



Broadwater Down Newsletter - October 2022

Headteacher's Letter

I cannot believe that it's nearly the end of October; this term has truly flown by. Children have returned after the summer break, looking smart and ready for their learning. Projects are underway in each year group, from volcanoes in Year 6 to sculptures in Year 2 and the children seem genuinely excited by these.

I have had numerous positive comments about our website recently, especially the news page and the parent support page. Our very own Miss Pooley works hard to keep this up to date. Do take a look at it if you have time.

As with other schools, our school improvement adviser paid a visit near the start of term to see all the learning taking place. She took the opportunity to speak to lots of the children about various subjects and commented on the positive, keen responses she had by all. It is great to hear that our pupils are able to voice their opinions and know that their voice matters in driving the school forward. On that note, be sure to read the article by Miss Hodgkins about House competitions. As you know, Miss Hodgkins will be taking maternity leave after half term. In her place, Mrs Fenton will be Acting Up Deputy Head and working closely alongside me to support the team and children. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for when the big day arrives.

A reminder about attendance. Coming to school everyday is the first and most important step to your child achieving and making progress. The school, along with the local authority, monitor attendance closely. 96% is considered good attendance. Please can I thank families who have maintained good attendance this term. Whilst illness can't be helped, once attendance drops, school are obliged to work with families through meetings, letters and if needed, a referral to the attendance team at KCC. If you are struggling with attendance, always come and talk to the team, we are here to help.

As soon as your child enters their classroom, learning begins. Whether it is handwriting, phonics, early maths work or reading, so please can I urge families to be at school by 8:50am at the latest. Lateness is also monitored and if it is regular, it can become difficult to catch up on learning missed.

Finally we say 'goodbye' to Mrs Woodward. She has worked at the school for eight years and I can't thank her enough for her hard work and commitment to the children she has worked with during that time. I wish her well for her future adventures. I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 31st October.

Mrs Harris - Headteacher

Year 4

Deer Class has well and truly got STUCK into their new project: Mini Museums.

After building our shell structures, we made our own glue from flour and water and tested its consistency. It was a messy business but worth it.

We can't wait to show off our final results.



Year R



What a busy first term we have had in Ladybird class! The children have settled in really well and are enjoying exploring their new environment and learning with their new friends.

In choosing time the children have been learning how to build with large and small equipment, have loved pretending to be pirates and police officers and have explored how to make masks to show who they are pretending to be.

In large group time we have enjoyed looking for signs of Autumn and exploring the school grounds to spot the changes, which we can see happening.



Year 6 at Forest School

This term, Y6 ventured over to the woods behind the Blue Diamond Garden Centre for their first taste of off-site 'Forest School'. Having explored and tidied the site, they have had a brilliant few weeks exploring a number of different activities including: whittling sticks using industrial-strength potato peelers; fire-lighting; den building, using tarpaulin sheets and hammocks; arts and crafts and plenty of cooking (toffee apples, pizzas, hot-dogs and smores).



They have enjoyed the great benefits of 'Forest School': teamwork and collaboration, problem-solving, critical thinking skills, understanding and taking risks and respect for themselves, each other and nature. They have also learned skills such as negotiation, compromise and the idea of value; totally spontaneously the children collected conkers and decided to use them as currency to trade for other items such as tarpaulin sheets, hammocks and rope to help build their dens – some of them even took on the roles of bankers!!!

Overall, they have had a brilliant time and a big thank you must be extended to the team at the High Weald Partnership and of course to our very own chair of governors, Penny; without whom 'Forest School' would not be the wonderful learning experience that it is.

The children said:

"I enjoy making food and fires and 'Forest School' teaches us to enjoy and respect nature."

"I enjoy all of the different activities like whittling, building dens and climbing trees."

"I enjoy making paint and the arts and crafts. 'Forest School' has taught me to appreciate nature rather than being on my phone."



Year 2 - A Walk Around the World

Last week, Woodpecker Class created a large scale, imaginary map of the Earth and went for a stroll through the different climate zones.

