



# Brackenwood Junior School

## *Learning for Life*



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

### **November 2021 Newsletter**

We have a busy half-term ahead, and this newsletter should provide you with the information you need to keep you fully informed of events. I am hoping that this is the half term in which we are finally able to open our doors to parents, and I would like to begin by outlining some ideas and plans below which I am confident will help in this regard.

### **Open Evenings**

I would like to invite all parents to one of two open evenings later this half term. These will be spread across two evenings to reduce visitor numbers, and will run on a smaller scale than the open evenings we have organised in the past. Nevertheless, it will provide you with the opportunity many of you have not yet had to come into school, visit your child's classroom, meet your child's class teacher and have a look through your child's work.

These evenings will take place on the dates and at the times below:

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 3.45pm – 6.00pm: Open Evening for Year 4 and Year 5 parents.**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 3.45pm – 6.00pm: Open Evening for Year 3 and Year 6 parents.**

### **Parent Visits to School**

I would like to extend an invitation to all parents that you are welcome to visit the school at any time. I would be delighted to meet with you at a mutually convenient time, to discuss any aspect of our provision and to provide you with a tour of our school. Please contact me directly or through the school office if you would like to take up this opportunity.

### **Parent Forum**

I would like to ascertain whether there are any parents who would be interested in helping me to recreate our Parent Forum. This is something that we have run very successfully in the past. The purpose of this forum is to invite feedback and new ideas from parents, and to ensure that parental views are taken into account when developing aspects of school policy and practice. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact me directly or through the school office.

### **Parental Events involving Large Gatherings**

Whilst the plans outlined above will hopefully have a significantly positive impact on parental engagement this half-term, please be aware that we will continue to follow advice that events involving large parental gatherings should be avoided. Thank you your understanding.

### **Parental Consultations**

This is just a reminder that parental consultations are taking place next week for any parents who did not have the opportunity to speak to their teacher before half term. If you need assistance with booking your appointment time, please contact the school office.

### **Parent Questionnaire**

All parents have received an invitation to complete an online questionnaire. The deadline, if you wish to do so, is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Anti-Bullying Week**

Anti-Bullying week takes place during the week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November. During the week, children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of Anti-Bullying lessons, activities and assemblies. On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, children will be invited to participate in an "odd-socks" day. If you have any concerns that your child might be the victim of any form of bullying, please contact the school immediately.

### **Essential Life Skills Programme for Year 6**

Our Year 6 classes will be taking part in an essential life skills programme this half term, delivered by the Thumbs Up team. These one hour sessions will take place over a five-week period and teach the children the importance of having a positive mental well-being. Children have received the first of these sessions this morning.

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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 Clubs**

It is great to see so many children taking advantage of the clubs that are on offer. Please note that the clubs taking place before half-term have resumed this week, and children should continue to attend the clubs they signed up for before half-term.

### **PE Days**

Just a reminder that PE days have changed this half-term:

Year 3: Tuesdays

Year 4: Wednesdays

Year 5: Thursdays

Year 6: Mondays

### **Children in Need**

Children in Need takes place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Children are welcome to wear something spotty or Pudsey Bear merchandise to school on this day and we are inviting voluntary donations. Children will participate in a range of Children in Need activities throughout the day.

### **Jubilee Day**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022, there will be an additional national bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne. As this additional bank holiday falls within a school holiday, schools have been advised to identify an alternative date for this extra bank holiday to take place. At Brackenwood Junior School, this additional day's holiday will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Please note that Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January will now be a staff INSET day, and children will return to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Attendance and Absence**

Current whole school attendance stands at 95.7%. Each week, we reward the class with the highest weekly attendance with a little extra break time on Friday afternoons, and we will be issuing High Attendance certificates to all children who achieve attendance of at least 97% by the end of term. If you require any assistance with attendance issues, please contact Mrs Tasker on [taskerl@brackenwood-junior.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:taskerl@brackenwood-junior.wirral.sch.uk). If you 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).

### **Forthcoming Key Dates:**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** Anti-Bullying Week

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November:** Open Evening for Year 4 and Year 5 parents (3.45 – 6.00)

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** Open Evening for Year 3 and Year 6 parents (3.45 – 6.00)

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Whole School Pantomime Visit

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** School Closes

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January:** Additional holiday date (Jubilee Day)

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January:** INSET Day

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January:** School Opens to Pupils