

# Broke Hall Primary School



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Newsletter 8

## Message from Mrs. Fairs:

I am always proud to welcome visitors to our school. Everyone leaves smiling and I never tire of hearing the compliments I get regarding how welcoming the pupils and staff are and how much of a pleasure it is to have talked with them. Just last week, our MP Dr Dan Poulter visited Broke Hall. He was very impressed with the mature and difficult questions they asked him regarding global conflicts. He is looking forward to meeting us again in the summer when some of our older children will visit the Houses of Parliament. We have also had a number of special assemblies including one from the Suffolk Music Service promoting a Young Voices Choir on Saturday mornings. The children joined in with lots of fun songs and vocal exercises and made a beautiful sound – hearing our young people enjoying their voices is another of my favourite things about my job.

Mrs. Fairs

## Our own School Dog



Following consistent requests from pupils via our school council, we are very excited to announce that we are having our own school dog here at Broke Hall. Stanley, a border terrier, belongs to Mrs Noon and she will be the main point of contact for any questions regarding his work in school.

Stanley who is now 20 months old, will be gradually introduced to the school environment and we hope will become fully accustomed to the routines of the day and supportive of children within the school over a relatively short period of time.

We have undertaken a significant amount of research, have visited other schools who have a school dog established, and are aware of many benefits to having a school dog including:

- A calming effect on pupils, particularly those with behavioural or learning difficulties;
- Encouraging expression and participation in more withdrawn children;
- Fostering a sense of responsibility;
- Increasing enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals which will motivate the children to think and learn;
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life;
- Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable children and educational improvements with low achievers;
- Helping children build confidence in reading;
- Improving attendance

Stanley lives with Mrs Noon and her family; he has completed all his general training. His main place of residence when in school will be in Mrs Noon's office. He will begin to spend time in the school library and with children working with staff who support pastorally.

Whilst moving around the school, Stanley will be kept on a short lead and will always be with a member of staff. You will be able to see the school dog policy on the school website and there is a full risk assessment, which will be reviewed regularly. If at any point it comes to light that Stanley does not actively enjoy life in the school environment, then he will no longer attend.



It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits.

**Any parent / carer who does not wish their child to interact with the dog is invited to email or write to Mrs Noon via the front office, to inform her of their wishes.**

Please also ensure your child's medical record is up-to-date and the school has been made aware of any allergies. Permission for your child to have some contact with the school dog will be presumed if no written communication is received by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

We hope that our children will gain a great deal of enjoyment from having a school dog and that Stanley soon becomes an established part of life at Broke Hall Primary.

### **NSPCC – Speak Out, Stay Safe**

The NSPCC have launched a new campaign to raise awareness in children and young people about the types of abuse and how to find support if they, or someone they know may be experiencing it. This week the children attended a special assembly where they were reminded that abuse is not OK and that they have the right to speak out and be heard. Next week, some year groups will be welcoming representatives from the NSPCC to do some more work on this crucial issue.



### **Gecko Physical Theatre workshops**

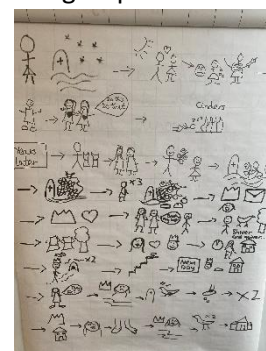
What a wonderful time Year Five had with Gecko Physical Theatre last week! It was such a pleasure to see children expressing themselves through movement, finding undiscovered confidence and learning about themselves and others. This formed just part of our year-long involvement with the Thomas Wolsey 550 initiative which aims to revive our sense of place and pride in the town and to boost ambition and aspiration.



### **National Storytelling Week**



This week and next week we are celebrating National Storytelling Week. All year groups have been allocated a Pie Corbett story video to watch. The class will then draw a story map to help them remember all the details of the story and in small groups rehearse an oral retelling of the story. Each group will perform to the class and a winning group from each year group selected. We will video these performances and share



them with the schools across our Trust who are also taking part in the same activities. We also hope to have the video performances of the winning groups on our website. The children have been able to retell extended stories and have enjoyed using drama and expression to enhance their story telling.

We look forward to watching our winning performances as well as those from the other schools in our Trust.

### **Measles vaccination**

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. Having the MMR vaccine is the easiest way to prevent it. Making sure your child is fully vaccinated is not only the best way to protect them, but also protect those who cannot have the vaccine. If you or your child has never been vaccinated, has missed a dose of the vaccine, or if you are unsure about whether they have been vaccinated, contact your GP. You can also contact the Community and School Aged Immunisation Service on 0300 55505055 or via [hct.csaissuffolk@nhs.net](mailto:hct.csaissuffolk@nhs.net)

## Sticky Questions

Reception: If you could have a super-power, what would it be?

Year One: If children could run a school for grown-ups, what would they teach?

Year Two: If you could ask an animal a question, what would you ask?

Year Three: How well do you know your neighbours, compared with how well your parents knew theirs at your age?

Year Four: Why do we do the right thing when nobody is watching?

Year Five: How would you live your life if it was going to be repeated over and over again for eternity?

Year Six: How much of your thinking have others done for you?



## Big Schools' Birdwatch and Enchanted Tree Trail

The RSPB are inviting schools up and down the country to take part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch to survey and document birdlife in the school environment. Local wildlife expert, Jason Alexander, founder of "Rubbish Walks" and also known as "The Wildlife Gadget Man" visited us to explain more about it and how we could take part. He is also working closely with Rushmere Parish Council on the Enchanted Tree trail, which was mentioned in our previous newsletter. More information about the Enchanted Tree Trail launch which is at 6.00pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at Tower Hall can be

found [here](#) in our Community Events section of our website or on the flyer at the end of this newsletter. All families are invited to join the launch party and the school choir will be performing.

## Term dates for your diary

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe workshops for Yr2 (2 classes) and Yr5
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe workshops for Yr6 and Yr2 (1 class)
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day parent workshops Y5 2-3 p.m.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day parent workshops Y4 2-3 p.m.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day parent workshops Y6 2-3 p.m.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term Break – school closed to pupils</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Reading Café (class tbc)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Reading Café (class tbc)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Reading Café (class tbc)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Ipswich Buddhist Centre visiting Year 5
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week begins
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Broke Hall's first Poetry and Drama Festival
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultation evenings
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of the Spring Term
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Holiday</b>

