

Brookside Newsletter

25th October 2018

Dear Parents,

It was really pleasing to see so many of you during this week's parent evening sessions. I'm sure you are proud of the achievements of your child or your children in so many ways. As the first half of the autumn term draws to a close, we can reflect on the busy and engaged weeks we have had since the start of September. And for the parents with children new to the school – what a start! It has been terrific watching the newest members of Brookside School settle so well.

Ofsted

Ofsted visited the school on Wednesday, 10th October. A school receives notification of the visit at around midday of the day before so that they can best 'find you as you are!' Our inspection was supportive, helpful and successful. Our areas to carry forward are those areas which we had ourselves identified as priorities. Well done to our staff team and to our governor team – both of whom were involved in the process extensively. Well done, too, to our children for being able to demonstrate that they are great learners and great communicators. The report can be found on our school website.

Diversity & Black History

Throughout the school, the children have engaged in Black History Month. This has proved valuable and rewarding for all of our children – many will be able to tell you about the lives of extraordinary people and historical events, such as the sailing of the Empire Windrush. On Wednesday, we had a visit from Catherine Ross from The National Caribbean Heritage Museum. Catherine arrived in Nottingham during the 1950s from St Kitts & Nevis in the Caribbean – she was able to hold the children gripped by her experiences of a childhood across the ocean and a childhood here in the UK. Meeting a child of the Windrush Generation was a very informative and enjoyable day for the whole school, children and teacher alike.



Safeguarding Children, E Safety & Social Media

Our older pupils have put together an information leaflet titled 'What My Parents Don't Know About Social Media' (see attached). It makes for fascinating reading and offers an insight into the experiences young children have while using social media. The details are just as valuable to those of you that restrict your child's access to social media – it pays to be aware of the risks and pitfalls of the emerging culture that is social media.

The school's child protection policy is updated at least once per year. All of our staff receive routine child protection training and updates. The school's policy is available on the school website and from the school office.

Social media, pt 2

It pays, too, to be aware of the pitfalls that occur when members within a parent community use apps such as Whatsapp or Facebook to berate a member of a school's staff, a procedure that exists within a school or another member of the school's parent community. This, unfortunately, is an emerging practice that many schools are experiencing and many schools are able to talk about. I'm confident that it is a practice that won't allow itself to take root here at Brookside and where it has happened in the past, it has been isolated in occurrence and better reflected upon. Legitimate concerns are, of course, welcomed when brought to the attention of the school. The door is always open to a member of staff or to myself.

Harvest Collection and Food Market for the Homeless

Thank you for supporting our harvest collection and after-school food market. All donated items were further donated to The Friary charity for the homeless in Nottingham. You also helped raise over £270 through the purchase of the wonderful array of foods the children prepared for our market. This included home-made ice-cream, freshly kneaded and then baked pizza, harvest triples of fruit, biscuit & yoghurt, ginger bread rockets & stars, apple crumble, oven-baked bread and aromatic pumpkin soup. That's quite a delicious array!



Y2's Diary of a Killer Cat/ Matisse inspired hall display



YF's Earth & Space & re-using materials hall display

members of staff who will be sleeping out.

The money raised will contribute to the total several members of the school's staff (myself included) will be raising as they take part in Framework's Big Sleep Out at Nottingham Forest football ground (in the car park!) on the night of 24th November. More details, including the presentation of the cardboard night shelters - thanks for the donation of boxes - that they children will be making for each of the nine

Hooray for our BFG Team!

The BFG - our Brookside parent Fundraising Group. Thanks, once again, to this committed and energetic group of event organisers/ fundraisers for their really enjoyable outdoor screening of School of Rock. Stay tuned - details of a Christmas screening of Elf (7th December) will follow shortly. Indoors this time!

Year 6 - a tsunami of plastic in our oceans



We Need Your Expertise

Please find a letter attached from Miss Youngs and Mr Lead. They are looking to establish a team of bid-seekers and go-getters from amongst you. There are many sources of funding for playground and sustainability projects out there which will help to add impact to our school – such as an all-weather running track around our field. Please get in touch and become involved. We need you!

Diary Dates

A reminder that the BFG will be hosting our Bonfire Night fireworks display on the evening of Monday, 5th November. Tickets are available from the school office, the Three Horse Shoes and on the gate (£4. Under 3s go free).

November 12th – Individual/ family photos

November 16/ 19th – Inset

December 10/ 11th – YF Christmas Performance

December 11/ 12th – Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance

Our School Hall Displays

We are very proud of the work that each class has displayed in our school hall. If you get the chance, take a closer look.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Kenny (Head Teacher)



Year 4 – Banksy, oceans & plastic

Year 5 – Ocean awareness



Year 3 – Alternative tales

Year 1 – 3R Superheroes (recycling, reusing, reducing)



Volunteers Needed

Dear Parent/Carers,

We know that within our parent community there are some very talented people amongst you who have a variety of skills in many different areas. If you have any involvement in project management, bid writing, application writing, marketing or similar areas, we would greatly appreciate your help, advice and support.

We have a number of projects in mind, including the renovation of the wildlife area, installation of a running track and playground facilities. In order to make these projects possible we need to apply for funding. There are many sources of funding that would enable us to complete these projects and as a starting point we would initially love to work as a group in writing applications and bids on behalf of the school.

If you feel you have any support you could offer, however big or small, please join us on 28th November at 4.30 in the Year 3 classroom. If you have any questions please speak to one of us.

Thank you ,

Mr Lead and Miss Youngs

What my parents don't know about social media is...

...that I have multiple Facebook accounts and that I also turn off recommended settings on YouTube and I fake going on YouTube Kids then go on normal YouTube and watch YouTubers who swear.

...that on YouTube children can watch things that are not appropriate for their age.



...that they don't know all of my contacts. I chat to all of my friends on Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp and Skype/FaceTime however sometimes I chat to other people online that are very friendly. Fortunately, the games and social media I play on have block buttons so that I can stay safe online.

...I get requests from adults I don't know and I have to delete them all the time.

...that when I was on Candy Crush I had a strange message and this person told me to give them my name, my password and a picture of my face and it happened every day. It was really scary and hopefully it won't happen again.

...I make non-family-friendly content on YouTube and I make several different accounts and upload them to the public. I also watch inappropriate content on YouTube that swears.

...that I get bullied by one Year 7 and a Year 6 and one Year 8 who call me fat and comment very rude and inappropriate things on a language learning app and Musical.ly and Instagram.

These statements about the use of social media were compiled anonymously by the children of Year 5 & 6 at Brookside School. They make for interesting reading!

...our class swear on group chats in their posts with swearing on.

...I Snapchat people can find out your location although there is a thing called 'ghost mode' and it makes you invisible on Snapchat so you can't find out where you are.

...I have a private account but I don't want to because I would get bullied.

...I get messages saying 'if you don't send this to 15 people I will tell your parents' etc.

...I have a secret social media account that is secret. I don't tell any of the people I watch swear.

...I posted a picture of my cat on my Instagram and this person said my cat was ugly, disgusting but my cat is beautiful, amazing cat was ugly, disgusting.

...you can get bullied online.

...you can learn really bad swear words by YouTubers who swear.

As parents, we are sure that you are able to find the experiences listed above as very useful to know. For further information regarding helping your child stay safe online, you could visit the content on the NSPCC's Let's Keep Kids Safe Online pages.

