



Brumby Junior
School

Queensway, Scunthorpe, DN162HY. 01724865644. www.brumbyjuniorschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr P Foster

Information letter: May 2016

New School Building

The new school building has made an amazing difference to our pupils and staff.

On the first morning, we were not sure what to expect. We thought the children would be over-excited perhaps, or even a little overwhelmed. What we were not expecting was complete silence for the first two hours! The children seemed so awe-struck that it didn't quite sink in straight away.

The children have changed a great deal in the time we have been here. They were always well behaved and mature, but they have really grown-up and started to take much more pride in their work, their surroundings and their general approach to school. Only two weeks ago we were walking around the building with some building-contractors who were improving the immersive room, when they asked when the children were coming back to school! The classes were so well-behaved and focussed on their work that they couldn't be heard. Impressive.

The next stage, as you may have seen, is the demolition and removal of the old building. That will be followed by landscaping and improvement of the playgrounds and outdoor spaces. We would anticipate that this will be complete in time for the start of September 2016, with further work complete by October half-term. For the time being, and until the end of the school year, we will continue to use the Outwood entrance to school.

Curriculum

Since moving to the new building we have noticed that pupils are taking much more pride in their work, and producing writing, artwork, maths and other work which truly makes them proud. We have also found that it is difficult for teachers to help pupils to produce the kind of quality they are aiming for in shorter lessons. Pupils need more time to develop work, redraft and re-edit, then improve. To help this, we are moving away from SETs for literacy: instead, pupils will be taught in classes for literacy and other subjects. Mathematics will continue to be taught in SETs based on a child's level of attainment.

We are very aware that one of Brumby's key strengths is our ability to differentiate tasks and work so that all of our children can access tasks and produce their best work: this means that lower and higher attaining children are given different targets and expectations. However, the new national curriculum expects that **all** children reach the same standard by the end of each year group. This standard is very high—in line with an old "level 5" for Y6. Whilst we know that the huge majority of our pupils are working at the level expected for their age, with many working "at greater depth" too, a few pupils will always need more support to reach the levels expected of them.

The challenge for every school is how to achieve this. Our solution is to "pitch high", and support and challenge all pupils to reach the level expected from them. Working in full classes for literacy is the best way to do this.

We will monitor the attainment of all pupils very closely over the next few weeks as we trial this system. Please be assured that there will be no lowering of expectations for our highest pupils; there will be raised expectations for everybody instead. What we are trying to achieve is a school where every pupil becomes a high performer. Pupils will certainly find work harder, but all we are expecting them to do is *try!* As a school, we must continually give pupils work which they find hard, as doing this helps them to learn. The support will be there. We want children to succeed in the much-harder new curriculum, and "pitching high", supporting pupils and supporting staff and families is the way to do this.



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School Sports

Our new sports-hall is magnificent! We are very pleased to finally have a hall which can not only be used for 2 classes to complete PE at the same time, but also can hold school lunches and a full school assembly too.

One of our new sports is badminton, as this is a sport which pupils love and one which is comparatively easy to play. Of course, our outdoor sports will also continue once the new playgrounds are complete - the smoozas are great for football, hockey, basketball etc as they stop the balls rolling away!

As ever, our school enters lots of competitions. We plan for this to continue, but also plan to go to more sporting venues too.

Our increased PE curriculum means that we have re-assessed the safety of our pupils in these lessons. As a result, we now ask that:

- all pupils remove their own earrings for PE lessons
- Pupils who cannot remove newly-pierced (within 6 weeks) earrings must have them taped up in lessons
- school PE kit must be worn - pupils who do not have the correct kit will have a reminder letter sent home, then after that will not be allowed to take part in PE lessons or sports days

Children in Years 3 to 6 are required to bring the following P.E kit into school:

- ⇒ A pair of soft plimsolls or training shoes
- ⇒ Black or navy-blue shorts or p.e. skirt
- ⇒ White or blue plain round-necked T-shirt (no collar)

During the colder months (or on cooler summer days) KS2 pupils are also asked to bring warmer outdoor games clothing such as tracksuits or sweatshirts. These should ideally be black or blue in colour if possible please

Dates.

Mon June 6th - School closed for staff training

Wed June 15th Y3 Sports Morning: - 9:30 to 11:30 //// Y4 Sports Afternoon 13:15 to 15:15

Thu June 16th Y5 Sports Morning: - 9:30 to 11:30 //// Y6 Sports Afternoon 13:15 to 15:15

June 20th -24th Y6 activity week

Fri June 24th - End of year reports out to parents

Fri June 24th - Kingswood trip /// **Fri July 15th** Summer Fair