Children located in the polar regions were equipped with woolly hats and scarves whilst those closer to the equator were given sunglasses to wear. The children made handwritten signs and used actions and mime to represent the climate at polar, temperate and tropical regions.

All in all, a really fun morning with lots learned. Well done Woodpecker Class!



The Stone Age in Year 3

In Year 3 we have been enjoying learning about the Stone Age. The children have been particularly excited finding out about cave painting and have a go at recreating their own versions.

During Forest School, we have made our own “paint” from berries and mud. We’ve also made our own charcoal by roasting willow sticks on a fire.

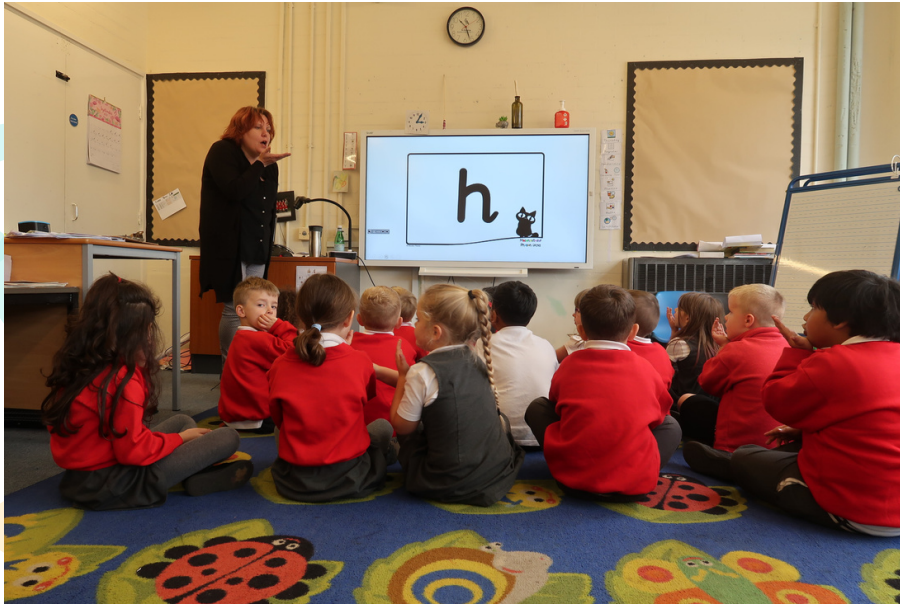
Back in the classroom, we’ve been learning to sketch animals simply and the differences between H and B pencils.

After half term, we will be learning to create our own colours by mixing primary colours together and adding black and white to change the tint and shade. We will be using all the skills we’ve learnt, to create our final pieces for our Stone Age Art Exhibition.



Year 1

The children have enjoyed learning phonics this term and are excited to use their new Monster Phonics books.



In Maths they have been learning how to count to one hundred in different ways and also discovering things that are **taller** and **shorter**.



They have also been busy drawing and creating connected to their "Under the Sea" project.



Attendance

Regular attendance is critical if our pupils are to be successful and benefit from the opportunities presented to them.

One of our basic principles is to celebrate success. Good attendance is fundamental to a successful and fulfilling school experience.

The table to the right shows attendance for the whole academic year.

This term we have increased our attendance percentage so thank you to those people that attend school regularly and on time.

Year Group	Attendance Percentage
Yr R	88.22% ↓
Yr 1	92.99% ↑
Yr 2	89.17% ↓
Yr 3	96.25% ↑
Yr 4	94.28% ↑
Yr 5	94.30% ↑
Yr 6	92.77% ↑
Whole School	92.92% ↑



Broadwater Down Autumn Term

Photographic Competition



Entry deadline – 14th November 2022

We want to celebrate the creative talents of Broadwater Down so we've decided to host another photographic competition.

