

Broke Hall Primary School



Friday 15th November 2024 Newsletter 4

Message from Mrs. Fairs:

Schools are dynamic places which change, adapt and evolve to meet the needs of those we serve. The past two weeks have seen some wonderful changes which will enhance our unique Broke Hall offer. Suffolk Wildlife Trust have worked with Year Five to bring a new dimension to our outdoor areas, the school menu has brought excitement and buzz to the lunch queue and work has begun on a vibrant new mural as Year Four work with Lily from Uwu Studios on an original design created by our Year Six children.



All this while observing long-held traditions such as marking the Armistice with silence on 11th November, thinking about kindness and justice on Children in Need/Philosophy Day and continuing to plan and provide the very best education for your children.

Mrs. Fairs

Wilder Schools Day of Action



Last week Suffolk Wildlife Trust, a team of volunteers from the school community and nearly 90 children spent the day on the field, welcoming nature into our grounds by building stag beetle stacks, minibeast mansions and hedgehog highways. In addition, they dug and seeded wildflower beds, began work on a dead hedge and cleaned up the litter that had been blown onto the grounds. The children worked outdoors all day and used bowsaws and loppers, whittled sticks and dug with all their might. We are very proud of how involved they all were and of how much they achieved. There is more to come though as the project is not quite complete. A huge "thank-you" to all those who were involved in the day. We received some very positive feedback from Charlie and her team: 'These sessions are so dependent upon the children. Behaviour is so important. Broke Hall children are so attentive, engaged and enthusiastic. The lovely thing about this project is the children came up with the ideas, with a little guidance and today they saw what team effort can do, brilliant!'



Charity Support



Thank you for your support for raising money for both the Royal British Legion and Children in Need. The children have enjoyed wearing their pyjamas to school today and at the time of writing, you have raised over £650 to support children in the UK and around the world. Thank you!



Mural



These pictures show the beginnings of the mural we have been able to commission, free of charge, through the Wolsey 550 project, which the school has been apart of for just over a year. Using our chosen theme of inclusion and respect, Lily Hammond, a local illustrator and designer, worked with Year Six to come up with a design which shares these values in a colourful and powerful way. Year Four have been working in teams of ten to bring the design to life. We can't wait to show you the finished work.



New menu

The new menu has run its full, two-week course and the feedback has been very positive. Numbers for school meals remain high and the most popular meals so far are the street food options – vegetable spring rolls with noodles in particular. Market research from our valued consumers (i.e. your children) says that they would prefer a different roll for the BBQ pulled chicken dish and so we have now sourced a new supplier which will be available next week.

Parental queries have been around why we don't offer a range of sandwiches each day. There are two main reasons:

- 1) the Universal Free School Meals strategy, which is available to all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two, was put together to offer children a hot meal in the middle of the day. In fact, many schools do not offer any cold options to children of this age at all.
- 2) to comply with Food Standards for Schools. It states that schools must include: "a meat or poultry product no more than once each week in primary schools"

Therefore, offering a ham or tuna roll more than once per week as our cold option is not acceptable which is why each option is only available once per week.

This wider choice gives children to opportunity to try new foods and we have observed that this is what is happening. When they see their friends excited about something, they want to try it, too.



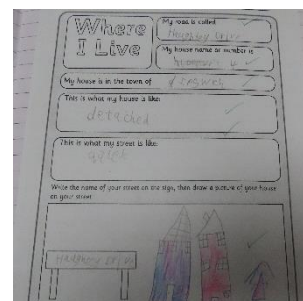
Focus on Lower Phase

Mrs Collins, the Lower Phase Leader, has been talking to children and visiting lesson across the phase. She has highlighted some of the exciting things that are going on in Years 1, 2 and 3:

This week I have enjoyed talking to the children about what they have 'loved' about learning; Year 1 were excited about using the laptops in computing and learning subtraction in maths. They all said "Maths is fun!" They also loved learning about geography, saying, "Geography means learning about all around the world".



Year 2 also talked about enjoying maths and computing and they told me all about their African tales. They were excited about P.E and had enjoyed making the festival pictures. Lots of children said they love using ipads.



Two members of Colchester Synagogue came to school to talk to the Year 3 classes in our Food and Festivals week before half term. They talked to the children about the Jewish faith, their celebrations and their harvest festivals.

They tasted challah (bread) and had honey and apple which is eaten to celebrate the new year. The Year 3 children told me all about visit and how they enjoyed eating bread and honey.



The Year 3 children also told me rugby is awesome and talked about how much they enjoyed making Chinese lanterns. The children are very interested in the stockings project for DT. They told me how they are all enjoying learning to sew. They also talked about volcanoes and earthquakes with enthusiasm.



Play Leaders

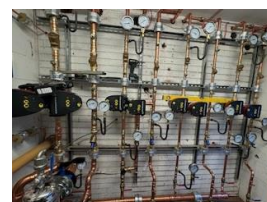
A group of Year 5 children completed their training this week to become Play Leaders. We had over 50 applications for this role. The Play Leaders will be in charge of organising and running of many different lunchtime games on the playground with the younger children. They are all looking forward to getting started in this new role.



Building Improvements



You will probably be aware that we have had building work ongoing since the start of the summer holidays. This has been to replace our boilers and our heating system. This project has been 90% funded through a Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) bid from the DfE that the Trust successfully won on behalf of the school. We now have three new boilers and controls, new pipe work throughout the school and all new radiators. In classrooms these are ceiling mounted convector radiators, with the more traditional wall radiators in shared areas and offices.



The whole system will be more efficient, economic and environmentally friendly. The contractors, who have been working night shifts since the start of term are due finish the project within the next few weeks.

Term dates for your diary

Friday 15 th November	Non uniform day for Children in Need
Wednesday 20 th November	Storyteller to visit Year 4
Thursday 21 st November	Donation Day for PTA/HSA
Friday 22 nd November	Choir to perform at Snape Maltings
Friday 29 th November	Year 6 to Copleston Carol Service
Friday 6 th December	PTA Christmas Fair 3.30pm
Monday 9 th December	Year 1 Christmas performance (2.30pm)
Tuesday 10 th December	Year 1 Christmas performance (9.15am)
Wednesday 11 th December	Nursery Christmas Performance (9.30am) Reception Christmas performance (2.30pm)
Thursday 12 th December	Reception Christmas performance (9.15am)
Thursday 12 th December	Trust Christmas Concert 6:30pm at the Corn Exchange, Ipswich
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Day in school (wear a festive jumper)
Monday 16 th December	Year 2 assembly to parents (2.45pm)
Tuesday 17 th December	Year 3 assembly to parents (2.45pm) * note not am as stated previously
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term
Monday 23 rd December: Christmas Holiday	
Monday 6 th January	PD Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 7 th January	First day back for pupils