

Friday 8th January 2016

## Message from the head

Happy New Year to everyone. Children have returned to school calm and focussed and this term's teaching and learning is already well underway. Please make sure you come along to your child's curriculum meeting next week so that you can find out what they will be learning this term and how you can help.

We were delighted to finish last term with a letter from Nick Gibb, Secretary of State for schools congratulating us on the progress that children make at Brecknock which puts us in the **top 100 schools in the whole country!** To the right is an image of the letter (very small!) but you can read the letter in full on the website at <http://www.brecknock.camden.sch.uk/news/brecknock-in-the-top-100/> or by clicking on the QR code above. There is also a link to the London League tables on this web page showing that our progress last year puts us joint 6th best in the whole of London! I am immensely proud of all the children, staff and parents who made this happen, it is a real testament to their dedication and hard work.

### 21st Century Legacy Project—Be the Best You Can Be!

Finally, we had an inspirational INSET day on Monday when a speaker was talking about how we can all 'be the best you can be'. She spoke to us about instead of making new year resolutions (which are often doomed to failure!) we should adopt a word to see us through the year. This year I think it would be good for us as a community to think about tolerance. With the division and violence that we have seen recently in the world it is more important than ever that we take time to listen to each other's views and respect difference. I am sure you will agree that Article 12 of the UNCRC: 'You have the right to give your opinion and for others to take it seriously' is one which we need to hold on to in challenging times. Let's work together to make 2016 a fantastic year.

## Curriculum Meetings Next Week

We really value our close working relationship with parents and carers and know by working closely together we can improve the outcomes for all our young people. That is why at the start of every term we hold curriculum meetings so that you are clear on what will be covered that term and you have the opportunity to ask any questions you might have. We hope to see you at next weeks meetings. Please see the days and times below.

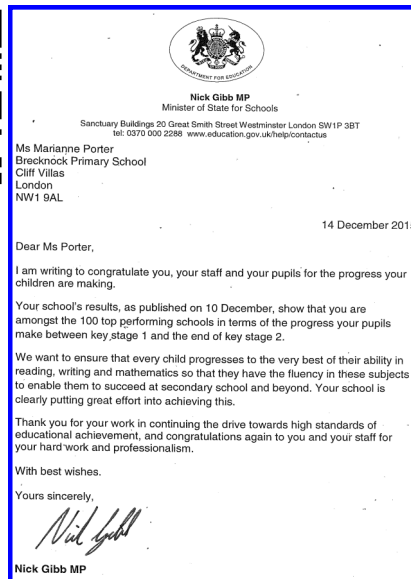
**Years 1, 3 and 5—Monday 11th @ 3.40pm**

**Reception—Tuesday 12th @ 3.40pm**

**Nursery, Years 2 & 4—Wednesday 13th @ 3.40pm**

### Dates for your calendar

12th January	Jersey Class to CLC
15th January	Guernsey Class to CLC
25th January	Hawaii Class to CLC
1st February	Year 5 to the Royal Observatory
10th February	Year 5 to Unicorn Theatre
10th February	Tahiti Class to CLC
15th-19th Feb	Spring Half Term Holiday
22nd February	School Opens—children back
3rd March	Jamaica Class to CLC
4th March	Cuba Class to CLC
8th March	Year 1 to Unicorn Theatre
24th March	Last day of term—close @ 2pm
25th Mar-8th Apr	Easter Holidays
11th April	School Opens—children back
2nd May	May Day Holiday—School Closed
30th May-3rd June	Summer Half Term Holiday
6th June	INSET Day—School Closed
7th June	School Opens—children back
20th July	Last day of term—close @ 2pm



## Starting school in Camden 2016

Parents whose children are starting reception classes in Camden primary schools in September 2016 need to apply by **15th January**. You can apply online. Got to our website for more information and links to the relevant pages at Camden. <http://www.brecknock.camden.sch.uk/news/starting-school-in-camden-2016/>



## Attendance & Punctuality Winners—Autumn Term 2015-16

**Attendance KS1: Jersey—96.09% & KS2: Hawaii—96.85%**

**Total for Whole School—94.61% (our target for the year is 95%)**

**Punctuality (lowest no. of lates): KS1—Jersey—36 & KS2—Sumatra 37**

There are a lot of children who are consistently coming in after the register is closed and lessons have begun—most classes had over 80 lates in a single term (2 classes had over 100 and 1 class over 200!), these are mostly the same children late multiple times a week. This has a very negative effect on the children's learning and we would urge you, if your child is often late, please endeavour to get them in on time.

## Christmas Fair Thank You!

On top of the thank you's we put in the newsletter before Christmas for this year fabulous fair which raised a superb **£616.78** we'd like to express heartfelt gratitude to some other local businesses who also supported the event: The Islington Tennis Centre on Market Road, Shillibeers and the Pleasance Theatre, both on North Road. Last and by no means least a huge thanks to Gill (Aiden & Emily's Nan) who baked the cake and took charge of selling tickets for guess the weight of the cake competition. A double thanks to Gill as she greeted the start of the new year by bringing the staff in a very tasty Christmas Cake too! She bakes a cake for the Christmas and Summer fair every year and her tireless support is much appreciated—'Great British Bake Off' next Gill!



