



# Brackenwood Junior School

## *Learning for Life*



Headteacher: Mr. C. Holmes MMUS.PGCE.NPQH

### September 2021

#### Welcome Back!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone back to school after the summer break. It is very exciting to think that the easing of COVID restrictions this term might allow us to experience a little more normality once again, and we look forward to being able to welcome parents back into school. I would like to offer an especially warm welcome to children and families who are new to us this September and I look forward to getting to know you in the days and weeks to come.

The children impressed us enormously on their first day back yesterday. They were filled with positive and happy attitudes, and had plenty of energy and enthusiasm.

#### Staffing Updates

I would like to give a warm welcome to Mr Alastair Smith (Y5) and Miss Rona McKinney (Y4), who are now officially part of our staffing team. In addition, I would like to congratulate Mrs Lees on her appointment as our new assistant headteacher. Mrs Lees has taken up her new role from the beginning of this term.

#### September Curriculum Meetings

As we are now able to welcome parents back into school, our Learning Links Curriculum Meetings will go ahead as planned on the dates below. The meetings are expected to last about 45 minutes and will contain important information regarding your child's curriculum for the year ahead. The Year 6 meeting will also contain some information regarding transfer to secondary schools next year. You are welcome (but not required) to wear facemasks to these meetings if you wish. We will also send out copies of important information to parents who are unable to attend or do not yet feel ready to attend larger school events. Please do not attend any school events if you have symptoms of COVID.

Timings of the meeting are as follows:

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 3.45pm: Year 3**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 4.30pm: Year 4**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 3.45pm: Year 5**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 4.30pm: Year 6**

We are hoping to be able to provide a crèche on both evenings to assist with child-care.

#### PE Kits

Just a reminder that children will need to wear their school uniform to school on PE days, and have their PE kit in school to change into.

#### Sex and Relationships Education- Consultation with Parents

Thank you to those of you who took part in our consultation on Sex and Relationships Education last term. We had 43 responses. I am pleased to report that 95% of responses said that they understood and agreed with the content of our SRE Curriculum. A number of parents have requested a little more information about the content being taught, and we will ensure this information reaches you prior to it being delivered to children in class. Just a reminder that our SRE curriculum is delivered through the Jigsaw scheme of work, and details of this can be found on the school website.

#### School Clubs

You will receive a letter giving full information about our Autumn Term club timetable early next week, with information about how to go about booking places. Many clubs fill up fast and have limited places, so please do book your places as promptly as possible to avoid disappointment.

#### Pastoral Support

It is extremely important to us that your child is happy in school. If you have any issues at all with their well-being or happiness, there will always be people available to help. Parents are welcome into school from 8.30am onwards if you need to have a quick chat with a member of staff. Alternatively, appointments can be made with class teachers through the school office or by emailing class teachers directly.

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#### Our schools

Great Meols Primary School  
Poulton Lancelyn Primary School  
Brackenwood Junior School  
Egremont Primary School  
Stanton Road Primary School  
Church Drive Primary School



### **School Dinners**

We are pleased to confirm that our canteen is now back in use. Please note that the cost of school dinners remains at £2.40.

### **Daily Mindfulness Sessions**

Each day begins with a mindfulness session from 8.45am to 9.00am. These sessions have the potential to dramatically improve the well-being and mental health of our children, and to ensure that they have a calm start to the day.

Parents are invited to send in a colouring book or puzzle book for children to keep and use in school for these short sessions.

### **Music Lessons**

Another benefit to the easing of Lockdown restrictions is that we are now able to reinstate music lessons.

Learning a musical instrument carries many advantages and we would like as many children as possible to have this opportunity. Please look out for information coming your way soon about the range of instrumental lessons we will be able to offer.

### **Open Evening and Parent Consultations**

We will be holding an Open Evening on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October (3.45pm – 6pm). You are invited to come into school with your child to have a look around the building, speak to your child's teacher and look through your child's work.

The evening will provide you with an opportunity to find out how well your child has settled into their new class, and how they are progressing with their work. There will also be individual parent consultations during the week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October for parents to have a more detailed conversation with their child's class teacher.

### **School Office**

The school office can become extremely busy at any time during the school day, particularly when parents are picking up or dropping off. I would like to remind parents that we have Drop-Off Bins for forgotten PE kits or lunch boxes and a letter-box for handing in reply slips, letters etc. These can be found just inside the front entrance. When using either, please ensure that items are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

### **Attendance and Absence**

In an effort to ensure that low attendance does not present a barrier to learning for any of our children, and in order to maximise opportunities in regards to their achievement, we will be tracking children's attendance closely each day. Our aim is to ensure that as many children as possible achieve attendance of 97% or more. This means fewer than 6 days off during the academic year! Please help us to achieve this by getting your child into school whenever you can, and avoiding or minimising requests for authorised absence. Thank you.

If you do need to inform us that your child is absent, please remember that we have an email address specifically for this purpose: [absence@brackenwood-junior.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:absence@brackenwood-junior.wirral.sch.uk).

### **Autumn Term Diary Dates**

Below are a few important dates for the first half of the autumn term.

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET Day
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Children return to school
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	School Photographer (individual and sibling photos)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Learning Links Year 3 (3:45) and Year 4 (4:30)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Learning Links Year 5 (3:45) and Year 6 (4:30)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Y6 Anti-Racism Workshops
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Evening for Parents 3.45 – 6pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Consultations
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	School closed for half-term