



Brunton First Newsletter

November



2021

A New Season Approaches

Welcome to the second half of Autumn term. The children are already working very hard and bringing our school to life once again. We have so much to look forward to in the next few weeks.

Thank you!



As usual, your generosity has been so gratefully received recently. The People's Kitchen have sent in a lovely letter to school with their thanks for your contributions through our harvest collection.

We were also so pleased to receive your contributions to 'Show Racism the Red Card', I am pleased to announce this brought in £252.93 for the cause.



13th November
World Kindness Day

15-19th November
Antibullying Week

19th November
Children in Need Day

20th November
Universal Children's Day

21st November
World Hello Day

COP26



2020 YEAR OF CLIMATE ACTION

We are delighted to announce that Year 3's work about climate change has caught the attention of the WWF through our year group's Tweets! The organisation asked to use the images of the children's work during the summit to

be shared on the big screen. We are very proud of the children and their achievements, it just goes to show that children's voices are being heard and hopefully they will grow up to see the benefit of their work.

Acts of Kindness

I'd like to share a story that has been brought to my attention this week. Sienna Langton in Year 1 found out that one of her friends was very sick and is currently undergoing treatment for leukaemia. Her friend's mum was raising money for the hospital ward and Sienna really wanted to do something to help. Sienna's mum told us that she decided to paint canvases and sell them to make some money for the ward. I am sure you will agree that Sienna's work is beautiful, she took 2-3 hours to create each piece. Sienna has raised £200 to date and of course her parents are extremely proud of her, as are we.

If you would like to support Sienna in her quest to raise even more money, please speak directly to her mum, Holly Langton. There is a link to the Just Giving page if you are interested.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/eliannabluebellward?utm_term=VGVJ4Q6yB



Children in Need 2021



As always, we will be supporting Children in Need. You should already have received a letter in relation to our plans for the day on Friday 19th November. As usual, we look forward to seeing the children in their spots and sparkles ready for a day of fun!

There is a voluntary contribution for the day of £2, please try wherever possible to put cash in an envelope or small plastic bag and to avoid needing change. This will ensure that the least number of people possible need to handle the cash

Our Community

As always, our community leaders are all very busy and I have a few notices to share with you. St Aidan's are holding a competition for Christmas artwork and would love our children to take part. When we have more information I will pass it on to you.

Ruth Hewitt from St Aidan's has also asked me to pass on information about their next Messy Church session.



COVID Challenges



Thankfully the start of the term has been quiet in terms of infections in school. We have a few cases in different classes but nothing impacting on our plans and routines at the moment. Obviously, we would like to keep the number of cases as low as possible, therefore, once again I am asking you to think carefully before sending your child into school if they are ill with anything. If we feel your child is unwell we will telephone you immediately to collect them, if you are unable to answer your phone we

will continue down the list of contacts you have given us until we can speak to someone. It is really important that your child is picked up as quickly as possible and not left in school for hours. They will of course be cared for by a member of staff away from their class in the medical room. The member of staff will be at a distance to your child while they wait for you. Obviously, this is not what we want for any child who is feeling unwell but we must ensure that as many of our staff as possible are not infected by COVID or any other illnesses including the vomiting virus that seems to be picking up pace in our school.

Unfortunately, many of our staff have had flu over the last few weeks and this in turn has a direct impact on staffing and the need to bring in supply staff. All schools have been reminded by the Local Authority to ensure staff and children who are unwell particularly with respiratory illnesses, should not come to school even after a negative PCR test as many respiratory conditions are infectious.

Please remember 'Hands, space, face' if you need to talk to a member of staff on the yard or in the main entrance please wear a face mask unless you are exempt and keep your distance to ensure we all stay as safe as possible.

Please visit <https://www.beatcovidne.co.uk/> for more information about the North East's fight against COVID

Safety



Unfortunately, there continues to be high levels of congestion in the car park and I have seen people parking outside of the hall without blue badges. I am very sorry to report that one of our parents received some particularly unpleasant verbal abuse when they challenged someone parking on the double yellow lines outside of school. We have also had reports of people attempting to park in the staff car park. This area is solely reserved for staff where we have to double and sometimes triple park in order to keep spaces in the front car park free for parents and visitors. One of the cars in the staff car park was also damaged due to someone swinging the gate (that was closed) into it. We must ensure access for emergency services at all times in front of and behind the car park gates.

I am very aware of tensions running high at times in the car park and am concerned that there will be a serious accident if more care and patience is not observed, there have already been incidents of collisions between cars at low speed. We reserve the right to politely ask you to move on if you park irresponsibly in our car park and I am sure you would agree that abuse of staff or anyone on the school premises will not be tolerated. Mr Pape will be continuing to monitor parking. If these incidents continue to happen, I will need to seek the support of Newcastle Council or the Police.

Many schools across the city including those in the Gosforth Trust have already trialled closing their street to traffic and have been back by Newcastle Council due to the number of accidents and rising safety concerns around schools.

Christmas Planning



We have thought really hard about how we can make this Christmas special and in a way that is as Covid proof as possible. Your class teachers will give you more details of the events in your child's class. We have therefore planned some limited events as follows:

- Tuesday 7th December – Year 4 will be taking part in a Christmas drama workshop
- Wednesday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch, school will pay for all children to have a Christmas lunch this year. We look forward to seeing a wonderful array of Christmas jumpers!

- Thursday 9th December – Year 3 Panto Dance Workshop
- Thursday 9th December 2:45pm Year 4 Christmas Carols outside
- Friday 10th December 2:45pm Year 3 Christmas Carols outside
- Monday 13th December 2:45pm Year 2 Christmas Carols outside
- Tuesday 14th December – Chris Bostock’s ‘The Tree of Life’ for Reception, Years 1 and 2.
- Tuesday 14th December KS2 Choir will sing Christmas Carols in St. Aidan’s Church. Unfortunately, this is not an open event to all parents as is the usual tradition. We hope to live stream this back to school and on our Brunton YouTube channel, please look out for further details when the technical aspects of the service will be finalised. Parents of the children in the Choir will be contacted about this event.
- Tuesday 14th December 2:45pm Year 1 Christmas Carols outside
- Wednesday 15th December 2:45pm Reception Christmas Carols outside
- Thursday 16th December all classes will have their Christmas parties – children can come to school in their best party clothes (but please no heels)! There will be no food needed for the parties.
- Santa will visit good boys and girls in school when he can fit us in before the end of term!

Please come along if you can to Christmas Carols outside of your child’s class, we are hoping to create a lovely festive end to the term.

Housekeeping

- The **gates** are open at 8:30 and **classroom doors open at 8:40** (including reception), The **gates** are then closed at **9am** to allow for outdoor lessons to begin. Please ensure you have vacated the grounds **before 9am**. Any child arriving at **9am or later** should be taken straight to the main office where they will be signed in. From Monday we will go back to the usual start time of **8:50**, up to now flexibility has been allowed to ensure that the yard is not too congested, however, any child arriving at **9am onwards will be marked late**.
- Please ensure you see your children into the door at school each day ensuring they make it into school safely to staff on the door. We are aware of a few children being brought into the playground but then left to walk around the building by themselves. Obviously, there is the potential for children to leave the site without a member of staff knowing until the register is taken. Year 4 children are not permitted to walk to and from school by themselves until the summer term and with written consent.
- The climbing frame remains closed until we can find a company able to make the repairs as it is currently unsafe. Please do not allow your children to climb on it before or after school.
- We have numerous requests for leave for holidays during term time, please be aware this will not be granted. Leave is only authorised in a very small number of cases with extenuating circumstances. I know that we have all seen the huge value in family time and creating memories with our loved ones but the rules around holidays in term time remain the same. All schools within the Gosforth Trust are following this rule and communicating the same message. Every day your child is out of school results in an unauthorised absence for each session they miss (two sessions per day).
- Classes are still having PE lessons outdoors until the weather makes it impossible to do so. Please ensure your child is dressed in jogging bottoms for these sessions as the temperatures are dropping. We know that some children prefer to wear shorts for PE and don’t feel the cold but please keep this under review.

Looking Ahead

We are pleased to announce that the Annual Gregg’s Cancer Run has been announced for 15th May 2022. You always support this event so well and we look forward to returning to another Brunton tradition.

And Finally!

We are so looking forward to Christmas this year; our aim that as much as possible is COVID proof to ensure our children and families have some special memories. Let’s all hope that we can move into the Christmas season with the least disruption and illness as possible.

Warmest wishes



Mrs Bev Armstrong

Acting Headteacher