

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter October 2024

Harvest



Thank you very much for your kind donations this Harvest. You have overwhelmed us with your generosity.

Once again, everything you have donated will go to our own school community and those in need in our locality.

Our Harvest Festival celebrations have been very well attended and it has been lovely to see so many of you in school to watch the children and hear them sing.

It is always a pleasure to have families coming in to school to join us and we really do appreciate all the support you give us.

We opted to have the celebration in school rather than in church so you might be able to have seat and trust that this did not spoil your enjoyment of the festival.

We do hope you enjoyed coming along and we are looking forward to welcoming you again soon.

School Attendance

Attendance in school has been particularly low this half term. Although we understand that many children have been ill with seasonal bugs, holidays taken in term time are causing a significant amount of absence.

The Department of Education are placing high priority on attendance and schools are instructed to share their attendance figures daily.

We are extremely proud of our school, the children and the outcomes we achieve, but currently we are one of the lowest performing schools in the local area for attendance, with it being just 93% and our target is 96%.

Our attendance is usually much higher than this, therefore this causes us a great deal of concern as many children are losing vital learning and in some cases, find it difficult to catch up.

We kindly ask for you to support us in trying to ensure your child attends school each day in order for them to reach their full learning potential.

Class Dojo



Almost all parents have now downloaded the app for Class Dojo – thank you.

We do hope you are finding this to be a more effective way of receiving messages from us.

If you have any feedback regarding Class Dojo that you would like to share, we would welcome it as we are striving to ensure our lines of communication with you all are as successful and straightforward as possible.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place on Thursday 21st November from 9am.

Appointments can currently be booked using the School Spider app however, for our next consultation day in the spring term, we will move to Class Dojo to make the appointments.

We found, last year, that you appreciated us giving you the option of either having a face to face or telephone consultation with your child's class teacher so we are continuing with this.

We hope, that by starting the consultations at 9am, and offering the two above options, that this makes it easier for parents who might otherwise struggle to be able to speak to the teacher.

Also, by using the whole day we are expecting the hall to be less busy which will hopefully allow you to have more opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in to this new school year, and to ask any questions you might have.

Please note that our staff are available to speak with you before and after school throughout the school year, not just on parent consultation days so if you have anything you are concerned about or would like to ask, please contact our office, and we will arrange a call back or meeting.

Remembrance Sunday



On Sunday 10th November at 9.30am at St Luke's in Grimethorpe, we will be remembering those who have lost their lives due to conflict.

We present a wreath each year to mark this occasion, on behalf of our school and some of our children and staff attend this remembrance service. All our school community is welcome to attend.

Some of our older children will also be visiting the Cenotaph in Brierley on Monday 11th November, to lay a wreath in remembrance.

Considerate Drivers

Thank you to those drivers who are always very courteous and mindful of the children and local residents in our neighbourhood.

Unfortunately, we have received a number of complaints from parents and the local community regarding a small minority of drivers who block people's drives and cause hazardous parking conditions outside school.

Please can we all remain considerate when dropping off and picking up our children?

Dates for your diary

Friday 25 th October 2024	School closes at 3.15pm
Monday 4 th November 2024	8.35am School reopens for second Autumn Half Term (Registration at 8.45am)
Friday 8 th November 2024	Year 6 trip to Crucial Crew
Monday 11 th November 2024	Reception Class Visit to Whistlestop Valley
Thursday 21 st November 2024	Parent Consultations
For Christmas activity dates, please see below	
Friday 20 th December 2024 1pm	School closes for Christmas break at 1pm and reopens on Monday 6 th January 2025

Christmas



This coming half term is always extremely busy with Christmas being just a short time away. We will begin preparing for our celebrations and Nativity performances in just a few weeks. There will be separate Nativity performances for each key stage, as always, to avoid overcrowding in the hall. We will be allocating tickets to try and ensure enough spaces however, with such a small hall, it may be standing room only for some.

Christmas celebration dates are as follows:

Monday 9th December

- FS2 and KS1 Nativity performance 1.30pm

Tuesday 10th December

- KS2 Nativity performance 1.30pm

Wednesday 11th December

- FS2 and KS1 Nativity performance 9.15am

Thursday 12th December

- KS2 Nativity performance 9.15am

Please Note Change of Date and event:

- **12th December - Christmas Bingo and Santa's Grotto 1.30pm**

Wednesday 18th December

- Christmas jumper day
- Christmas dinner day

Thursday 19th December

- Christmas parties

Friday 20th December

- Carols around the crib in the yard and Children's Christmas stalls

Please send your child to school with a warm coat, hat and gloves and please come along to join in with our singing. Don't forget to wrap up yourselves. We will be serving hot drinks and mince pies to keep you nice and warm.

- **We will close at 1pm on Friday 20th December**

Staff Changes

Earlier this week, we sent out a letter telling you about our new staffing structure from January.

After being dearly loved members of our Brierley family for so long, at the end of December we will be losing Mrs Hopkinson, Mrs Beck, Mrs Pilmer, and Miss O'Callaghan.

They will be greatly missed by all of us and we wish each of them the very best for their futures, whatever and wherever they may be.

The new class structure from January 2025 will be as follows:

Reception Class Donaldson: Miss Raynor, Mrs Riordan, Mrs Charlesworth

Year 1 Class Potter: Mrs Matterson, Mrs Marshall, Miss Bretton

Year 2 Class Armitage: Mr Millar, Mrs Arnold

Year 3 Class Dahl: Mr Morris, Mrs Arnold

Year 4 Class White: Mr Gray, Miss Bretton

Year 5 Class Tolkien: Mr Willetts, Mrs Martindale

Year 6 Class Dickens: Mrs Waterhouse, Mrs Martindale

Goodbye

We are also sadly saying goodbye to our lovely lunchtime supervisors, Miss Clarkson and Mrs Parkin, who will be leaving us in November. Mrs Parkin is also one of our hard working teaching assistants.

We thank them for the support and dedication they have shown whilst working here at Brierley. They will be greatly missed and we wish them the very best for the future.



Our cherished lunchtime supervisor, Mrs Marsh, who has worked with so many of our children over the years has finally decided to hang up her apron and retire.

We will all miss her at lunchtimes, but all is not lost as she has volunteered to come back a couple of times a week to read with the children, so we will all still have chance to see her.

We are really grateful for everything Mrs Marsh has done for us and we hope she enjoys a long and happy retirement with her family.

