

September 2023



Welcome

What a busy first few weeks we have had a Battling Brook!

Firstly, a warm welcome to our new Reception and Little Battlers' parents. Friday was the first day that all of the children have been in school this academic year and we have been impressed with how the children are beginning to settle into their new routines.

Also, a huge welcome to Miss Bailey (class teacher in Reception) and Mrs Lyons (new Business Manager) who join the staff team this year.

This term is a busy one, so please make sure that you have joined our Class Dojo community, where we will be sharing a 'window into the classroom' and key dates relevant to your child's class and year groups.

Celebration Assemblies

Friday saw our first celebration assembly of the academic year. Instead of Pupil of the Week, where just one child in each class was rewarded, we celebrated successes as a class. For a while now, teachers have expressed how difficult it has been to choose just one child each week. Indeed, it was never the case that just one child in each class had been deserving of such praise and as such we are trialling a different format this school year. Each class shared some work or photographs demonstrating the progress or achievements that had been made and why they were proud. This way more children are involved and can be celebrated.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

The start of the school year is the perfect time to remind everyone of our rules.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Each class has discussed what these rules mean to them and why they are important. They have also discussed what it would look like to demonstrate these skills and how they can help us as a community.

'Botheredness'

As we start the new academic year staff remain committed in continuing our work to ensure our pupils develop the skills of being effective learners.

School is so much more than just a list of facts to learn and repeat. It is our intention that whilst we deliver our curriculum content, we also foster the characteristics of determination, imagination, socialising, curiosity, organisation, reflection, attention and thinking.

This is a long-term plan and sits at the heart of our strategic plan for our school and community. With this in mind, staff plan carefully to develop skills alongside knowledge. We welcome back Hywel Roberts in November to work with children and staff to enhance our curriculum in ensuring children are 'bothered' in their learning and develop these wider skills.

Few reminders

We have been so impressed with how smart our children have looked at the start of the new school year in their uniform.

Please remember that our new black hoodie is only to be worn on a P.E. day. Trainers should also only be worn on P.E. days please.

Earrings need to be removed before P.E. lessons. Children are not permitted to use tape on their ears.

Rewards

As your children may have explained to you, we are stepping away from Team Points as part of our reward system this year.

We were finding that instead of having positive conversations with children and adults about why they had received praise, we were instead focussing on how many points had been received and comparing previous years or even other children. We felt that this was taking away from the praise itself. Rest assured children will receive just as much praise and positive recognition as before, but it will be more specific and directed to them. With the introduction of Class Dojo, we also intend to be sharing more specific praise and feedback with you at home so that you can celebrate with your child the many successes they experience whilst they are at school.

P.T.F.A.

Our successful P.T.F.A. have shared their planned events for the Autumn Term with you so that you can plan which ones you are able/wish to support. We are so lucky to have such an enthusiastic group of parents/carers who volunteer so readily to enhance the school experience for your children.

This year, as a result of the fundraising by the team and your generosity in supporting such events, we have been able to purchase an iPad for each class to enable staff to create that 'window into the classroom' for you. These have been ordered and will be in classes soon.

Initially we intend to share work and classroom displays/activities to share aspects of school life with you at home. It is then intended that we begin to share photographs with you (with correct permissions).

Term Dates

Please check our website for 23-24, 24-25 and 25-26 term dates.

They may vary slightly from other schools, so it is important to refer to our website to ensure accuracy.

Monday 16th to Friday 20th October 2023: Half-term break

Thursday 21st December 2023: Final day of term for pupils

Tuesday 9th January 2024: School opens to pupils