

Brunswick Park Primary School



Brunswick Park
Primary School

e-Newsletter

X @BrunswickParkPS

Instagram brunswickparkps

Friday 11 November 2023

Tel: 020 7525 9033

www.brunswickparkprimary.co.uk

November's Focus Value is **RESPONSIBILITY**

Dear Parents and Carers

Whilst the half term break seems a long time ago, I hope you were able to spend an enjoyable few days with your families. This term is very long, so the break is particularly important to support the children's stamina. They have returned enthusiastic and keen to learn as always, and are at the moment completing our termly pupil survey. The children's views and opinions are essential to inform our plans to continuously improve their experience of school. It is important that it is happy and secure so they feel able to learn, and that they develop the confidence and resilience to manage challenges, so as part of our PSHCE curriculum the children mark Anti-Bullying Week, organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This takes place next week (13-17 November) and the theme is 'Make a noise about bullying'. We teach our children to be assertive when they encounter behaviour they do not like:



Next week, through assemblies and activities, their learning about the importance of supporting and looking out for others pro-actively will be reinforced. This ties in with our Focus Value: Responsibility. Instead of beginning Anti-Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day, we will hold this at the end of the week on Friday 17 November, by which time the children will have a deeper understanding of why we value and celebrate difference.

In this Newsletter, there is updated information about attendance - our attendance policy has been revised to focus more sharply on supporting parents and carers to ensure their children attend school regularly - and on reading and tax-free childcare.

Wishing you a peaceful and enjoyable fortnight ahead

Susannah Bellingham

Head Teacher

New dates for your diary:

ODD SOCKS DAY: FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH: FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER

BPFA WINTER FAIR: FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER

DIARY DATES ARE ON THE WEBSITE

TERM DATES ARE ALWAYS ON THE NEWSLETTER AND THE WEBSITE

Learning for living through respect, support and challenge

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Pupil absence and lateness account for lost learning. Lessons start at 09:00.
We need to make sure as many children as possible are present in school on time every day.

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.45am each day of your child's absence.

Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments, and bring in appointment cards/letters/texts.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, consult the NHS guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Children should be kept at home only if they have a serious illness or injury.

If a child has a minor ailment, e.g. headache or stomach ache, you should bring your child in and inform the teacher in person or via the school office.

These ailments are not considered serious enough to warrant absence from school.

If the child's condition worsens, we will contact you.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport to call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Celebrate good and improving school attendance.

Tracy Sherry is our Attendance Officer.

Bev Swack is our LA Family Early Help Practitioner.

Children need to:

Arrive at school by 08:50

Be seated in the classroom by 08:55

If children are not in their classrooms by 08:55 they are late.

All children, on time, every day, learning.

Your child is entitled to 190 days' education per year.

Reading in Reception and Year 1:



Parents and carers of children in Reception and Year 1 will have noticed that we are now sending Little Wandle Reading books home for you to read with your child.

Remember – you must bring the book back the next day , as another child will need it for their next reading lesson.

If you do not return the Little Wandle book, we will ask you to pay £4.75 so we can order a new one.

If the book seems too easy, remember that your child has already been taught to read it at school and is showing you what they have learned. Please praise them and tell them what a fantastic reader they are!

All the other books that Reception and Year 1 children bring home are for sharing, so please continue to read these books to your child.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions about the Little Wandle books.

Keeping up to date with Brunswick Park on Social Media



Resource Base
@ResourceBaseBP



EYFS
@EyfsBPPS



Year 1
@Year1BPPS



Year 2
@Year2BPPS



Year 3
@Year3BPPS



Year 4
@Year4BPPS



Years 5
@Year5BPPS



Year 6
@Year6BPPS



Whole School
on X @BrunswickParkPS
on Instagram @brunswickparkps

A message from Public Health

Reception – Year 11 Flu vaccination:

Flu vaccination is the best way to protect your child from getting ill with flu this winter.

