



Braehead School Newsletter



Wow can you believe that we are at the end of January already - the first few weeks have flown past.

You should all by now have received a copy of 'The Pupil Post' from your child's class for this term. We are keen to hear your views on the content of these termly updates and for any feedback you have. Please could you spare a few minutes to click on the survey monkey link below and complete the short questionnaire about the 'Pupil Post' and our monthly newsletters. Your responses will ensure that we continue to evaluate our work and do what we can to improve with your suggestions.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QMV8FJF>

Care Commission / Education Scotland Visit

We have now had a chance to see both draft reports following our joint inspection earlier on this term. Both reports are very positive and reflect how hard working and committed a staff team and enthusiastic pupils we have here at Braehead. We are hoping the reports will be published in the next couple of weeks.

Mid Term Holiday & In-Service Day



Please be reminded that the school will be closed on the following days— Mid Term Holiday Monday 16th February followed by two in-services days on 17th and 18th February. On the In-Service days some of our staff will be attending the co-operative learning training course while others will be in school working on our improvements in Big Maths.

School Class Photographs

The School photographer will be in school on Wednesday 25th February to take school class photographs. Alison has just received an order of school uniform if you wish to purchase any new items!



Parking

Following on from my letter last week about the incident in the car park I am pleased to report that there has been a huge improvement. We are delighted that almost all parents now park in a space and are using the drop off zone for simply dropping off. This has ensured that there is almost no congestion and pupils are able to cross safely to and from school without having to weave between cars.



There are still some drivers who enter the car park at a high speed and we would ask that you all respect the 5mph speed limit. There are also some drivers who are using the disabled spaces when they do not have a disabled badge. We do have a few families who carry disabled badges and it is important that those spaces are available for them.

We have contacted the council to enquire about getting zebra crossings painted and we are hopeful that this may be actioned - will keep you updated on this as we hear more news.

Thank you to the parents who have given up of their time to help us monitor the situation. Our Eco Group are keen to become involved and we now have a rota set up for the children to help keep up the good work. We would just like things to continue the way they are at the moment to ensure all our pupils can enter and leave the school safely.



Lateness

I am still noting that there are numerous children arriving at school after the bell each morning. As previously mentioned in my last Newsletter it is a parent's responsibility to ensure their children arrive at school on time. Lateness can disrupt the learning of others and can result in a pupil feeling greater stress and achieving poorer outcomes. It is important that we show our children that attending school on time is part of our responsibility - we don't want the children to get into bad habits and to think that they can turn up at any time.



We ask that if pupils are late that they sign the 'late book' in reception. All lateness is recorded and monitored by the authority. We appreciate your support in this matter.

School Improvement

Throughout the primary school we have been following the Big Maths scheme to help improve children's mathematical agility and confidence with numbers. On Wednesday 18th March we will be leading two sessions for parents who are interested in learning more about how we use this in school and how to support your

children at home; one during the school day and the other in the early evening. More details to follow nearer the time.



Reading



We continue to work on getting better at 'Reading for Enjoyment'.

Our Reading Champions have been preparing and reading the shortlisted books for this years Scottish Book Awards. Early in February the children will vote for their favourite book.

A few of our junior-senior pupils have taken on the challenge to read the 3 novels from the 9-11 category and vote for their favourite too. We have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication the pupils are putting into this - particularly some of our P4 children.

We look forward to seeing if the pupils favourite wins!

Primary 5 have now studied all the homework entries from the Library design challenge.

They have a trip planned to the central library in a couple of weeks when they will get some more ideas before they put the final touches to the redesigning of ours.

Aberdeen Youth Games

We are delighted to share that Gregg Wood (P6) has made it through to the final 12 of this years design competition for the Aberdeen Youth Games. Children all over Aberdeen entered the design a medal competition earlier this month and we have heard that there were some

amazing entries. Gregg will now attend a workshop event at Gray's School of Art this week to finalise his design.

We wish him lots of luck and congratulate him for getting this far.



Playground Behaviour

It is really disappointing that we have had several incidents in the playground recently where children have been fighting and falling out with each other. It is our aim that all children come to school and can be happy in and out of the classroom. It is such a pity that all the hard work that goes on in the classroom can be overcast by silly / unacceptable behaviour in the playground.



Having spent most of the past 2 weeks dealing with playground incidents I can say that almost all of the situations arise from children saying unkind things to each other, taunting and winding up. Inevitably these situations end up with other children lashing out.

It would really help if everyone could reiterate that it is not appropriate to hit back regardless of what someone has said. We have to help the children develop the skills they require to be able to sort out disagreements or deal with someone annoying them without resorting to pushing, kicking or hitting.



It is also important that we remind all pupils not to wind others up and say unkind things. On a daily basis we see this happening deliberately.

We have made several changes to our PSA team and to how they support the playground. Every day a member of the Management Team are also in the playground. Lunchtimes have also been rearranged to try to help this situation. Children who misbehave lose Golden Time and are kept in out of the playground. We contact parents when necessary to inform them if their child has been involved in several incidents. It would be helpful if parents are able to support us in this matter.

On several occasions now we have had parents approaching other children in our playground to try to sort out a variety of issues - in some cases this even ends up with police involvement. I would urge you strongly that if you have an issue with another child then please contact the school in the first instance or the parent.



We really appreciate your support in this matter. If we all share the same message then hopefully the children will begin to get along better and the playground can be a happier place.

PE Kits

Can we please ask that all pupils bring in a plain white t-shirt and plain shorts to take part in PE.

Some of our older girls in particular are dressing rather inappropriately for PE by wearing denim shorts and crop tops. This is really not necessary as the purpose of PE is to learn new skills and keep fit and healthy.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.



School Lunches

The school lunch menu is currently being reviewed. Our Pupil Council surveyed all children in the school in order to collect their ideas. The children let us know about their likes, dislikes and any ideas they had for new items on the menu. There were some very interesting suggestions!

We have also made some changes to the lunch time routine. P4-7 children are now served first followed by P1-3. This has worked well so far - we will continue to monitor and evaluate how this goes.



Lunch Clubs

We have recently reviewed our lunch clubs and have a new 'Jigsaw Club'. We would like to make an appeal for any old jigsaws that you have at home that you could spare us to use at the club.

We are very impressed by the children's enthusiasm when it comes to the clubs! Children approach us on a daily basis with new ideas of clubs they are happy to run themselves. They are displaying real leadership qualities and are very innovative!



House Captain - Health Hustle

As we continue to provide opportunities for the children to take responsibility and take on leadership roles we are delighted that our House Captains have started a fortnightly 'Health Hustle' for the whole school.

The house captains have prepared dance routines that they will lead with the whole school to get everyone's heart rate up and have some fun at the same time.

The first session was a great success - some of the younger children described the dance as 'awesome!'.



Primary 7 - Day visit to Bridge of Don Academy

It's hard to believe that our P7's are beginning their transition process to Bridge of Don Academy already!

They have their first day visit on Tuesday 10th February. The pupils should come into Braehead at the usual time that morning when they will be escorted over to the academy. They should wear their school uniform, bring a packed lunch along with their usual school bag.

The theme for the visit is 'Energy'. The pupils will have classes throughout the day in a variety of subjects from Home Economics, Geography and Science.

I'm sure they will have a great day!



P1 and P7 Dental Checks

Just a reminder that the dentist will be in school on Wednesday 11th February to check all P1 and P7 children.

If you do not wish the dentist to check your child then please let us know before the day. Thanks.

