



Brownsover Community School

Update for Parents - 23rd January 2025

Mrs Helen Westerby - Acting Headteacher

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support for myself and the entire Brownsover team in Mrs Basnett's absence. I am aware that lots of you are concerned about Mrs Basnett and I want to assure you that she is absent from school due to illness and is very much missed. We are looking forward to the time when she is well enough to return but presently have no indication of when that will be. In the mean time, I am in school from Monday to Thursday as Acting Headteacher, supported by Mrs Bourne, our Assistant Headteacher. On a Friday, when I am not in school, Mrs Bourne is our Acting Headteacher.

You may have noticed some new faces in classrooms. South America parents will be aware that we have been covering Mrs Bourne's teaching commitment on a Thursday and Friday. This term we have been pleased to be able to welcome back Mrs Grundy who worked with the year 2's when they were in year 1 last year. She will be teaching South America class until Mrs Basnett's return, when Mrs Bourne will then be able to go back to her teaching commitment. Africa parents will be aware that Mrs Phillips is unwell and Miss Samah has joined our Reception team. She will stay with us until Mrs Phillip's return, which we hope might be after February half term if she is well enough. Asia parents will also be aware that Miss Westerby is unwell and we have welcomed Ms Robbins to Asia class in her absence. I am really pleased that both Miss Samah and Ms Robbins are also happy to continue with us until Miss Westerby and Mrs Phillip's are well enough to return. All three teachers have been a very positive addition to our Brownsover team and have ensured continuity in the children's learning. All classes across school are really well settled and it is lovely to see the children's Brownsover values shining brightly as they are learning and playing.

In light of this staff absence we have made the decision to postpone our Spring parent's evenings. These will now take place on Thursday 3rd April - 3.30 - 5.30pm and on Monday 7th April - 3.30 - 5.30 instead of the previously planned dates of 6th and 10th March. These appointments will be in person rather than online. Please note that in order to accommodate Mrs Gordon's working hours, South America class parents meetings will be on Wednesday 2nd April during the afternoon - 1.00 - 3.30pm and then again on Monday 7th April from 3.30 - 5.30. Information about how to book these appointments will be sent out after February half term.

At the end of next week, we sadly say 'Goodbye' to Mrs Hussain, who leaves us to spend more time with her family. I know that you will join me in thanking her for all that she has done for our children and wish her well. She will be very much missed. We have had a little move around of staff in order to cover the gaps left by Mrs Hussain leaving. Mrs Connolly will be moving to Reception, Mrs Crane will be moving to year 1, although she will continue to teach French to year 5 each week and Mrs Tweed will be moving to year 2. Our children are familiar with all adults in school and I am sure that they will welcome new staff to their classrooms and continue their learning seamlessly.

General Reminders

Playground behaviour expectations

Please may I take this opportunity to remind you that before and after school, whilst children are with you as their parents/carers they are your responsibility. We expect all visitors onto our site to follow our behaviour expectations in order to model appropriate behaviours for our children. Please ensure that you are supervising your children and that they are behaving appropriately towards others and are not going in the bushes or up the banks as this is not allowed during our school day due to health and safety reasons. Can I also remind you that any issues that happen during the school day are our responsibility to deal with. If you have any concerns about anything that has happened during the school day, please speak to your child's teacher about this. It is not helpful if parents approach other parents about issues that have happened during the school day as this can make things more difficult to resolve. We would appreciate your support in this.

Thank you

Attendance and Punctuality

I shall soon be sending out our termly attendance letters for any children whose attendance is below the national expectation of 95%. May I remind you that the school day and learning starts at 8.45am. It is important that children are in school at 8.45am, if they miss 5 minutes of learning each day, that equates to 25 minutes over a week and over a 6 week half term this is equal to 2.5 hrs lost learning.

Remember, it is important that your child is in school everyday that they are well enough to do so. There is a direct link between attendance and outcomes for children. By ensuring that your child is in school every day, you are giving them the best start to their education and improving their life chances in so many ways.

If your child is absent for any reason it is vital that you ring the school office and leave a message first thing to let us know why they are not in school

Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

It's good to be green!!

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Uniform

Lastly, it's that time again to remind everyone of our uniform expectations. This seems to be particularly a problem on PE days. Don't forget, PE kits need to be in school colours, dark bottoms, white T shirts and either a school sweatshirt/cardigan with a logo or a jumper/cardigan in school colours. Any other top/hoodie is not part of our school uniform and shouldn't be worn even on PE days. Jewellery is not permitted, except for stud earrings.

Our uniform makes us look smart and shows that we all belong to the Brownsover Community family.

We want all children to be proud to wear it.