The nasal spray flu vaccine is safe and effective, with minimal side effects

Further information on the vaccine is available here:

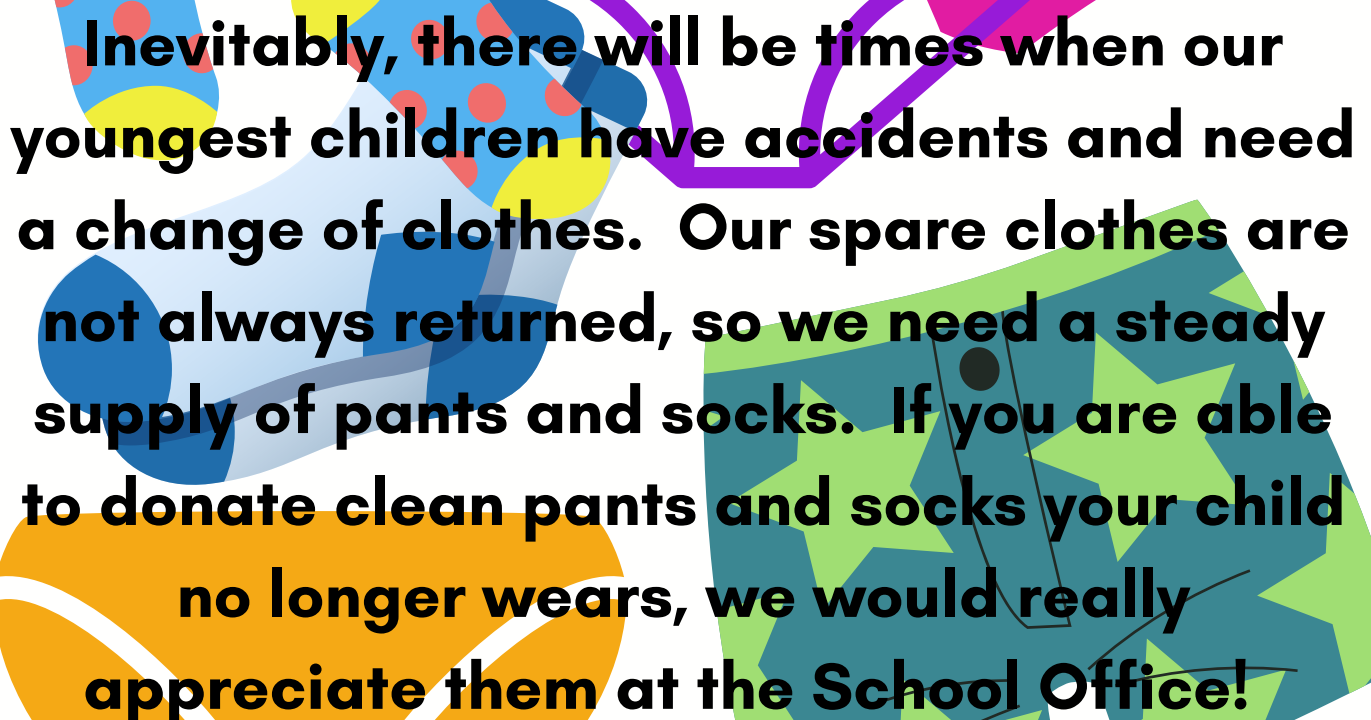
<https://www.sharegoodtimesnotflu.co.uk/information/understanding-flu-leaflet.html>

The vaccine is given in school. If you would like your child to get the vaccine, you need to fill out an online consent form here:

<https://sav.hrch.nhs.uk/flu/2023/southwark>

If you have questions about the flu vaccine or need help with the online form, the School Immunisation Team will be holding a drop-in session at the Lettsom Tenants Hall, 114 Vestry Road SE5 8PQ on Saturday 18 November 2023, from 12–4pm.

A plea for spare pants and socks!



Inevitably, there will be times when our youngest children have accidents and need a change of clothes. Our spare clothes are not always returned, so we need a steady supply of pants and socks. If you are able to donate clean pants and socks your child no longer wears, we would really appreciate them at the School Office!

Thank you.

How can I reduce childcare costs?



HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



HOW TO USE TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

For every £8 you pay in, the government will automatically add £2, up to the value of £2,000 per child per year (or £4,000 for disabled children)



Share this page



Inspired by the Rugby World Cup?



