



Brumby Junior School

Queensway, S cunthorpe, DN162HY. 01724665644. www.brumbyjuniorschool.co.uk  
Headteacher: Mr P Foster

# Information letter: September 2016

## New School Building—phase two—play spaces

We are very proud of our new school and new outdoor spaces. The pupils are behaving responsibly in our new, much more interesting playgrounds. However, we know that we can make them even better so this week we will be sharing the ideas with pupils in assembly, consulting with the school council and asking representatives to gather opinions from their own classes about how we should equip the playgrounds with equipment, how we should arrange playtimes and what our rules should be.

We hope to have all of our new equipment in place by the end of the autumn term.

## New School Building—phase two—car park

This week, the final parts of the car park will be completed. Our new fences and gates will enable us to make the school site even safer for our pupils and families. The gates will be closed to vehicles before 9a.m. and after 2:45 p.m. They will also be closed at breaktimes to give us an extra safety-line around the school. If you need to access the car park at break/lunch time (ie, to pick up a pupil), there is an intercom which you can use to gain access to the visitor spaces, which are all situated next to the school hall. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR PLANS

## Changing the times of the school day consultation

We are considering changing the time of the school day, so that it will begin and end ten minutes earlier. This is to make it much easier for families with pupils at our local infant schools, and to ensure that - in the darker months - children are leaving school whilst there is still plenty of light.

	Start school	End school
Current times	8:55 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Proposed times from Jan 1st 2017	8:45 a.m.	3:05 p.m.

We consulted parents about this proposal in October last year, but only received slips back from around 25% of parents. Of those, the majority were in favour of the change. However, this time we are more confident that we will receive a much greater number of responses

which, in turn, will help us to make a decision. Please see attached letter for your chance to share your opinions on this change.

## School website



Please keep a close eye on the school website for up-to-date announcements and information. It can be found at [www.brumbyjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.brumbyjuniorschool.co.uk)

Many, many parents have also downloaded our free smartphone/tablet app. Just go to your device's APP STORE and type BRUMBY JUNIOR SCHOOL. You will then receive notifications about the school, free of charge.

## Thank you!

Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported us so well with school uniform this year - the pupils are looking very smart and there have been very few incidents.

Thank you also for your support over the first week with parking and picking up pupils on Cemetery Road. The situation there at the end of the day is now much safer.

Thank you also for all of the support with reading - very, very few pupils are failing to have their reading records checked at home, after reading with an adult.

And finally, thank you for supporting us with our policy on earrings: only small studs allowed please, for obvious safety reasons!



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## **School Priorities 2016/17**

After 4 years of improving SATs results from 2011 to 2014 (with a levelling-off of results in 2015) we were disappointed to see that we dipped significantly in some of our results last year. In Maths, we moved from being above national averages to 3% behind. In Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, we improved from 2015 but were still 5% behind national averages. However, in Reading we dropped from in-line with national averages to 20% behind, whilst Writing results were better than national averages. For our highest attaining pupils - a group of pupils who have done exceptionally well at Brumby over previous years - we were behind national averages too.

After a great deal of analysis of results and teaching over the last year, the conclusion is that this drop in results is due to our pupils' reading skills. More specifically, the "dip" is centred around our pupils' ability to read a text or question on a deeper level and understand the meanings of more complex vocabulary, such as that which is in the new, harder SATs tests. Further evidence to support this is our maths scores: 86% of pupils reached the "pass" mark in arithmetic skills (pure calculations) but only 54% reached the pass mark in "reasoning" (written questions which the pupils have to read, understand and then choose the correct mathematical method to solve).



### So, what are we going to do about it?

We have already made a series of very positive changes.

- We have asked staff to plan lessons with a greater focus on the pupils being able to produce detailed, written answers to questions.
- We have embedded more reading into other lessons.
- We have asked teachers to focus much more on reasoning in maths.
- We have encouraged pupils and families to read and discuss written texts much more at home.

We have further, powerful and necessary improvements to make during the Autumn term too. We do not need to wait for an Ofsted report to see that we should make some improvements - we are already helping our staff and pupils to have much more productive lessons. 2016/17 should be a very positive year for us.

## **Words Count**

Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who attended the Words Count open meeting on Friday 23rd September. Seeing so many families represented was a brilliant indicator of how much support the school and pupils receive from our community.

As you will have seen on other newsletters (and above on this one), reading is our biggest target this year. Our pupils deserve to have every chance to read and talk about the things that they have read, not only at school, but at home too. It is heartening to see that the vast majority of our pupils read with an adult every day at home, answering questions and learning new facts as they go!

