



**Brecknock Primary School**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another brilliant start to the new academic year at Brecknock, with children settling quickly into their new classes, returning to good learning habits and being incredibly active learners. Thank you to all who attended our **Meet the Team** meetings with new class teachers, we hope this gave you a sense of the coming year. This letter gives further important and detailed information regarding the year ahead and this term's learning. Please keep an eye out for **parent workshops which will be running throughout the year**. Our weekly newsletter, sent on a Thursday, will keep you updated of all that is happening in the school. Please also follow us on [@BrecknockSchool](https://twitter.com/BrecknockSchool)

### Together, Our Future Starts Here

**This year, Torriano and Brecknock schools** will be exploring the whole school and federation theme **Together, The Future Starts Here**. We are excited to embark on a deeper partnership, with each other, with our children, parents and community, increasing opportunities for everyone to learn together.



We will enrich our learning and curriculum with a focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) quality education, reduced inequalities, affordable and clean energy. In the Autumn Term we will mark key events; Global Goals Week, Ada Lovelace Day, Black History Season and Anti-bullying Week.

**Please see the rest of the letter below and curriculum leaflet, detailing the core and wider curriculum for children. Knowledge mats** are also being sent out to support children's learning. This information will also be available shortly on the school website.

## 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 BRIGHT school values.



In class, the children are praised for excellent work, participation and following the class charter and whole school values. Our behaviour system is called '1,2,3 Magic', which we believe complements our ethos. Children are rewarded with stickers linked to the school value they have demonstrated. These values are celebrated during our weekly special achievement assemblies.

## Learning in Year 4

The **attached curriculum leaflet** gives you an overview of the learning that will be taking place this term in your child's year group. Through our history topic on Ancient Egypt, the children will be learning about how Ancient Egyptian society was constructed. We will also explore the importance of the River Nile and its benefits for Ancient Egypt. In science, we will learn about Animals including humans focusing on the digestive system and teeth.

All classes will use **Brecknock Timelines** and **Knowledge Mats** to support children to learn, remember and recall key facts about Ancient Egypt and in the latter half of the term, the Romans in Great Britain. These will also support the children to recall key individuals and events they have learnt about.

## 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 follow current guidelines. This term, we are going to be visiting the British Museum where we will explore the Ancient Egypt galleries. We are also excited to be visiting the Children's Bookshow at the Shaw Theatre where we will see a performance by writer and performance poet, Valerie Bloom. In the latter half of the term, we will be visiting the London Mithraeum to tie in with our learning on the legacy of the Romans in Great Britain.



## Attendance and Punctuality

Ted and Earl will be on the lookout for good attendance and prompt school arrival this term. We will be celebrating good attendance and time-keeping behaviour in our weekly, Star of the Week assemblies. We encourage you to monitor your child's attendance using Parent Hub to ensure their attendance remains excellent. 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.

## Home Learning

<p><b>Home Learning</b></p> 	<p><b>Home Learning at Brecknock will be given through Google Classroom</b> and in Home Learning books. Children have been set up on their new Google Classrooms for 2022-23 and homework will be set online and in books on request. Login details will be the same as last year but with a new class code: CLASS 4U: emknph CLASS 4H: pnwabw7</p> <p><b>Children have been reissued their login details at school.</b> This year, we will be incorporating new online <b>learning strategies, such as quizzes and recapping what has been taught in class, into the home learning.</b> These will help to embed previously taught core skills and to support children to retain knowledge from across the curriculum. <b>Home Learning books</b> are available if children prefer to do their homework in this way but we would encourage the use of <b>Google Classroom.</b> Our parent workshop to support home learning was well attended. <b>Please look out for further workshops this term.</b></p>
<p><b>Home Reading</b></p> 	<p><b>Parental support is hugely important for developing reading skills,</b> confidence and understanding. Even if children are independent readers, we still encourage families to read with them, listen to them read and discuss the books they are reading. In year 4, children should be reading at home for around 20 minutes a day.</p> <p>To help the teachers understand what and how much children are reading, we ask that they, or you, complete their reading record at least three times a week with a simple comment such as ‘...was unable to pronounce the word...’ or ‘...learnt the word...today which she found out means...’. Reading records and reading books must be brought in to class every day so that children can change their books with increasing regularity. Reading records will be checked regularly by adults, with regular teacher comments and questions that the children can respond to.</p>
<p><b>Spelling</b></p>	<p>A spelling sound, rule or pattern will be taught in class each week on a Tuesday. Your child will then be given a list of words that follow that sound, rule or pattern to learn. Spellings are in the half termly homework sheet in your child’s book and published in the Google Classroom and should be practised weekly.</p> <p>On Mondays, your child will be tested on their words that follow that sound, rule or pattern as well as the High Frequency Words (HFW) or the Year 3&amp;4 Spelling List for the week. The aim is for the children to apply their understanding of the spelling conventions, helping them to become successful spellers. There will be suggested activities for your child to do to demonstrate that they have been learning their spellings.</p>
<p><b>Fluency in maths</b></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 log in into online maths resources such as Doodle Maths or Timestable Rockstars. 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). In Year 4, the MTC check in the summer term will test children’s knowledge of times table facts. We will be practicing these skills in school daily. Every child in Year 4 will also be provided with a multiplication grid which they should use to practise at home. Regular practise on Timestable Rockstars will also be encouraged to provide children with an enjoyable platform through which they can learn their multiplications.</p>

## New words



**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!

Home Learning 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 **Tuesday 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 after morning break**, so it is important that children wear appropriate footwear daily.

We look forward to an exciting year and are available at pickup to discuss any queries at the end of each school day.

Kind regards,

Usma and Helen