

Brockworth Primary School Newsletter

Diary

January 2008

Thursday 6th March	book fair to 12th March
Wednesday 19th March	parents evening 6.00—8.00pm
Wednesday 26th March	parents afternoon 3.30—6.00pm
Friday 28th March	charity fun day
Thursday 1st May	whole school photograph
Monday 12th May	SATs begin
Friday 13th June	school marathon
Monday 23rd June	residential week for Y6 begins
Monday 7th July	curriculum week begins

Term dates

Term 3 ends Friday 15th February

Term 4 Monday 25th February to Friday 4th April*

Bank Holiday Friday 21st to Monday 24th March

Term 5 Monday 21st April to Friday 23rd May

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May

Term 6 Monday 2nd June to Friday 18th July*

*** School closes at 2.00pm.**

News:-

* **Diary**

* **Parents in school at start of day/ security**

* **Ptfa**

* **Active mark**

* **Phone number**

Toast and

Juice—This continues to be a successful venture and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 8.20am. Toast and juice are available to any child and all for a bargain price of 20p!

Breakfast Club is now on a Wednesday morning only. For more information please contact the school office.

School Travel Plan –

The school is in the process of considering options and support for different methods of travel to school. Parents, carers and children recently filled in a questionnaire seeking views on how pupils travel to school and how they would like to travel to school. This showed that most children walk to school, more than regional or national figures suggest. There were many views expressed in the survey but the significant findings were:-

- Most children live within 800m of the school and walk.
- The main factors that discourage children from walking are that it is part of an adult car journey to work, the distance they live from school and bad weather.
- The School Council and Travel Plan Committee have both expressed a positive response to the school considering shelter on the playground to protect from bad weather.
- 44% of respondents would prefer to cycle to school.
- Crossing roads, speeds and volume of traffic were significant problems involved in the journey to school.
- Children would like to cycle to school if there were a safe place to leave bikes but many children also expressed concern about the dangerous level of traffic outside school and the difficulties in crossing the road. Some members of the Travel Plan Committee are very concerned about the potential dangers to cyclists from traffic on the busy road outside school. They feel that the proximity to the junction with Vicarage Lane and the amount of traffic generated by the secondary school pose particular problems for young cyclists.

There is more work to be completed by the group but final recommendations will be made by April.

Phone number—Please note that the school phone number is 862809 and take care with dialling. We have been informed by a resident with a similar number that they are getting messages left on their answer phone meant for school..

Infant Play Area – This area has now been improved with the provision of adventure trail equipment.

This will be officially opened on Wednesday 23rd January at 2.00pm by Penny Evatt from Goodmans who kindly funded the venture. Parents, friends and carers are welcome to come along at that time.

Further development of this area is planned with improvements to the play-house area intended for later in the year depending on funding from the Tesco Community Charity.

School car Park—The school car park is for the use of staff at the school, the Children's Centre, the pre school and visitors. The car park can be very full when meetings are being held and there always needs to be additional room for lorries and deliveries.

Will all parents please respect the needs of these groups and not use the car park for dropping off or collecting children. It causes a considerable inconvenience to all and a good deal of anger amongst other parents who have parked outside the school.

Will parents and carers also note that we have no provision on the school site for the safe keeping of bicycles and scooters during the school day although this is something the Travel Plan group are looking into.

School Safety Zone – Shortly the school is to be part of a School Safety Zone details of which are below.

School Safety Zone Signs with 'Wig Wag' flashing beacons: These are placed at the start of the zone to inform drivers that they are entering the school area. They display a 'School Warning Sign' along with an advisory 20mph speed limit. Drivers should observe the advisory speed limit when the lights flash, which is at school start and finish times. The signs are pre-programmed to flash at the correct times and days.

Gateway Markings are placed adjacent to the School Safety Zones Signs and consist of a red strip in the highway (normally 5m length), which highlights the start and finish of the School Safety Zone. Inside the red strip is a 'Slow' marking and in advance of this, a marking which says 'School Safety Zone'.

I anticipate that these markings will be in place by the end of March and will do much to improve congestion and safety outside school.

Help in school—

This is always appreciated and we have a good group of people who help out in a wide range of ways in school, from computers to netball, from reading to art work. If you would like to be involved as part of this please contact your child's teacher or the school office. Why not link this to helping out at lunch on the day you are in? This would of course be paid and would help the existing midday supervisors by providing extra pairs of hands.

Attendance—

Target for whole school—95%
Actual to 31st December 2007—92.7%

It is lateness that is contributing to the poor figure. It is vital that children are in school on time at the start of the day. Doors open at 8.40 and lessons start at 8.45. Anyone who registers after 8.50 counts as an unauthorised late. After 7 unauthorised lates the school welfare officer automatically becomes involved and can initiate penalty procedures resulting in a fine.