Theme – Autumn Colour

Summer seems a distant memory and now there is a crisp edge to the weather. It's at this time of year that wonderful colours can be seen around us. Some of the trees around school and in the local area are looking amazing. When out for a walk, why not take a camera along with you (can be a mobile phone, compact camera or SLR) and capture some of the Autumn colour you find along your walk.

Categories

Winners and highly commended work will be selected from each:

- Class
- KS1
- KS2
- The whole of Broadwater Down Primary School

How to Enter

- Maximum of three entries per child.
- Email your images to:

tony.rogers@broadwater-down.kent.sch.uk

(don't forget to include your child's name and class name).

- Cropping and image processing (brightness, contrast, colour etc) are encouraged.

Prizes

The photographs will be judged by Mrs Harris and Mr Rogers. The winners will be announced, and the selected winners will be awarded a prize. The photographs will also be displayed around the school.

Please note

Some of the winning and highly commended photos maybe uploaded to the school website along with the first name of the photographer. We would love to highlight our creativity in the local press so there is a chance the images maybe published publicly. Within the entry email, please advise if you **do not** want your child's first name and photograph published on the school website or that of the local media.

House News

We have 4 houses; Fire, Water, Earth and Air.

We meet each term for house assemblies,
house school council and house competitions.

House Assembly

This term each house has chosen a house charity to support this year.

Fire – Fegans

Water – Folly Wildlife Rescue

Earth – Hospice in the Weald

Air – Imago Community

Throughout the year, each house will find out about their charity and hold a fundraising event to raise money for them.

House School Council

The topic of discussion for this term was anti-bullying. We all contributed our ideas to create a child friendly anti-bullying policy. The JLT will now work on putting this together next term.

House Competitions

In the final week of this term, the children have competed in a reading competition. Each time they read, they received points for their house. The winning house will be announced next term. The points for each competition over the year will be added together to discover the overall winners.

Sad News

I wish to share some sad news. Some of you may have known Miss Paula Fox, a teaching assistant who worked at our school for twenty years before leaving in 2019. She has sadly passed away after five years of fighting cancer.

Miss Fox worked with so many families from our community and helped nurture and support so many children. Her bubbly character made the class light up whenever she was in. She was caring and compassionate and a super first aider. She will be deeply missed.

Term Dates

2022 - Term 1

Last Day of Term One - Friday 21st October
Half Term: 22nd October - 30th October.

2022 - Term 2

First Day of Term Two - Monday 31st October
Last Day of Term Two - Friday 16th December
Christmas Holiday: 17th December - 4th January 2023

2023 - Term 3

Inset Day for Staff - Tuesday 3rd January
First Day of Term Three - Wednesday 4th January
Last Day of Term Three - Friday 10th February
Half Term: 11th - 19th February 2023

2023 - Term 4

First Day of Term Four - Monday 20th February
Last Day of Term Four - Friday 31st March
Easter Holiday: 1st - 16th April 2023

Term 5

First Day of Term Five - Monday 17th April
Last Day of Term Five - Thursday 26th May
Half Term: 27th May - 5th June 2023

Term 6

Inset Day for Staff - Monday 5th June
First Day of Term Six - Tuesday 6th June
Last Day of Term Six - Thursday 20th July
Inset Day for Staff: Friday 21st July

Safeguarding at Broadwater Down

We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors and believe everyone has the responsibility for the safeguarding and protection of our pupils.

If you have any concerns about the well-being of any of our pupils or about a member of staff, please ask to speak to:

Mrs Harris
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Hodgkins & Mrs Fenton
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they may experience with children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?
- My child has trouble going to sleep
- My child says, 'I hate you!'
- Cultural identity: who am I?

The Parenting Smart Website can be found here

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Being your child's role model

When children are very young, we are their principle role models. Advice and modelled behaviour at an early age will help to protect your child when they reach the stage of balancing your influence with that of peer pressure and adolescence. Regardless of how quickly the digital world is changing and of our ability to keep one step ahead of our children, by following some straightforward tips we can maximise their chances of growing into safe and responsible digital citizens.

Age appropriate content & PEGI ratings

There are so many entertaining, yet addictive, games and apps out there that aren't always suitable for younger children.

