



Wednesday 12 June 2019

Good morning,

There has been a lot going on over the past few weeks some of which has been shared on the school website. Health Week went well, despite the weather! Pupils participated in a range of events including fitness activities, healthy eating workshops and cookery competitions. Thank you to all the staff who organised such a great week.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Summer Fair on Saturday 1st June. There was a great turnout. I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who came along to set up, man stalls and clear up. I'd especially like to thank Jenni Longstaff (PC Chair) for all her hard work and organisation.

On Monday we were finally able to have Sports Day for all classes. These were very successful events. It was lovely to get the chance to meet many of you. The children participated with enthusiasm and a good sporting attitude. We thoroughly enjoyed presenting medals and the Sports Cup at the assembly on Tuesday.

There continues to be lots of school trips and all staff are reporting that these are very enjoyable and children are behaving well.

Last week I wrote to all Parents/Carers of current P1 and P2 families about the class arrangements for next session as the current five classes will become four. Next session there will be two classes at each stage giving us fourteen classes altogether.

I'd like to let you know that Ms Katrina Tweedie will be leaving us after 18 years here at Broughton. I'm sure Ms Tweedie has taught many of your children and I know she will be missed. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish her all the best in her retirement.

We are delighted that Ms Ellen McCrimmon is joining the staff on a permanent basis. We will also be joined by two new Probationer Teachers, Mr Tom Paton and Mr Adam Rogerson.

I am aware that there has also been some concern raised in the press around the amount of support being provided in schools for children with additional support needs. There will only be a very slight loss of hours for us in Broughton and this should not impact on the level of support being provided to our children.

We are almost at the stage of informing children who their teacher will be next session. I'm hoping to share this information with you all at the end of this week.

I also appreciate that in the past there has been discussion and concerns raised around which classes are placed in The Link Building. I thought therefore that it would be good to share with you the results of a recent SurveyMonkey we did with our current two primary seven classes who are in The Link.

The children were given several statements and asked to give a rating of 'strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or neither agree or disagree. This was anonymous.

1. I have enjoyed being in The Link for P7 85% strongly agreed or agreed
2. Being in the Link has made me feel more independent 65% strongly agreed or agreed
3. Being in The Link has made me feel left out from the rest of the school 47% disagreed or strongly disagreed (37% selected neither agree or disagree)
4. I feel that being in The Link has added to my P7 experience 69% strongly agreed or agreed
5. I have still been able to carry out lots of P7 responsibilities 82% strongly agreed or agreed
6. I miss being in the main building with the younger children 31% strongly agreed or agreed and 46% disagreed or strongly disagreed
7. I feel we have more space in The Link building 53% strongly agreed or agreed
8. I feel I've had more chance to mix with other P7 pupils 47% strongly agreed or agreed and 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed
9. I like the toilet facilities in The Link 60% disagreed or strongly disagreed

I'm sure you understand that there are many factors that have to be taken into account around which classes are placed in The Link and it is not a decision taken lightly. We are currently looking at arrangements for next session and will let you know when we share the information about class teachers for next session. It is reassuring to know however that although there were concerns initially about P7 being there, the P7 pupils have responded very positively to their experience.

Next week our P7 children will be spending three days at their new High School. I'm sure they will all have a fantastic time and will enjoy getting to meet some new classmates. On Wednesday 19 June we will in turn be welcoming our two new primary one classes to the school for their transition event.

The refurbishment programme is continuing at the expected pace. The primary one classes are being done now and over the summer break the stairwell and offices will be done. This means there will only be three ground floor classes to be done between August and October.

I've been asked by Police Scotland to remind you that parents/carers are not permitted to stop on double yellow lines to drop off and pick up children.

This will be my final newsletter of this session. I've really enjoyed my first term here and I'm very much looking forward to the years ahead. I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer break and I look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Wednesday 14 August.

Maria Gowans
Head Teacher