

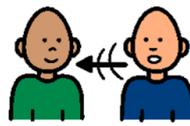


Executive Head Teacher: Helen Bruckdorfer BA

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic first half term of the new academic year at Brecknock, with children settling happily into their new classes and returning to good learning habits. Our priority remains responding to the loss of learning for all children during the lockdowns. Whilst continuing to offer a broad and progressive curriculum, we will keep focusing **on filling the gaps in children's learning and helping them to catch up.** We hope you were able to attend our virtual **Meet the Team** meetings with class teachers. This letter gives further important and detailed information regarding the year ahead and this term's learning.



## 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. You will be updated regularly through the newsletter, website and school **Twitter feed @BrecknockSchool.**



## Rights Respecting Children

As a **Gold Rights Respecting school**, we consistently focus on the rights of the child and how these help us to develop an understanding of respect and empathy for others. At the start of this term, every class has created their class charter, underpinned by the Brecknock school values.

 <h3>Who do I want to be?</h3> 		
<p>Giving</p> 	<p>Healthy</p> 	<p>Curious</p> 
		
		

In class, the children are praised for excellent work, participation and following the class charter and whole school values. Children are rewarded with stickers linked to the school value they have demonstrated.

### Learning in Reception

The **attached curriculum leaflet** gives you an overview of the learning that has taken and will continue to take place this term in your child's year group. Through our topic 'Ourselves', the children will be talking about themselves, their families and friends and their role at school. The children will talk about their own likes and dislikes and begin to understand that people have different preferences. They will draw pictures and make marks to describe some of the people in their lives and talk about why these people are special. They will then meet some of the people who help them at school (the head teacher, office staff etc.) and ask them questions to find out more about their jobs. The children will finish their topic with a 'Family Festival', a celebration of the children's work, friends and families in the Reception outdoor area. We hope you can come along!

All classes will use **Brecknock Timelines** and **Learning Planners** to support children to learn, remember and recall key facts. The learning planners will be sent to you at the beginning of each term via Parent Hub.

### Trips

We are delighted to be able to plan and take children on a range of educational trips once again. All trips will be risk assessed and following current guidelines. We will be visiting the Clock Tower Park this week and we would be delighted if you could join us.

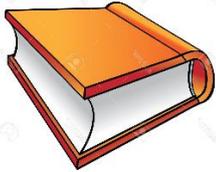
### Attendance and Punctuality

We understand that reaching 100% daily attendance is challenging at this time, we will be celebrating good attendance and time-keeping behaviour weekly. **We encourage you to monitor your child's attendance using Parent Hub to ensure their attendance remains excellent. Please ensure you download the Parent Hub App to access your child's profile.**

We send the majority of the schools communications via email, including the newsletter which is sent every Thursday and uploaded to the school website. Letters for trips, dinner money and anything in relation to finance is sent via your ParentPay account. We also send short messages that we need to communicate with you quickly through the Parent Hub app.

Learning in Reception **starts at 9.00am with the gates being opened from 8:50am.**

## Home Learning

<p><b>Home Learning</b></p>	<p>Please ensure your child comes to school every day with their book bag; school has supplied one for your child. Please do read and sign the reading journal – your class teacher will have added a key question about the picture story book your child has selected to take home. You can change the picture story book as often as required and we do encourage this!</p> <p>Your child will also take home a levelled book each week. Please read this daily and celebrate their success.</p> <p>To support their phonics learning, your child will be provided with Phase 2 and Phase 3 phonics resources and flashcards. Please do practise these sounds at home.</p> <p>In EYFS the children will be learning poems and songs regularly as this will help develop their oracy skills. We will share these with you as your child may enjoy performing them for you.</p>
<p><b>Reading</b></p> 	<p><b>Parental and guardian support</b> is hugely important for developing reading skills, confidence and understanding. Even if children are independent readers, we still encourage parents to read with them or listen to them and discuss the books they are reading.</p> <p>Children need to <b>read at home for at least 10 minutes a day</b> and complete a short daily reflection ('I enjoyed this book because...' 'It was funny when...' or alternatively an adult can write the comment for them) in their reading records.</p> <p>When reading stories with your child, encourage your child to look at the front cover of a book. Ask them questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do they think the book will be about?</li> <li>• Why do they think this?</li> <li>• Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the story book.</li> <li>• Who is in the story?</li> <li>• What is happening?</li> <li>• Where is it happening?</li> </ul> <p>This will help your child answer 'who, what and where' questions supporting the development of their comprehension skills. You can challenge your child further by asking them 'why' and 'how' questions.</p> <p>Children's reading records and current reading book should be brought to school every day as they are sometimes used, and referred to, in lessons.</p>
<p><b>Phonics</b></p>	<p>Phonics lessons take place daily EYFS and form the foundations for learning to read and write. Your child will receive a Sound Booklet appropriate to the phase of Letters and Sounds they are learning. The books are an opportunity for parents and carers to practise reading with their child and they are also a useful communication tool between school and home, helping you to understand what your child is working on now and what their next steps will be.</p> <p>We recommend that you use the book for around <b>5 minutes per day</b>. It can be helpful to set a timer or a target, such as a number of pages, for your child so that they have an achievable goal. When you feel that your child confidently knows all of the sounds and tricky words in the book, please return to the class teacher. They will then celebrate this with your child and assign the next phase booklet.</p>

<p><b>Fluency in maths</b></p> 	<p>Knowing <b>number facts</b> is an important tool to enable your child to feel confident in maths. Talk about number with your child and immerse them in opportunities to practise counting every day.</p>
<p><b>New words</b></p> 	<p><b>Direct vocabulary teaching takes place every day.</b> Each Friday, children choose one of their new words to wear on a sticker. We encourage you to speak to your child about their chosen word each week as this will help them to deepen their understanding of the word and to develop their oracy skills!</p>

Reading books and reading records should be kept in the book bag as these are used/referred to regularly in class. Letters for trips and other correspondence will be issued through Parent Hub. Newsletters are sent via Parent Hub every Friday and will also appear on the website.

## PE

PE takes place every **Wednesday**. Children **will not be changing for PE** so please ensure they wear appropriate clothes for physical activity on these days, including trainers.

We are available at pickup to discuss any queries at the end of each school day.

Kind regards,

Rachel and Hannah