



BROADLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs S Freeley
Newport Road
Lake
Isle of Wight
PO36 9PE
Tel: 01983 402403

admin@broadleapri.iow.sch.uk
website: www.broadleapprimary.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Facebook, OurSchoolsApp and Communication

Thank you to the parents who have started to follow us on Facebook and for all your lovely comments – we are delighted that you are enjoying seeing the super things going on in school. We are also enjoying sharing our learning with you! This is where we will continue to share good news and showcase the events happening in school. When we launched our Facebook, we said that it would be a 'Like' only page. Therefore, at the moment, any comments that you make are hidden and can only be viewed by you and your Facebook friends. We will review this as we continue to use the app and will let you know if we make any changes.

We have begun to use OurSchoolsApp alongside the school text service. We will be using the app more often to notify you of events and pass on general school messages. Please ensure you have it downloaded to your smart phone or tablet.

I will continue to update you with Headteacher letters, at least monthly or more often if needed. These will be emailed to those on the mailing list and put in book bags for those requesting a paper copy of correspondence.

Leavers and Joiners

As we prepare for the final few months with our fabulous Year 6 pupils, we are already thinking about the little ones who will be joining us in Reception in September. We are delighted that we have a full intake and thank Mrs Nilsen-Grahame and Mrs Hinkley in advance for the 60 home visits they will undertake between now and the end of term to ensure every child is welcomed into our school.

Mobility on the Isle of Wight is greater than that in some other areas of the country. There are many reasons for this but the main reason children leave and join us is due to families moving for work from or to the mainland, abroad or to another part of the island. We have enquiries nearly every week from a family who are moving to our area. As many island schools have spaces in some year groups, is it easier for children to transfer to a more local school than to travel.

Between January and December 2016, 30 children left Broadlea and 28 joined. For this calendar year to date, 7 children have left and 5 have joined.

To put this into context, 31 children left Broadlea between January and December 2015 and 22 children joined in that period.

These figures are within the normal range for mobility on the Island. However, as you can see from the data, Broadlea has increased its stability and this is further strengthened by our full intake for September 2017.



Staffing

In March, I wrote to you to explain that our school budget, along with the majority of schools across the country, is under pressure. As a result, the Governing Body decided that it was necessary to consult on a staffing restructure potentially affecting support staff. We worked closely with staff and their unions and the consultation period has now come to an end. Some support staff elected to take voluntary redundancy or have been successful in applying for new posts. We wish them all the best for their new positions.

Fortunately, we were able to offer posts to all those who had expressed an interest in a Teaching Assistant post at Broadlea for September 2017. Towards the end of the summer term, we will update you on staffing for the new school year.

As teachers, professional development is essential, from trainee teacher to headteacher. Actively seeking opportunities to work in different schools and local authorities is a part of professional development. Indeed, one of the essential requirements for more senior positions is having a range of experience across Key Phases and schools.

It is therefore with sadness but great excitement for Miss Porter, that I inform you that she will be leaving us at the end of the Summer term. Miss Porter will be taking the opportunity to teach in Australia next year – and as a young, enthusiastic and outstanding teacher, who can blame her! During her NQT year, Miss Porter has shown us that she is a dedicated teacher who steps up to every challenge. We are sure she will have a fantastic time in Australia and we will keep in touch with her on her travels.

Attendance

As a school we work in partnership with the Educational Welfare Service to promote good attendance. Our school attendance target is 96%. However, our current attendance figure is only 94.75%. Therefore, the Education Welfare Service will be working with us on intensive exercise between Monday 15th May and Tuesday 27th June 2017.

Concerns

From time to time, all parents have concerns regarding their child's well-being and education. As a school, we expect this. We will always aim to resolve concerns and complaints informally at the earliest possible stage. In the first instance, this should be through the class teacher or Mr Hopper, SENCO, if the concern regards SEND and Ms Graham, Family Liaison Officer, if it is a welfare issue.

However, Mrs Chambers and I can be found on the front gates most mornings and afternoons if you would like a brief, informal chat and are happy to make appointments at the earliest convenience if you need more time and feel your concerns have not been resolved with the class teacher. This is the first step in our school complaints procedure.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sharon Freeley
Headteacher

