

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a start of a new school year! I hope you and your children have had a wonderful Summer and are ready for another exciting year at Brookside. Most importantly, year 5's will be moving into the new classrooms that have been constructed over Summer. Your children are very privileged to be the 1st class in there and it should make for an even better year in a new environment!

I am sure you and your children are aware of many of the routines of Brookside, so hopefully this recap will hold no surprises for you.

We ask that all children are on time for school and ready to line up outside on the junior playground at 8.50am. It is important we start the day promptly and so the children should be in line ready to learn when the whistle is blown.

Please make sure children have their reading folders with them every day. It is essential that your child is reading every day. Please encourage them to do this in the home by reading with them on a regular basis.

Children should drink water during the day. Squash is not allowed. Children can bring in their own water bottles. Please choose bottles with a sports lid to control spillage. Your child should bring their water bottle home every Friday to be washed (if not every day). We would also like all children to bring in their own fruit (if they don't pay for school fruit) to eat during the morning.

Money, letters or reply slips should be placed in the dinner tray during registration. School dinners are paid for using a sQuid account. Trips can now be paid for using the sQuid account. We no longer accept cash payments for school dinners. Please check with the school office about current prices for school dinners.

PE usually takes place on Tuesday and Thursday. However, this sometimes changes and therefore your child needs to have their PE kit in school all week. This includes shorts, t-shirt, separate PE shoes and a tracksuit in the winter. Please ensure all items are clearly named.

Please make sure your child comes to school wearing school uniform and minimal jewellery. Rings, necklaces and bracelets are not suitable. Finally, please ensure all of their uniform is named – it is incredible the number of jumpers I find each year with apparently no home!

Our English and Maths lessons are taught in accordance with the new curriculum. In English, this will include many different genres of writing including journalistic, persuasive, explanation, poetry as well as non-fiction writing. In Maths, we will have a focus on the basic calculations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) as well as exploring shape, measure and data handling problems. This year we will again use the Maths – No Problem resources to teach the majority of this subject.

During the first half term, our topic is all about Brazil. Unfortunately the desired trip to Rio didn't fit in with the budget, but we still hoping to recreate Brazil in the classroom – we will try our best! In Art we will begin by concentrating on the work of Matisse.

Our PSHE is all about creating confidence within individuals and how they can cope with change and new challenges. In Computing (ICT) we will be learning new skills using PowerPoint and in PE we will learning the rules of High 5 netball. We will also be learning German this year, and this half term will be extending the use of conversational language.

In addition to all this, after half term we will be taking the children ice skating. This is a 6 week course, beginning in November, where children will progress in ice skating under the guidance of skilled coaches. More details on this will follow in due course.

We would be really grateful if you could to continue to support your child with any homework tasks. In Year 5, homework is focused on reading every night, learning spelling as well as a mathematics activity. Homework is sent home each Friday and is expected to be completed by the following Thursday. This gives the child 6 days to complete the tasks and importantly 6 days to ask for any help if required.

I hope your child has a wonderful year in year 5. There will be high expectations of your child so that they thrive in their new year, and your support is key to their success. I look forward to meeting all of you over the next few weeks. There will be a parents' evening during the 1st term, but if you have anything you wish to discuss before then, please come and see me (or the office) and we will arrange a convenient time to meet.

Kind regards

Ian Benskin