



Brackenwood Infant School

Pulford Road, Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside, CH63 2HN

Email: schooloffice@brackenwood-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Tel: 0151 608 9117

Headteacher: Mr C. Mervyn



Friday 16th February 2024

Dear Families of Brackenwood Infant School,

What a fantastic half term this one has been. We have had visits, visitors, and enrichment activities, such as our Mental Health Workshops and our F2 Valentine's Day Phonic Sessions. Feedback from these events has been incredibly positive:

'Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this workshop. It was fun and interactive. We both enjoyed it.'

'This was brilliant. The activities were great and I enjoyed spending time in the environment. Really great idea.'

'It's always amazing to see what the children have learnt and be able to show it off to us. Thank you, really enjoyed it!'

The team at Brackenwood Infant School would like to thank all of our families for the amazing support that you have shown us this term! Without you, we wouldn't be able to offer the children the fabulous experiences that we do.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Taylor, one of our very experienced Midday Assistants, who retired half way through this term. Lunch times will not be the same without her.

Don't forget that you can keep up to date on everything that is happening at our school via our Twitter page: @brackenwood_Inf or our school website <https://www.brackenwood-infant.wirral.sch.uk/>

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful staff, governors and volunteers at Brackenwood Infant School for their relentless drive to make our school the best that it can be, and provide all of our children with learning experiences that will stay with them forever. Our children really are 'shooting for the stars.'

Have a wonderful half term, and we will see you all on **Monday 26th February**,

Kind regards

Mr Mervyn

Headteacher

Brackenwood Infant School

*To guide and nurture all children to
shoot for the stars*





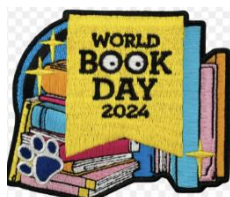
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This year, for 'World Book Day 2024', we would like to invite all children to come to school dressed in a costume of a favourite book character. As you would expect, this is a whole school event - so you can expect to see some teachers in fancy dress also!

We would like to reassure you that we do not expect you to purchase a new costume, and we are keen for you to be as creative as possible with items from within your own house!

Please see the link below for some money-saving tips!

https://www.worldbookday.com/resource/world-book-day-2024-dressing-up-resources/?utm_campaign=2442181_Early%20Years%20-%20books%20available%20-%20Feb%2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EdCo&dm_i=35S3,1GCED,34T6UI,5RRHN,1

Also, please feel reassured that if you are struggling to find a suitable costume, please have a chat with a member of staff, as we have our own small selection of costumes within school which we will be happy to loan to your child for this event. We want everyone to feel as comfortable and happy on this day as possible. We also appreciate that not all children like to dress up, therefore, as an alternative, children may come to school in non-uniform if they prefer.

Please note, we are not collecting money for this event.

Brackenwood Story Swap

As part of our World Book Day events, we will be holding our first 'Brackenwood Story Swap'. Each child will be given an opportunity to 'swap' a book they have read and finished with, for a different pre-loved book.

If you would like your child to participate in this event, please send them to school with a book during the w.c 4.3.24 and on receipt of the book, their teacher will give a ticket to swap for a new pre-loved book on World Book Day! Year groups will combine all books collected to enable a wider selection to choose from.

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Attendance Certificates

This term will be the last term that we will be sending home attendance certificates for children with a half termly attendance of 97% or above. As a school team we feel that penalising children for being ill, or for parents not sending them to school when they could, is not fair. However, we will continue to show our whole school weekly attendance percentages in our bulletin. We will of course revisit this decision if we find that children's attendance begins to take a dip.

myHappymind

We are very proud to announce that we have become a 'myHappymind' School! This means, that as a school, we consider the mental health and wellbeing of our children as one of our top priorities. The myHappymind programme creates a positive mental wellbeing culture in which children build resilience, self-esteem, and character. myHappymind uses the latest research, science, and technology to help children develop lifelong habits and learn to thrive.



Parents' Workshop

On Wednesday 24/1/24 Wirral's MHST run a workshop for parents, providing information about anxiety and worries and what parents and carers can do to help their child to manage and reduce the impact of worry and fear in their lives.



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Children's Workshop

On Wednesday 7/2/24 we celebrated Childrens' Mental Health Week by raising awareness for anxiety. Wirral's MHST run a workshop for children, explaining what worries are, exploring the signs of anxiety, and learning about how they can manage their thoughts.

