



Brumby Junior
School

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

Headteacher: Mr P Foster

Information letter: October 2017

Music and Language Tuition

Our music tuition is going well. The huge majority of pupils are either practising at home (thank you to those parents who are relentless in their support for this) or at school. In true Brumby style, almost all children have stuck to their commitment and have worked through the hardest part (the start) and are moving onto new skills. You all have Christmas tunes to look forward to next half term!

Class music and French lessons are developing too. Hopefully we'll have even more pupils electing to start the peripatetic lessons next year too.

Seesaw

Thank you to all the parents who are currently connected to Seesaw, our online journal for pupils and families. Teachers and pupils alike really like how it builds a link between home and school, and how our pupils get to show off their achievements and successes more often. So much of this work used to be missed, only to be glimpsed at parents' evenings. As it stands, over 330 of our families are now connected, with only 140 families left to go. If you have lost your QR log-in, please contact the school to get a new one. With so much great work happening and a chance to see it, whilst also giving you the chance to directly communicate with your child's class teacher, it really is important that you get connected (it's free too!).

The Brumby Junior School APP—for smartphone or tablet

Please download the Brumby Junior School APP - this will keep you up-to-date with school developments and news, and it's FREE too! It has a full school calendar and also all newsletters too.

Visit your APP store and type Brumby Junior School....

Clubs

School clubs will continue after the holidays unless you have specifically received a letter that states otherwise for a particular club. We currently (including lunchtimes) have 27 clubs running, with even more planned! On top of that, we have many impromptu activities running at lunchtimes too. Ask your child to enquire with a staff member at school if they want a place.

Communication with school

Our telephone lines open at 8.15am. If you wish to record an absence before that time, please leave a message on the answer machine.

Reading records

Please note that teachers hear pupils read in a variety of contexts every day, be it in maths or literacy lessons, or reading instructions in other lessons such as PE. We have a huge focus on reading at school at the moment. However, please also note that the reading records are mainly for parent comments about the reading which they do at home—we no longer ask teachers to spend valuable teaching time administering or adding comments to reading-record books. We have found an extra 2-3 hours teaching time a week by making this decision. We know that finding time to read with children at home can be difficult, but countless studies have shown that pupils who read with their parents up to and beyond 11 years old are much, much more likely to succeed in education. For the time it takes, please, please, please read with your kids! It's the best part of the day.



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Leave of absence from the school

If a child is due to be absent for an extended period of time, please visit the school office to collect a leave-of-absence form. School has a statutory duty to report absences.

Parent Pay

Throughout the school year, we are moving to become a cashless school. We already use the online service - ParentPay - to enable parents to pay for dinners (which are cashless only) and school trips. From September next year, all payments for trips will also be online. *Please remember that pupils can stay for a school dinner on any day that they want to, for £2.20 per day.*

Bicycles to school - helmets, brakes and general safety concerns

We are delighted that a significant number of pupils travel to school by bicycle. Unfortunately, two weeks ago there was an incident where a child was riding on the pavement with no helmet or high visibility clothing, and a car which had parked on the pavement opened its door into him, causing him to fall and injure his head. Paramedic attention was required and a hospital visit was recommended.

Sadly, hardly any children wear a helmet, with parents often stating that pupils just won't wear them. In that case, we'd strongly recommend that you exercise your right as a parent to not let the child use a bike at all.

Furthermore, a significant proportion of the bicycles which come to school have a poor state of repair: broken brakes, non-oiled chains and badly adjusted handlebars or seats are common. With the clocks changing this half term, we also recommend that pupils use lights.

We will be taking advice from road-safety groups over the next few weeks as to whether we can continue to allow children to come to school on bikes which are in poor states of repair.

It is highly likely that they will recommend that we do not allow children to continue using bikes in poor states of repair, or permit children to use bikes if they do not wear a helmet.

Please also note that we must keep the car park area free of cycles. In the event of an emergency, that is designated as one of our access routes and, this year, a very small number of parents have started to leave bikes there. We are looking to add cycle rails elsewhere, but for now please do not leave bikes on that fence.

I personally apologise if any offence is caused by the messages about reading and bicycles in this letter, however, please be aware that we have a duty of care to ensure that pupils are as safe as possible and also have a professional obligation to support pupils and recommend the most effective strategies to parents. If you are already a parent (as the vast majority are) who reads with your children, then I offer a huge thank-you on their behalf. If you already insist that your child wears a helmet, thank you for sticking-to-your-guns too. We personally know how hard it is to be parents but we also know that it is vital that we make hundreds of small (and big) decisions that add up to making children's lives longer, safer, more fulfilling and help them to create successful futures for themselves.

Yours Sincerely

Mr P Foster—Headteacher

School re-opens after half-term on Tuesday 31st October.