## Home Learning Survey

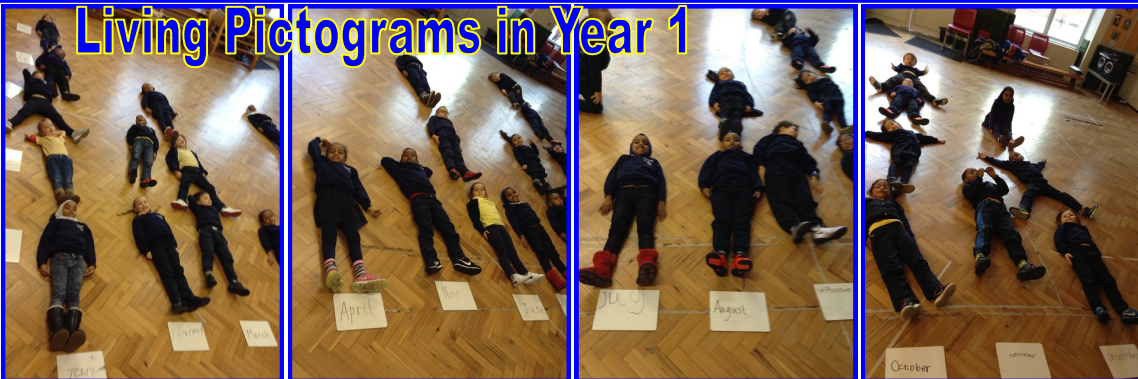
As you would have read last term we are trying to get parent/carer opinions on homework and the new homework matrices being trialled in years 1-5. If you have not done so already please go online and complete the short survey. Thank you.

<http://goo.gl/forms/RyFia3Z1EW>



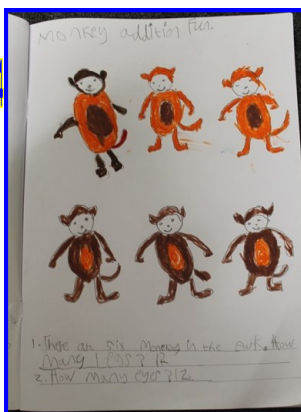
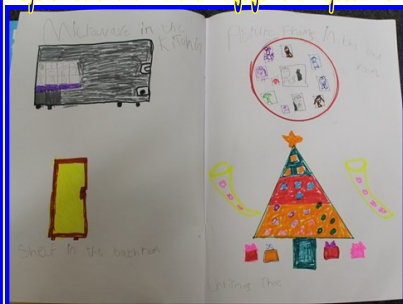
In Year 1 this week they have been looking at different ways to represent data. One way they came up with was to do it with a 'living' pictogram! Here are some photos of how they represented their Birthday tally chart!

Birthday Tally Chart		
Month	Tally	Number of Births
January		4
February		4
March		4
April		4
May		4
June		4
July		4
August		4
September		4
October		4
November		4
December		4



We hope you enjoyed doing the activities from this project that were sent home over Christmas for your children's Maths Scrapbook. One task will be coming home each week for you to enjoy together. Be as creative as you want with your children in recording how you do these tasks. We hope you will find them useful. We know the children will really enjoy sharing these learning opportunities with you. Already we have seen some fantastic home learning. Below you can see Aby in year 1 who did a shape hunt around the house and then a monkey problem solving activity where she has drawn the monkeys to help her workings out. Well done Aby, no surprise to see you in the Golden book this week!

Mayors Maths Fund—Parental Engagement Project—Yrs1-4



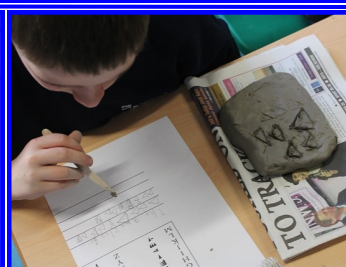
On Thursday, Year 3 did their Entry Point for their new topic 'Adventurers and Explorers'. They had individual clues hidden around the school that they had to solve in order to find the treasure. They also used a compass to try and find treasure on a map. They made fantastic explorers!



As mentioned on the front page we are doing a project called 'Be the Best You Can Be'. We are very excited that on the 25th January we will officially be launching the project with a visit from a world champion BMX rider, Mike Mullen. Mike will be doing assemblies to the school and then working with classes around the school. We are very excited!



Coming soon...



In year four this week they translated the title of their own legends into ancient Mesopotamian script. Just like in Ancient Mesopotamia they used tools and clay to write Cuneiform, the system of writing first developed by the ancient Sumerians of Mesopotamia c. 3500-3000 BCE. It is considered the most significant among the many cultural contributions of the Sumerians and the greatest among those of the Sumerian city of Uruk which advanced the writing of cuneiform c. 3200 BCE. Bet you didn't know that!

Mesopotamian Script in Year 4

Golden Book Awards and this weeks winners are...



Marko & Zaynab—Mull, Ifaz & Aby—Skye, Mehjabeen & Ziad—Guernsey, Dylan & Zahra—Jersey, Teo & Adam—Y3, Rory & Alex—Y4, All of Jamaica Class & Dontre—Y5, Morgan & Sara—Y6

Brecknock Primary School, Cliff Villas, London. NW1 9AL

Tel: 0207 485 6334

Twitter: @BrecknockSchool

Web: www.brecknock.camden.sch.uk