



Brumby Junior  
School

Queensway, S cunthorpe, DN162HY. 0172465644. www.brumbjuniorschool.co.uk  
Headteacher: Mr P Foster

# Information letter: April 2017

## New School Building—phase three:

### Shade

In the autumn, the school council were tasked with providing shade for pupils during the spring, summer and autumn time when the sun can get quite intense. However, we found that shelters tend to create shadows in the wrong places, due to the angle of the sun. Put simply, a large investment in an expensive structure to create shade over our seating area was turned-down because the shaded area would have been 4m away from the seats during May to September!

Instead, we have opted to plant trees and develop our field area, all for a fraction of the cost.

### Learning spaces

Our play spaces are now largely complete. Work has begun on our woodland area, which will soon be fenced and contain willow tunnels, log-benches and various learning environments. We aim for this to be an area where pupils can learn more about nature, whilst also providing a quiet space for “chill-out” time and quiet reading (in the shade) which lots of pupils have asked for.

### School Day

Following consultation with parents in the autumn term 2016, we found that 79% of parents were in favour of a change of hours. The governors have elected to move the school day times forward by 10 minutes at either end of the day.

**From September 2017, the school day will be: 8:45 a.m to 3:05 p.m.**

### Increased positive feedback to pupils and parents

During the next half term, school council will be introducing the SEESAW PARENT ACCESS online app.



This app creates an online learning journal for pupils and parents. Essentially, whenever a child does something of high-merit and significance, such as making a big step forward with their learning, skills, knowledge, attitude or even - yes - test scores, we can record this as a photograph and digitally enter it into their learning journal. Parents who have downloaded the free app will receive a notification on their devices which shows them the video, photograph or piece of work. We will also be able to send home letters using this system.

Research tells us that what pupils want most of all is recognition, positive feedback and the chance to share this with their families and friends. This app allows us to do this.

Please access your app store and type in SEESAW PARENT ACCESS to download the free app. School council and staff will do their best to continually update this so that pupils can build a portfolio of their successes throughout their time at Brumby!



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Whilst we do our best to emphasise positives with our pupils and parents, we have a tiny minority of parents who do not comply with our rules, all of which are designed to keep pupils and parents safe and healthy. Sorry for the grumbles, but here they are:

## **School Gates**

Recently, we have had an increase in a tiny minority of parents parking across the school entrance to drop pupils off or, even more dangerously, driving up to the gates and then reversing back out into fast-moving traffic on the Queensway. This is clearly incredibly dangerous, which is why the majority of parents make the sensible, safe and responsible decision not to do so.

## **Smoking**

We have found an increasing number of cigarette ends near the school gates. Please be aware that it is an offence to smoke (including e-cigarettes) on school property. Pupils really don't like or appreciate it and nor do staff or other parents.

## **Staffing**

### **Mrs Kitchen to retire**

This month we say our official goodbye to Mrs Kitchen. She is a hugely valued member of staff who has worked with the school for 26 years. Her expertise in developing support for pupils with additional educational needs has been invaluable. She has promised us that she will come back and continue to help us when she can. For now though, she plans to enjoy her full, well-earned retirement!

### **New staff; School priorities.**

In the second half of the summer term, we will be welcoming our 2nd Deputy Headteacher - Mrs R Barley. She will work alongside the staff and pupils to develop teaching, learning and assessment. Mr Tait will focus on inclusion, behaviour and how well the school achieves its goals in terms of ethos and vision. Essentially, both will be in classes across the school throughout the day ensuring that pupils get the best deal possible.

Working closely with our governors, we have identified a need for even greater consistency and quality in the way we plan and teach. We have a wealth of talent and skill in our staff-team, yet our best practice is not always shared or replicated. We will be developing "non-negotiable" with our teachers so that everyone (staff, pupils and parents) is completely clear of what we are trying to achieve and how we will do it.

### **Red Nose Day**

Thank you for your brilliant support of our "wear something red" day on Red Nose Day. The cake donations and fancy dress donations raised £647.57 in total! This is a superb effort, especially when we consider the fact that every £5 can save two children's lives through simple vaccinations.

Thank you to all of the pupils who have represented the school in the countless sporting events and school visits that we have undertaken or competed in this term - there are far too many to mention here, so we will describe these in much more detail in a future letter. Needless to say, Brumby pupils have made us so proud with their efforts and overall performance - we need a newsletter just for them, so that is what we will do from now on!

Have a lovely Easter Break from all of us at Brumby Juniors!