There can be huge intrigue and temptation for younger children to access games and apps that older members of the family are using. Pan European Game Information (PEGI) ratings exist to help consumers make an informed decision about game purchases and they shouldn't be ignored. They are based on the following content-related criteria: violence, grown-up themes, discrimination, fear, use of language, gambling and illegal activities.

Many popular games offer online player communication capabilities and encourage the purchase of add-ons to advance within the game. Demonstrate your own scepticism when it comes to in-app purchases.

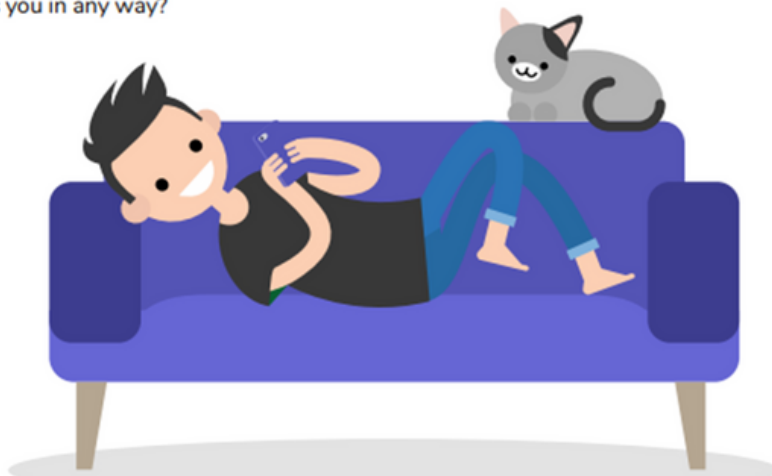
Is it really a good idea to spend money on 100 virtual diamonds when you have limited funds? If your child receives pocket money, you could suggest that they make their own decisions about how to spend it, including on the purchase of apps and add-ons.

Apps use

Consider how you are using communication apps with friends. Try to model habits that show your own awareness of the permanence of online information. If anyone was to see the contents of your communications would this embarrass you in any way?

Appropriate times

If your child sees you on your smartphone or tablet during dinnertime or late into the evening, what message is this giving them? You could allot explicit technology-free times for focusing on conversation or other activity.





It goes without saying that children pick up both good and bad habits from us. We can help them make sensible choices by establishing our own good behaviours when engaging with the digital world. Here are some areas in which you can help your child develop simple habits by modelling them yourself and discussing them informally.

DEMONSTRATE YOUR OWN 'NETIQUETTE'

Model appropriate behaviour for your child, especially if they have access to your devices or you are using them together. Avoid commenting on, posting or following social media posts that you wouldn't want your child to see. Always post and communicate respectfully.

Security

From virus protection to filtering, talk openly about why this is important and the purpose of having such security in place. If you are downloading apps for your child, focus their attention on the privacy requirements of the app; don't just click 'Accept' without reading them. Question why some apps ask permission to access all your files or photos. What could they be used for? If you find the privacy terms unacceptable, do not install the app – this will help your child to develop the same good habits.

Sharenting

Openness

Establish open, non-judgemental, supportive communication about the use of digital devices. This way, if there are any problems, it is much more likely your child will tell you about them in good time. Always stress that your aim is to keep them safe and happy, not to restrict them.

We have to admit that we like to share the positive moments in our child's life; social media is certainly a platform to do this. However, do we fully understand the potential risks of posting to social media? How often do we ask our child if we have permission to put an image of them online? Do we think it is OK to post about our child and share content because our accounts are only visible to friends? Do we understand the damage that posting and sharing content about our child could have in the future? These questions must be considered carefully. If in doubt, don't share!

Personal information

Only share information online that you know wouldn't cause any harm if a person with bad intent, or even an employer, were to see it.

Rules

Establish rules that all family members abide by, including when accessing the internet away from home. Talk through strategies that your child can use if they are put in an uncomfortable position when you are not around.