

Executive Head Teacher: Helen Bruckdorfer BA

Thursday, 02 September 2021



Welcome back to Brecknock!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the 2021-22 academic year at Brecknock. We hope that you all had a wonderful summer break, with the chance to spend time with family and friends. It has been fantastic to welcome the children back to school today, ready for learning and full of enthusiasm. Equally, it feels good to come back together as a school community for what we hope will be a return to a normal school term. We are all looking forward to settling in our new Nursery and Reception children over the coming weeks and we are happy to welcome new families. **Being in school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing; all children are expected to attend school every day unless they are unwell.**

The community has been active during the summer holidays with 'Summer School' attended by Brecknock and Torriano children. We are excited that the chickens will be back in the Early Years as they have a lovely new home in the outdoor area! Over the course of this half term, keep an eye out for a new sensory pod that will be installed in the Year 1 playground.



As you will know, we come back to a slightly different leadership structure, with **Helen as Executive Headteacher of Brecknock and Torriano and Conor in his new post as Head of School**. We will continue our close working relationship with Torriano, sharing practice, curriculum and expertise to benefit the quality of education across the two schools. We have already learnt so much from each other and are excited about the opportunities ahead. As you will know, we have a fantastic staff at Brecknock, with a strong and experienced senior leadership team. As part of the new partnership, **Michelle Rae** will continue to work across both schools as **Director of Inclusion**, supporting Brecknock's new SENDCO, **Marianna Slovackova**. **Lisa Hyland** is also excited to start her new role as **Leader of Learning**.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new year six teacher Sadia and new members of support staff. Please make them welcome; they are keen to get to know you and the community.

This letter contains important information regarding arrangements for the start of term, including the school's key themes and priorities and important dates for your diary. I hope this information helps to ensure a successful and safe start to the year for all.

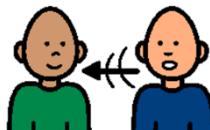


COVID - 19

You will have received a letter on **Friday 27th August**, communicating the arrangements for Covid-19 precautions this term. **Please ensure you have read this carefully** as it contains important information. The **new risk assessment** will be uploaded to the website and the link will be shared with you all. We are carefully watching the infection rates in the local area. Camden schools are working with Camden and Islington Public Health to ensure that we respond appropriately to any changes.

We will continue to implement and review the following **measures of control**:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.



Time to talk; time to change

This year, Brecknock will be focusing on improving their oracy skills (speaking, listening and vocabulary) to support their learning across the curriculum. We will be promoting the right to be heard, return to the Brecknock values and learn about local and global issues that matter to us. Through our whole school theme: '**A Time to Talk; A Time Change**' we will learn about the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** which aim to ensure a quality education for all, fight inequalities and fix climate change.



This term's school events will include; The World's Largest Lesson Global Action Week, Black History Season, Ada Lovelace Day, National Poetry Day and build up towards the **COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference**. We are excited to enrich the children's learning with trips and access to London's vibrant cultural offer, as well as a wider range of extra-curricular activities being on offer for all. We are also very much looking forward to bringing the children together in phases (EYFS, Y1&2, Y3&4, Y5&6) for assemblies and events to connect and bring learning to life.

School Priorities 2020-21

We continue to set high expectations in learning for all our pupils and have identified **school priorities for 2021 - 22**. The school improvement plan sets out our actions to meet these priorities. Progress towards these are regularly evaluated and scrutinised by senior leaders, governors and the local authority.

Our key priorities for 2020/21 include:

- Developing children's oracy skills to support them in reading, writing and mathematics
- Maintaining a sharp focus on the teaching of **early reading** and the culture of reading is purposeful.
- Developing **children's number sense and fluency** in calculation.
- Supporting families to improve attendance.
- Explicitly teaching **anti-racism** and **reviewing representation in the wider curriculum**.
- Supporting the **physical and mental well-being** of our children, staff and families.

Please keep updated on our activities and progress by reading the newsletter, which will now be issued on a **Thursday**.



School Community

We aim to continue our close partnership with parents. You will have the opportunity to meet the senior leadership team at the beginning and end of the school day and at **SLT coffee mornings** this term. If the weather is fine we will be able to have these events in the playground in person, if not we will move them online.

The first meeting will take place on **Thursday 16th September @ 9:30am** and will be for Year 1 - 6 parents.

On **Thursday 30th September @ 9:30am** a SLT coffee morning will take place for Reception and Nursery parents.

Meet the Team Online Meetings

Your child's teacher will be inviting you to a 'Meet the Team' meeting to discuss the curriculum and year group expectations. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the **whole year group team**, ask questions and find out about all aspects of school life. Meetings take place **online**, on the following days **@ 15:45 and 16:15**:

Day	Monday 13th	Tuesday 14th	Thursday 16th
Year group	Year 4 15:45 Year 5 16:15	Year 2 15:45 Year 3 16:15	Year 1 15:45 Year 6 16:15

The zoom links for these meetings will be sent out next week. If you need to speak with your child's class teacher, please call the office to arrange a time to meet. Early Years parents will have an opportunity to join meetings at the end of September, further details will be sent in due course.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

Breakfast Club has started today. If you would like your child to attend breakfast club **from 7.45am**, please login in to your Parent Pay account and select your preferences; if you are having difficulties with this, please contact the school office.



After School Clubs and Play Centre

We will be offering a wide range of after school clubs for children in Year 1 - 6. This will start from Monday 13th September. Information regarding this provision will be shared with families **tomorrow**. Wrap around care for children in EYFS and Year 1 is also available and can be booked through your Parent Pay account. **Local play centre provision will be available at Camden Square.** Please contact Paula on camdensquare@paceforall.com for Camden Square.

Attendance

We look **forward to building on our 89% first day back attendance**. Our target is **97%**. Thank you for keeping the office informed of any absence and for letting us know if you are quarantining following summer holiday travels.

Please be reminded that **school attendance is mandatory** and the usual rules continue to apply, including:

- a parent's duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

- schools and local authorities may issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

It is hugely important that we work together as a school community to improve attendance at Brecknock and all staff will be on the lookout for good attendance and prompt school arrival this term. We understand that reaching 100% daily attendance remains challenging, so will continue to celebrate good attendance and time-keeping behaviour in our weekly assemblies.

If you have any concerns of a **safeguarding** nature, please find overleaf **information about our Designated Safeguarding Leads and their contact information**.

We look forward to working together with you this term. Look out for key dates in next week's newsletter. Please also see the attached information regarding school payments through Parent Pay.

Warm regards,

Helen and Conor