

Broke Hall Primary School



Friday 16th February 2024

Newsletter 9

Message from Mrs. Fairs:

Such a busy end to the half term! I have really enjoyed watching some of the videos the children have been making to celebrate National Storytelling Week. As part of the Children's Endeavour Trust, we have been learning and retelling tales from around the world. The favourite storytellers from each year group have been recorded on our whizzy new camera and will be put on the Trust's website along with entries from all the other schools in our group. Although it is looking like it may be a soggy half term, I hope you get to enjoy some time outdoors as the Earth is beginning to wake up and the season turns. I know things are already happening in the school allotment and soon gardening club will be running again with even more success than last year.

Have a lovely break, whatever your plans and we will see you all back again in a week's time for an even quicker half term, packed with more learning experiences.

Mrs. Fairs

Right Respecting School Award News

The School Council have been working closely with Mrs. Noon to create a playground charter to complement the classroom charters each class has drawn up. This charter highlights the articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which are particularly important in encouraging positive, inclusive and enjoyable playtimes at school. The articles the children have voted to include in the playground charter are: Article 2 – the entitlement to enjoy all rights regardless of race, gender, ability, religion or economic background; Article 12 – the right to be able to give opinions freely and have them taken seriously by adults; Article 19 – protection from aggression (including bullying); Article 23 – accessibility and equality of opportunity for children with disabilities and Article 31 – the right to enjoy rest, relaxation and play.



This is one of a number of tasks we are undertaking at Broke Hall to raise awareness of the convention and to achieve Silver status, having become a Bronze level school at the end of last academic year.

Pancake Pandemonium

As well as our kitchen team serving up pancakes with delicious chocolate sauce on Shrove Tuesday, Year 2 took part in the traditional activity of pancake flipping and races. This custom of racing while tossing a pancake is said to date from 1445 when a housewife from Buckinghamshire was so busy making pancakes that she forgot the time. When she heard the bells calling her to church, she races out of the house carrying her pan with a pancake still in it. Whether the story is true or not, here the children are having great fun.



As well as our Shrove Tuesday celebrations, children have also been learning about the celebrations for Chinese New Year.

Other highlights from this half term include Year 1 children completing and evaluating their beautifully sewn bookmarks; Amelia in Year 5 making an amazing model of the solar system for her home learning task for science and children in Reception have been making the most of our outdoor learning area.



Online Safety



We have an ongoing commitment to ensuring our children have safe and happy experiences whilst online. As part of this, Mrs. Longhurst, our Computing Subject Lead, arranged workshops for Key Stage Two children and their parents, highlighting the potential pitfalls of digital life. These workshops and information we as a school pass on to you via these newsletters and the website are to help us work together to safeguard children. The article at the end of this newsletter, provided by National Online Safety, talks about “Monkey” – a freely available app which allows children to contact strangers and chat with them and which we believe potentially places children at risk of harm. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the workshops, we hope you found them useful and that they promoted a discussion between you and your child.



Drinks and toilet access

Please be reassured that all children have access to the toilet and their drinks bottle throughout the day. Routines in each class may be different according to the age of the children and all children are encouraged to go at playtimes and lunchtimes. There may be short periods of time, for instance during the teaching input part of the lesson, when children are discouraged from leaving the classroom to go to the toilet, as this directly impacts on their understanding, but children are able to go to the toilet as they need to.

If your child has any worries or concerns about this, please speak directly to their class teacher who will explain the routines in their class. This is a much safer way than relying on information from WhatsApp groups.

Half Term Activities

We always receive a lot of flyers from various organisations offering activities for half term week. Rather than bombard parents with emails, we have placed them all on the Community Events page on our website. Please take a look [here](#).

Choir Performance

The choir performed last Saturday evening to a very crowded audience at Tower Hall for the launch of the Enchanted Tree Trail. Mrs Noon and Mrs Fairs were pleased to see so many families there and hope that you are enjoying the trail.



Walking to school

We are working with the Active Travel Officers from Suffolk County Council to develop sustainable, healthy travel to and from school. There are a number of options we are considering to help alleviate the stressful and potentially dangerous pick up and drop off times. One of the following ideas has been suggested in our most recent meeting:

“By the beginning of February, the enthusiasm that we had to make big changes to our lives at new year has often fallen by the wayside! If one of your resolutions was to start being more active and you’re struggling to maintain motivation, don’t forget that walking to school is a great form of physical activity. Did you know, at a brisk pace you can walk a mile in 20 minutes or less and it all counts towards the recommended 150 minutes a week of physical activity for adults. If you drive for the school run, could you park 10 minutes away from school and walk (and as a bonus you’ll avoid the hassle of the congestion outside the school)?”

On another note, please **do not** use the school car park when collecting children from after school clubs or from Heathlands. This is for reasons of safety and to prevent staff from being blocked in by additional cars. Blue Badge holders are not affected by this request and can continue to use our accessible bays.

Term dates for your diary

Monday 4 th March	2V Reading Café 2.00pm
Tuesday 5 th March	2T Reading Café 2.00pm
Wednesday 6 th March	2R Reading Café 2.00pm
Thursday 7 th March	Ipswich Buddhist Centre visiting Year 5
Monday 11 th March	British Science Week begins in school
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 4 performance for parents 2.45pm (no ticket needed)
Thursday 14 th March	Year 3 to visit the heath
Thursday 21 st March	EYFS Easter SHARE session for parents am
Thursday 21 st March	Year 5 performance for parents 2.45pm (no ticket needed)
Monday 25 th March	Year 4 Viking Day
Monday 25 th March	HSA Easter Hamper raffle
Tuesday 26 th March	Reception classes to visit Piper’s Vale Gymnastics Centre
Tuesday 26 th March	Parents’ consultation evening
Wednesday 27 th March	Parents’ consultation evening
Thursday 28 th March	Last day of term
Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 15 th April	First day of the Summer term

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omigie (which has now shut down) by sending users on random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to this service, where they can make matches, message other people, and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but phone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app removes pseudonyms on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or nudity that visitors to parties, along with reports to staff. However, reports in the media have indicated that illegal content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually explicit or violent material) and it therefore appears to comply with the app – including those aged under 18.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
The obvious risk in accepting random video chat with strangers is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers in an uncontrolled, unmoderated environment is particularly risky for children and young people who are not used to meeting up with these people online. The app does not limit the user's location, increasing the chance of a child being contacted by a stranger from their local area, with a stranger.

IN-APP SPENDING
While Monkey is free to download, a new feature offers in-app purchases (premium membership) to complete users who wish to make use of these features (Monkey's text-based messaging system), otherwise the app's Chatroulette-style random video chat features will need to pay to be able to do so.

INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY
According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-generated content (chat messages, photos and videos), and each user's IP address are collected. There is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS
Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial for parents that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers that they understand not to give away information (like their name or school name), and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING
If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you restrict the in-app purchases to prevent them from spending significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Monkey allows its user base to report any inappropriate content to its moderation team. If a user is exposed to inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'report' option in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

SPOT THE SIGNS
If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or disturbing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. Sarah-Jane Smith is a leading expert in child and adolescent mental health. She has worked with the National Online Safety team for several years, providing advice and support to young people in the UK, and is a frequent speaker at national events.

The National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

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