**RELEASE YOUR POTENTIAL
JOIN SOUTHWARK RUGBY CLUB**

**Training every Sunday September - April
Boys & Girls 5 - 17
No experience necessary**

**Join us 10.00 - 12.00 at our pitches
in Burgess Park - SE5 0JB**

www.southwarktigers.com

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to military conflicts around the globe, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.

2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once. Instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-610709> <https://www.thetrust.org/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content> <https://www.nos.org/parents-how-talk-your-children-about-conflict-and-war>

SCHOOL UNIFORM, PE KIT AND PE DAYS

All children are expected to wear full school uniform daily, and the school PE kit on PE days.

Nursery and Reception children do not get changed for PE, so do not need school PE kit.

Children in Years 1-6 need school PE kit.

They come to school in their PE kit on PE days.



School PE kit is:

- white T-shirt or white polo shirt**
- black shorts/leggings/joggers**
- school jumper/cardigan**
- white/black/grey socks**
- black trainers or plimsolls**



Please do not send your child to school in non-uniform clothing.

Year Group	PE Day
Nursery	Thursday
Reception	Friday
Year 1	Monday
Year 2	Tuesday
Year 3	Thursday
Year 4	Wednesday
Year 5	Friday
Year 6	Wednesday
Resource Base	Tuesday





On the Homepage of Brunswick's website there is the Events Diary, our X (Twitter) Feed and Quick Links to all the information you need. Please use it to stay up to date; it is there to help you.

Uniform

Sweatshirts, cardigans, bookbags and swimming hats are available to buy or collect from the School Office on **Wednesdays from 3.30–4.00pm**. If you choose to pay in cash, please bring the right money as we cannot give change. If you choose to pay online via ParentMail, please pay for your item/s before coming to collect them.

Age 13 - adult sweatshirts = £10.00

All other sweatshirts = £8.00

Age 13 - adult cardigans = £13.00

All other cardigans = £11.00

Book Bags = £4.00

Swimming Hats = £1.00



Making payments for goods and services at school

Payments for uniform, trips, Breakfast Club, top-up fees and Nursery After School Club can all be made either in cash at the School Office, or online, via ParentMail.

To pay for uniform online using ParentMail, you need to log in to your account and pay for the item/s before you collect them from the School on Wednesdays.

To pay for all other services – trips, Breakfast Club, top-up fees and Nursery After School Club – make sure your ParentMail account is registered to pay for the services you need, then you can pay for them online.

If you need support to register, please see the School Office Staff.

WE HOPE THIS HELPS!



The Play Shelter After School Club @ Brunswick Park

£55 per week

3.30 - 6.00pm Monday - Friday

To register your child, contact the Centre Manager on **07905 007964**
or visit the After School Club in the Dining Hall.

email: admin@theplayselter.co.uk

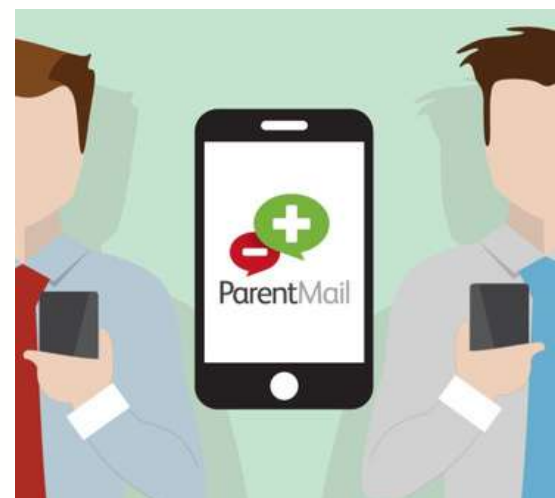
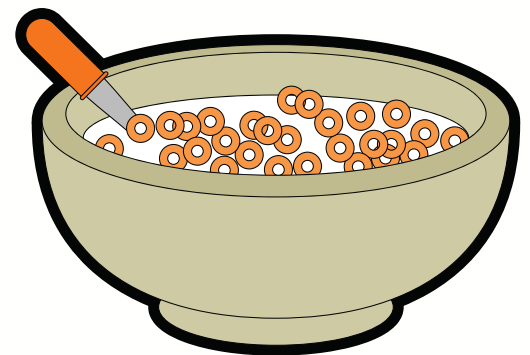
website: www.theplayselter.co.uk

Brunswick Park Breakfast Club

Reception - Year 6

£15 per week

regardless of the number of days children attend,
payable a week in advance at the School Office
and online via ParentMail.