F2 Phonics Workshop

On Wednesday 14th February, F2 held a Phonics Workshop for parents which was well attended. Parents had the opportunity to see their children engaged in a phonics lesson, and the children loved showing their grown-ups what they could do! The parents were then able to take part in interactive phonics activities with their child around the school hall. It was wonderful to see parents and children learning together.



Parent Surveys

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families that were able to complete our recent surveys regarding social media and arrangements for workshops. The governors will be carrying out a more detailed survey regarding our social media platform next term, and we now have a clear steer for the preferred ways to organise parent workshops in future. Thank you again for your feedback and support, and if you would like to add your thoughts to the workshop survey then please click on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/VwkeCJpk5vfM4nuC8>

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Visits and Visitors

What a term it has been for our children to undertake visits to local areas, work with different visitors and experience enrichment days and activities. Please see below a selection of photographs from some of these events.



Punctuality

We would like to politely remind all of our families that any child arriving at school after 09:00am is classed as being late for school. Good attendance and punctuality habits are vital for your child's education and well-being, and we therefore urge all of our families to ensure that their children are ready for their learning by being at school on time.

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Next Clubs for Spring Term 2

Next term we will be running the following clubs:

Monday – Year 1 Gymnastics

Tuesday – Year 2 Football

*All of our clubs are selected by the children and our school councillors.

Look out for our Modern Foreign Languages, Choir, and Gardening clubs after the Easter holiday

PTA Quiz

On Friday 2nd February, we held our very first PTA 'No Kids Allowed' Quiz, which was hosted by our very own Quiz Master and DJ, Miss Williams! The evening was a great success, with lots of fun and a healthy dose of competitiveness! All profits made went into the school fund (an exact total will be announced very soon!) and will go towards the development of our school quad area. All fundraising in the near future will also go towards this project. A huge thank you to all our amazing PTA members who worked so hard to make this evening such a success. Thank you also to all the parents who came along and congratulations to our winning team, 'Phonetically Challenged'. We are already planning the next one!!

Measles, Mumps and Rubella

You will have seen news stories about the increase in measles cases across the UK recently. There is an ongoing outbreak in London and the West Midlands, with a small number of confirmed cases within the Northwest. There are currently no confirmed cases of measles within Wirral. However, because measles is highly infectious and it can lead to serious consequences.

Vaccines are our best line of defence against diseases like measles and help stop outbreaks occurring in the community. Children aged between 12 months and 11 years old who have not received 2 doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) are being offered vaccination by their GP as part of a national catch-up programme. Wirral's School Aged Immunisation Service will continue to support any missed vaccinations for children in Year 7 and above. Parents and Guardians can check their child's Red Book to see if they've received MMR vaccinations as their GP surgery if they are unsure.

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Dates for Your Diary

Monday 26th February -

Wednesday 28th February-

Thursday 29th February -

Friday 1st March (am) -

Wednesday 6th March -

Thursday 7th March -

Friday 8th March -

WC 11/03/24 -

Wednesday 13th March -

Friday 15th March -

Monday 18th March -

Wednesday 20th March -

Thursday 21st March -

Friday 22nd March -

Wednesday 27th March -

Thursday 28th March

Thursday 28th March -

All children back to school and after school clubs begin

St David's Day Assembly (2:45pm)

Proposed Year 2 Walk to Benty Hey Woods

Yee Haw Drama Workshops (All Year Groups)

2D Forest School Sessions begin

World Book Day and Launch Assembly (AM)

Ramadan Assembly (2:30pm)

Parents' Evening Week

Women in Science Assembly (2:45pm)

Comic Relief

F2 Height/Weight Assessments with School

Nursing Team

Parent Workshop – Understanding My Child's Behaviour (2:00pm due to availability of Lesley from MHST)

Year 2 Trip to Christchurch for Easter Experience

SPRING FAIR

Easter Assembly with Revered Mike (2:45pm)

Cake Sale in the School Hall for Jess from

Charlie's Childcare

Last Day of Term

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BRACKENWOOD INFANTS

SAVE THE DATE

Spring fair

FRIDAY 22nd MARCH

SPRING CLEANING?
We are looking for PRE-LOVED children's BOOKS and TOYS in good, clean condition as well as UNOPENED GIFTS such as toiletries, beverages, biscuits and sweets for the TOY SALE and TOMBOLA. The drop off point will be at school reception.

VOLUNTEERS
Parent volunteers are really important to making our school fair as fantastic as possible. If you are able to spare some time on the afternoon of the fair please drop us an email PTA@brackenwood-infant.wirral.sch.uk

GIANT RAFFLE
Tickets will be sold in advance and on the day. Books will be sent home soon with your child and extra tickets will be available at the school office.

