educated and prepared for if they experience it.*

We are pleased that the vast majority of parents agree that children in our school behave well and our monitoring supports this. However, sometimes some children don't make the right choices but this is always addressed. Again, if your child is having any issues, please let us know straight away and we will always take your concerns seriously and investigate. We have recently provided a series of training sessions for lunchtime supervisors to ensure that any incidents that do occur are dealt with appropriately.

We recently took part in anti-bullying week and held a range of assemblies and discussions with children to raise their awareness of this. Some further information to parents is a good idea and we will put something together.

### Homework

- *I do feel that there is a bit too much homework for key stage 1. It doesn't allow for outside activities or being able to focus on the homework adequately, it feels like a choice between the two.*
- *I feel the creative making homework at half terms is a little too much at times.*
- *She does seem to have a lot of homework, that said, she often wishes to continue work at home that she has been doing in her school day.*
- *Homework variable, I feel sometimes we could do with more and of what's given, more explanation; ie Maths!*
- *Maybe more homework!*
- *Homework needs extension activities.*
- *The spellings have dropped from 10 to 5.*

It is always difficult to get the balance right with homework, as some parents want more and others want less! The most important thing is that children read their reading books at home (5 times a week if possible) and learn their maths facts (times tables, number bonds etc...) A number of parents have contacted us regarding maths homework and you will have noticed a change to this recently, so that the focus is on number facts and written methods with an extension task to support problems solving skills. We would be interested to hear your feedback on this. We are also investigating some 'on-line' resources to support home learning for those of you who have asked for other ways to support your children at home.

### Clubs and activities

- *He would like to participate in more out of school activities and competitions.*
- *Information on activities/events isn't always provided with enough notice.*
- *For children that are not sporty, it would be nice if consideration could be given to their needs, such as old fashioned games at playtime to encourage sensible choices and enhance their imagination on play.*

Thank you for these comments. We will ensure that all the clubs and activities are listed on the school website and we can send texts out as soon as we are notified of any changes. Our Heads of Houses will be organising additional activities and we will ensure that these are wide ranging and that they don't just focus on sport.

### Other

- *The year 1&2 drop off seems very disorganised in a morning and could be better thought out.*

A number of parents have spoken to us about this and we agree. A new procedure has been in place since half term which has significantly improved this issue. We have had lots of positive comments regarding this change, thank you.

- *I am concerned that the parents at Breakfast Club leave the door open, due to recent events, I feel it should be shut.*

Yes, we agree and we are currently reviewing our procedures around this.

- *Having heard my child may be dyslexic, I am concerned this hasn't been raised with me before.*
- *My child sometimes lacks confidence in larger groups, this sometimes leads to anxiety, however, this is only occasionally.*

Thank you for these comments. Please discuss any issues with your child's teacher and we will do all we can to help and support.