



Brecknock Primary School

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Monday, 17 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great start to the new term, with children picking up from where they left off in their learning. The Year 4 team hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas holidays and you were able to spend some time with family and friends. The children have returned joyful and refreshed, ready for the new term ahead. This term is filled with many exciting projects, themes and activities. We will be studying The Romans; the digestive system and countries, using maps and compass skills.



We continue our whole school theme, **Time to Talk; Time to Change**, where we will continue to develop our oracy skills to help us make positive changes in our community and beyond. We are looking forward to the chance to showcase our developing speaking skills on **World Speech Day** later in the term.

We will also be commemorating **Martin Luther King Day** and **Holocaust Memorial Day** this month, thinking about rights, promoting **equality and social justice**.

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.



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. These values are celebrated during our weekly special achievement assemblies.

Values focus

One of our whole school resolutions is to focus more on being **healthy**, one of our important school values. As part of this focus we will be developing children's understanding of how to be and stay healthy, including discussions about healthy eating, the important of physical activity, sleep and looking after their mental well-being.



As you may already know, as part of this we will be taking steps to becoming a water only school and we will send out information about other initiatives we are taking to become even healthier.

Learning in Year 4

The **attached curriculum leaflet** gives you an overview of the learning that will take place this term in your child's year group. In Year 4, children will build on their learning of 'Animals, including Humans' in science. They will study the digestive system and teeth. This topic will be further explored through reading and writing. In History we will learn about the Romans. Children will further their knowledge by making a chariot in DT.

All classes will use **Brecknock Timelines** and **Knowledge Mats** to support children to learn, remember and recall key facts about the Anglo-Saxons and Picts, the introduction of renewable energy sources in the UK and where significant individuals from our learning fit into our timeline.

Attendance and Punctuality

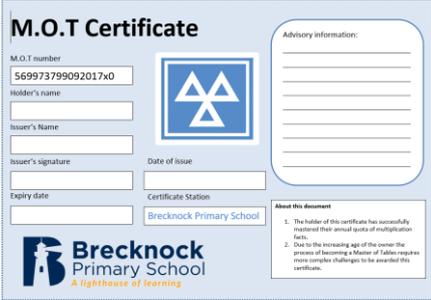
We understand that reaching 100% daily attendance is challenging at this time. **We encourage you to monitor your child's attendance using Parent Hub to ensure their attendance remains excellent. Please ensure you download the Parent Hub App to access your child's profile.**

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.

The school **gates open at 8:50am** in order for lessons to **start at 9.00am**. **Please ensure you follow the one way systems in place to allow for social distancing.**

Home Learning

Homework	<p>Homework at Brecknock is given through Google Classroom. Children have been set up in their Google Classrooms for 2021-22 and homework will be set online. Children have been issued their login details, however, if your child is struggling to access from home, please come and speak to a member of the team and we can reissue.</p> <p>Homework books are available if children prefer to do their homework in this way but we would encourage the use of Google Classroom. Quizzes</p>
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	<p>will be set on Wednesday and must be returned to class, or completed online, by Monday.</p> <p>Differentiated spelling tests will take place on Mondays.</p> <p>We also expect children to read every day at home and to fill out their Reading Records.</p>
<p>Reading</p> 	<p>Parental and guardian support 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 read at home for at least 20 minutes a day and complete a short daily reflection ('<i>I enjoyed this book because...</i>' '<i>It was funny when...</i>' or alternatively an adult can write the comment for them) in their reading records.</p> <p>Children's reading records and current reading book should still be brought to school every day as they are sometimes used, and referred to, in lessons.</p>
<p>Fluency in maths</p> 	<p>Knowing number facts is an important tool to enable your child to feel confident in maths. Revising number facts, including times tables, is an easy way to support your child's progress in mathematics and we encourage children to revise them regularly.</p> <p>Through their weekly homework, children will be given strategies and activities to support them. Children will also be encouraged to login into online maths resources such as 'Times Table Rockstars', 'My Maths' 'Hegarty Maths' or 'Doodle Maths'. Their login details for specific website resources will be sent home.</p> <p>MOT Certificates are awarded to children in Celebration Assemblies when they have successfully mastered the number facts relevant to their learning and personal targets (e.g. times tables).</p>
<p>New words</p> 	<p>Direct vocabulary teaching takes place every day. On a 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>

Homework, spelling books, reading books and reading records should be kept in a book bag as these are used/referred to regularly in class.

PE

PE will take place every **Monday and Thursday**. Children **will not be changing for PE** so please ensure they wear appropriate clothes for physical activity on these days, including trainers. Please note, we have and will **continue to do a Daily Mile**, so it is important that children wear appropriate footwear daily.

Please see below, a list of key dates. These will be updated when necessary and we will share any updated via the newsletter and the notice board by the school office. As always, we are available at pickup to discuss any queries at the end of each school day.

Kind regards,

Lisa and Kate

Key term dates—Spring term 2022



Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 11th January	Spoken Word Project trip to The Criterion Theatre	1.30 - 3.30pm
Tuesday 18th January	Nursery Tour	5.00 - 6.00pm
Friday 21st January	Fire Safety Workshop for Year 2 and 5	9.30 - 2.20pm
Friday 21st January	Nursery Tour	9.30 - 10.30am
Wednesday 26th January	Nursery Open Day	9.30 - 10.30am
Wednesday 2nd February	Nursery Tour	9.30 - 10.30am
Monday 14th - Friday 18th February	Half Term	School Closed for all children
Monday 21st February	School Reopens	All children return to school
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day	All day for all children
Monday 7th - Friday 11th March	Science Week	All week for all children
Wednesday 23rd March	Camden Spring Festive for the Brecknock Choir	All Day
Friday 1st April	Last Day of Term	School closes at 2pm for all children