

Brecknock Newsletter

Don't Forget
Next Friday—
Community Festival

Friday 13th June 2014

Message from the Head

I am very pleased that Marianne has been appointed to take over from me in January as head at Brecknock. As you can imagine—it is going to be really hard for me to say goodbye; Brecknock has been such an important part of my life for the past eight years; but I want to assure you all that I will do everything I possibly can to make the transition as seamless as possible. Marianne will be coming in to meet with us, will be consulted on all major decisions, and will I am sure, be made very welcome by all of our school community.

Programming week: We have enjoyed so many “special” weeks this term, that I think we are all reeling with excitement. This week we have enjoyed programming week, brilliantly organised by Don. Please see all the amazing activities on the back

Assessments: We are now moving towards end of year assessments; teachers are writing reports and we are planning for September! We are fully staffed for next year now and will be more than ready for children and parents to meet their next teachers on Tuesday 15th July (please note this date in your diaries)

Message from the Governors

Dear all,

I am very pleased to inform you that we have appointed Marianne Porter to be Sue's successor as Headteacher at Brecknock. Marianne is currently the Deputy Headteacher at Beckford, another Camden school, and will be taking up her post in January. The opportunity to lead Brecknock attracted a very strong field of candidates and we selected Marianne because she was an impressive candidate with a wealth of experience in similar schools and of addressing the key issues that we face in moving Brecknock on to become an even better school than it is now.

We'd like to thank all the pupils, parents and staff for their patience and support throughout this process and for the very positive impression that they made on all the candidates.

Marianne will be coming in to familiarise herself with the school over the coming months, so there will be opportunities for you all to meet her before she takes up her post in January.

Best wishes

Paul Smith—Chair of Governors



Golden Book Awards... and this weeks winners are...

Adam & Freddy—Class 1B,
Adam & Riaz—Class 1T, Ilyas & Mischa—2B,
Bradley & Hafsa—Class 2H, Charlotte—3M,
Nakai—3N, Suraya—4A, Maria—4M,
Kwadwo—5C, Al-Mumin—5M, Tauheedah—6G,
Fahmida—6M



Attendance Rabbit & Early Bird Winners



Summer Term—2nd-6th June

Attendance KS1: 2H—95.93%

Attendance KS2: 6G—99.09%

Early Bird: 5C — 0 lates



Friday Cake Sale

Last Friday's Cake Sale for year 3 raised £43.21. Well done and thank you to all the parents and friends who donated items for sale.

The next Friday Cake Sale is...

Friday 20th June—Year 1

Dates for your calendar



16th-20th June	Work Week
18th June	Reception Induction Evening @ 5pm
20th June	Community Festival
26th June	School Council to Parliament
2nd July	Year 3 to Open Air Theatre in Regents Park
4th July	Reception to the Adventure Playground
11th July	Year 6 to Joss Bay
18th July	Last Day of Term—school closes @ 2pm

Mathletics and Bug Club

Please encourage your children to use these from home. Thanks

www.mathletics.co.uk & www.bugclub.co.uk

Brecknock Programming Week

Brecknock has always been at the forefront of the use of technology in teaching not just in Camden, but London and the UK. Strongly supported by our governors in terms of investment we were one of the first Camden schools to have an ICT suite, one of the first Camden schools to get interactive whiteboards throughout the school from Nursery to Year 6 and one of the first to have a suite of iPads. Over the years we have won many national competitions using multimedia and been showcased on the internet through the London Grid for Learning and other sites. With the new computing curriculum having a strong emphasis on coding and programming from September we decided to continue being trailblazers by following our 'Hour of Code Week' from earlier in the year, with our very first 'Programming Week'. From Early years right up to year 6, every child in the school has been thinking about what Algorithms are and had the chance to try out a number of activities using different types of programming skills as well as other technology based workshops. As you can see over the page, it has been a fantastic week and the children have really enjoyed it. We look forward to all the fabulous programming that will be going on in school from September when the new curriculum kicks in.



Brecknock Programming Week

One of the activities going on in KS2 was the Sumobot Wars! Every class had the chance to build Lego Sumobots and then programme them to take part in a Sumo War. Each class then had a champion Sumobot that took part in the grand final in today's assembly. Last robot standing was TurboBot from 3N. Well done to all of KS2 for really getting stuck in and coming up with some fantastic designs and excellent use of programming to get them working correctly.

Sumobots in KS2



Grand Champion Sumobot - 'TurboBot' from 3N!

What else...

As well as these activities, classes have also been doing other programming based activities. Year 5 and 6 had a visit from the creators of a fantastic new online programming teaching game called 'Code Kingdoms' where they had a go at playing and programming their own games. All classes used iPads, Laptops and PCs to carry out programming apps and websites such as learn.code.org. We even had a KS2 'Minecraft' lunchtime club 'Creative Challenge' in which nearly 100 children have taken part. The winner will be announced in assembly on Monday.

Beebots in KS1

In KS1 all the children had a Maze Challenge to negotiate. They had to programme their BeeBot floor robot to negotiate a very tricky, 3D maze (thanks to Jo, Rachel and the Year 6 children for building and painting it!). The children had lots of fun and did really well. Prizes went out to the winning teams today in assembly.



Technology Will Save Us!

On Tuesday we had a visit from Hackney based company 'Technology Will Save Us'. They did a workshop with one of our Year 6 classes that was fantastic. The children built, from component level, their own electronic musical instrument using light dependent resistors and microchips! We discovered some natural solderers (and some for whom it was more of a challenge!). Maybe the electrical engineers of the future. In the afternoon Year 2 had an 'Electro Dough' workshop where they built and investigated simple circuits using batteries, LEDs, sensors and playdough! Lots of excellent learning and great fun too. Just as it should be!