7.45am until the start of the school day, Monday - Friday

In the Dining Hall, run by Brunswick's own staff: Mikaela, Linda and Karen
Nursery Breakfast Club details available from the School Office

Term Dates 2023/2024

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAY IN TERM TIME

CHILDREN ARE ENTITLED TO 190 DAYS' EDUCATION PER YEAR

Autumn Term

HALF TERM 1: Monday 4 September 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023

INSET DAY ON MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

HALF TERM BREAK: Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023

HALF TERM 2: Monday 30 October 2022 to Wednesday 20 December 2023

Spring Term

HALF TERM 3: Monday 8 January 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024

HALF TERM BREAK: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024

HALF TERM 4: Monday 19 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024

Summer Term

HALF TERM 5: Monday 15 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024

(May Day bank holiday will be taken on 6 May)

HALF TERM BREAK: Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024

HALF TERM 6: Monday 3 June 2024 to Thursday 25 July 2024

INSET DAYS MONDAY 22, TUESDAY 23, WEDNESDAY 24, THURSDAY 25 JULY

LAST DAY IN SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IS FRIDAY 19 JULY 2024

Children finish at 2.00pm on 20 December 2023, 28 March 2024 and 19 July 2024

Public Holidays:

Monday 25 December 2023:	Christmas Day Holiday
Tuesday 26 December 2023:	Boxing Day Holiday
Monday 1 January 2024:	New Year Holiday
Friday 29 March 2024:	Good Friday
Monday 1 April 2024:	Easter Monday
Monday 6 May 2024:	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 27 May 2024:	Spring Bank Holiday
Monday 26 August 2024:	Summer Bank Holiday

Reminders to all Parents and Carers

Correct School Uniform:

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform. All children must wear black shoes or plain black trainers, black or grey school trousers or skirts and socks and Hijabs should be plain white, black or grey. Grey or black shorts or purple checked summer dresses can be worn in warm weather.

Punctuality:

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time every day; arriving late is embarrassing and missed learning time affects achievement and stops your child from reaching his or her potential.

Parking:

Picton Street is now monitored by Council cameras from 08:30 - 09:15 and 15:00 - 16:00. If you arrive by car please factor this in, as you will need to park elsewhere and walk into Picton Street, or risk a warning/fine.

Safeguarding Information

The designated team for Safeguarding at Brunswick Park Primary is
Susannah Bellingham
Caroline Champion and
Thomas Moudiotis.

If you have any concerns about any child, please contact us.

We are committed to Safeguarding all children and members of our school community and take all concerns seriously.

For your information, key school policies are available on request from the School Office and can be downloaded from the school Website under the 'Our School' tab.

Please check the website, X (Twitter) and Instagram for further details about what children have been doing and learning in school.

Missed a newsletter? All newsletters are available for download from the School Website under the 'News' tab.

<http://www.brunswickparkprimary.co.uk>

Whole School Attendance 30/10/23 - 10/11/23: 95.1%

Class with the best attendance for the last fortnight: 5B with 98.8%

Classes with the best punctuality for the last fortnight: 1A and 2A

Class in which the most learning was lost in the last fortnight due to lateness: 3B

If your child needs to be absent from school for exceptional reasons, you need to complete an Exceptional Leave Request Form in good time beforehand, available on the website and from the School Office.

Remember - don't book holiday in term time - even if the tickets are cheaper - as it cannot be authorised unless circumstances are genuinely exceptional. Evidence must be provided.

Children are entitled to 190 days' education per year.

Whole School Attendance Target: 96%

Right to Reply:

10/11/23: Please email the address below to give us constructive suggestions or comments, including your name and your child's class.

Thank you.

office@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk