



The Brownlee Newsletter

November 2020

"A school where the individual is valued in a supportive and safe environment where everyone's learning experience is celebrated."

Dear Parents

I trust you all had a very enjoyable half term break. It is great to see all the children back again after the longer period off school and I really hope that we will be able to have an uninterrupted run through to Christmas.

Harvest

I want to thank all our parents for their donations for the Harvest Table. It was well stocked with non-perishable food and tinned produce. The members of staff at the Lisburn Food Bank were also very appreciative of all the food we were able to donate.

Coats

The weather is due to turn colder after quite a mild autumn so far. Please ensure that your child has a warm coat that is **clearly labelled with their name**.

Mid-Term Report

Mid-Term reports will be sent out on Monday 9th November. These are short reports in order to give parents an idea of how the children have been settling into school and if there are any priorities that need to be addressed. We do not normally send out reports at this time of year, however, due to the COVID-19 restrictions at the moment, it has not been practical to arrange our normal parent/teacher interviews.

PTA News

The PTA plan to hold their first meeting this year by ZOOM. More details will follow shortly. Once again I would like to thank the PTA for their kind donations towards classroom resources as we started back to school in August and we will now be looking at creative fundraising ideas in the months ahead.

Poppy Appeal

This week poppies have been on sale in all classes. We could not have our normal Remembrance Assembly this year, however, each class had a special lesson about the poppy in their own rooms.



Colds and Flu

I would like to remind parents not to send their child to school if they are ill. This will hopefully prevent the spread of any infections throughout the school. A link to the symptoms checker for COVID-19 is also on the homepage of our school's website.



Christmas Carol Service Arrangements

As I am sure you can guess, we will be unable to bring the school family together this year to celebrate our Christmas Carol Service. We have decided instead to release both class and individual items each day during December on ClassDojo. We are still planning the various items, however, it will mean that instead of a single Christmas event, there will be something festive posted each day. We will obviously keep you up to date regarding this.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations for the children will take place on Tuesday 8th December and the appropriate consent forms and information is due to be sent out today.

No Hot School Meals Next Wednesday

We will have to revert to packed lunches for everyone on Wednesday 11th November as we will require the dining hall for classes throughout the day. Mrs Oliver has already contacted those parents who received free school meals to see if they wish to have a school packed lunch that day or provide their own. I apologise for the disruption on this day.

New Classroom Resources

The reason we need to run with packed lunches on Wednesday is because we are having new Promethean Active Panels installed in each classroom. You may have seen these on television being used in the recent coverage of the US Presidential Election. They are state of the art display boards with full software and internet access and will replace the old interactive white boards which are now over 10 years old. The picture on many of the old boards had become faded or blurred so we made the decision to invest in this new technology. In addition, the school has purchased another class set of iPads so the latest educational software can be installed on them. The iPads which we have already are now several years old and although they still work well, they can be slow and have a much smaller storage capability. This has been a considerable investment of around £28,000, however, I believe it will further enhance the children's education and we will try to recoup some of the cost for a few of these boards through fundraising this year.



Open Day

At the moment we cannot see how we can run a normal open day for prospective P1 parents so I intend providing a short welcome video on our school's website to accompany the promotional video we had professionally made last year. If you know of any new P1 parents who may be interested in a place in Brownlee in September 2021, please point them in the direction of our school's website from the beginning of December.

We will keep you informed of any additional information as the month progresses through ClassDojo.

Yours sincerely

Colin Elliott

(Principal)