

Spring Term Issue 3

25th January 2019



Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Whilst chilly, all sports clubs recommenced this week and I thank all teachers and volunteer helpers who make this possible.

Our staff meeting on Tuesday focussed upon developing our children's reading fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Regular reading at home is vitally important to develop and consolidate these essential skills taught in school. Making sense of, and understanding any text, is the most important aspect of fluency, and this can only be achieved when a child's decoding and sight recognition of words is well enough developed.

During our meeting, we were advised that statistically a Year 2 child should be able to read approximately 90 words per minute, Year 4 120 words per minute and Year 6 150 words per minute in order to successfully access the current National statutory tests. Try this yourself and look at what this volume of text looks like. This will give you a guide as to the level of fluency currently expected and how challenging this is.

I cannot stress enough the importance of reading on a nightly basis across Key Stage 1 and a minimum of 5 times per week across Key Stage 2. This should be recorded in your child's Reading Diary. Good readers are, not surprisingly, good writers and draw their language, expression and style from their reading diet. The media has, once more, recently highlighted the lowering levels of communication and language in children. Suggested factors may include mobile phones and tablet usage, a lack of time and an absence of prioritising reading. Nightly reading, showing your enjoyment of books, story sharing and discussion go a long way in improving this. Watch out for our workshops next half term looking specifically at ideas of how you can effectively develop your child's reading.

Well done to our intrepid 10 pupils who represented the school at Tuesday's Multi-Skills Sports event. Our children had a great time and came second overall - a fantastic result! Thank you to Mrs Brislin and Mrs Lilley for facilitating this and those parents who assisted with transport.

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils became engineers for the day during a SetPoint 'Balloon Buggies' workshop. All had great fun creating their buggies!

A number of us attended the Teaching and Technology show (BETT) at EdExcel today looking at the future of education and keeping an eye on the next technological horizon. The show is vast and it was excellent to visit a range of seminars and presentations on the effective integration in the use of technology across the curriculum, along with hearing some innovative applications of this.

We have sent a test message today to ensure the school closure notification system is working. If you did not receive this, your details are not up to date and you should please contact the School Office on Monday. In the event of adverse weather and the need to close the school, we would notify you as soon as any decision has been taken.

We wish you a happy and snow free weekend.

Best wishes Paul Miller

FORGOTTEN PROPERTY

If children forget to bring items into school that are necessary for the school day and you wish to bring these up to school, please place them in the forgotten property box in the cupboard in the main entrance. Children can check this box throughout the day. It is the children's responsibility to collect items from the forgotten property box. Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will be supported by classroom staff to do so. Office staff are unable to continually take items to classrooms. Children will not be allowed to telephone home for any items they have forgotten.

TOWPATH

The towpath is a **road** and all care should be taken when using it. Please be reminded that **all** pedestrians and scooter riders **should be within the fenced walkway**. Cyclists should ride in the road, close to the walkway fence. All users need to be mindful of each other. Care should be taken not to injure anyone else using the path. Those with permission to drive should arrive early to avoid other users on the path and wait to leave until the path is clear. This is to ensure the safety of all.

Thank you.

PTA UPDATE

SPRING DISCO – FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

We are really looking forward to our Spring disco, which is coming up on Friday 8 February! The Early Years and KS1 disco will run from 5-6pm and KS2 from 6.30-7.30pm.

We need as many volunteers as possible to help us before, during and after the disco, with everything from setting up, to painting nails and selling refreshments. If you can help, even for just a short time, please let your class reps know or email us at

pta@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk.