GIANT RAFFLE, MEET THE EASTER BUNNY, EASTER EGG TRAIL, BEAT THE GOALIE, CAKES, SWEETS, REFRESHMENTS, FACE PAINTING, GLITTER GAMES AND MUCH MORE

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Start your Fostering journey here !



Check out our website at:

www.wirralfostering.org

And complete an enquiry form

Call Admin on 0151 666 4616

Or email

fosteringadmin@wirral.gov.uk



What is fostering?

We offer a range of types of fostering to suit your lifestyle, along with ongoing training and a great support package.

There is a huge variety and diversity in the children and young people who need a safe and loving home upon Wirral and we aim to reflect this in our foster carers.



We need loving homes for children of all ages up to 18 years, including babies and toddlers, older children and teenagers, sometimes for brothers and sisters who need to stay together.

Some children have special needs, these could be physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties and need special care.

Children from different backgrounds may have special requirements and have particular cultural or religious needs.



Types of Fostering

Short Term

Short term foster carer may involve looking after a child on an emergency basis for as short as an overnight stay or having a child with you for a few months or even a year or two, before they return home or move onto a more permanent home. By providing short term foster care you can give a child in an unsettled situation the security they need and the time they need it most.

Long Term

Being a permanent carer for a child or young person essentially means they live with you until they reach independence, but unlike adoption, the legal powers regarding the child or young person will remain with the local authority.

Sibling Groups and Teenagers

We need homes for children of all ages up to 18 years, but there is a consistent need for foster carers to look after sibling groups for whom the security and comfort of staying together in a foster home is essential. It is so important to keep sibling's together where possible. This means providing a stable family environment for children, often for older children and teenagers, who cannot live with their birth families.

Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities

Short breaks care helps to relieve the pressure on parents and families caring for children with disabilities and / or health conditions. As a short break carer, you become a partner family to a child and their family, supporting them by caring for the child overnight on an agreed programme (e.g. one weekend per month). This means it's an ideal area of care for people who work full-time or have limited free time.

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Free neurodiversity conference for parents

On Wednesday 20 March, we're delighted to be hosting our virtual conference 'Celebrating, Embracing & Empowering Our Children'. Join us for a day of learning practical advice and strategies tailored towards building up and empowering neurodiverse children.

[Register Your Free Place](#)

Sharing is caring

Do you know any parents, carers or families who might be interested in this virtual event? Download a digital flyer now and help spread the word on social media, support groups and forums. Remember, sharing is caring!

[Download Digital Flyer](#)

Event agenda



10am-11am

Empowering Children Through Speech & Communication

Presented by Carrie Vincent, Speech and Language Therapist for our

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Group.



11.15am - 12.15pm

Embracing Brilliance In Primary School Pupils

Presented by Claire Traynor, Headteacher, Hall Cliffe Primary School.



12:45pm - 1:45pm

Celebrating Neurodiverse Journeys In The Early Childhood

Presented by Tracy Bowyer, Parenting Coordinator, The ADHD Foundation.



2pm - 3pm

Unlocking Opportunities For A Bright Future

Speaker TBA



Upcoming webinars

Arron Hutchinson, Education Training Director from The ADHD Foundation, will explore what ADHD is, how to spot characteristics of three types of the condition, exploring an understanding of executive functioning challenges and emotional dysregulation, and how we can best support children overcome these difficulties.

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[Register Now](#)

[Download Digital Flyer](#)

Amy McElhatton, Leading Phonics Consultant, will deliver a virtual session, outlining the basics of phonics, including the relationship between letters and the sounds letters make, the alphabetic code and top tips for supporting your child as they navigate learning a phonics-based approach in the classroom and at home.

[Register Now](#)

[Download Digital Flyer](#)

Helen Rutherford, Specialist Sleep Practitioner from The Sleep Charity, will present a session exploring the physiology of sleep, understanding common sleep issues, looking at why children with SEND struggle more than other children, and strategies tailored to support our children in having a peaceful nights rest.

[Register Now](#)

[Download Digital Flyer](#)

Latest podcast



Laura Oliver & Maggie Morton, Occupational Therapists from our Group, join us for a discussion exploring 'Sensory Support For Primary Aged Pupils'. In this episode, we discuss the most common sensory-seeking behaviours,

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navigating sensory regulation, overload, and therapy-informed tools and strategies to support them.

[Listen Here](#)

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