

Brockley Primary School Newsletter

01/24

Friday 13th September 2024



Welcome Back!

School has been a hive of activity since everyone returned on Monday and we've already welcomed our first visitors.

From September 2024 we've changed how we teach writing at Brockley. We now use Jane Considine's 'The Write Stuff' approach. This enables staff and children to work to a high standard to craft writing that has the 'wow' factor.

'Experience days' are woven through each sequence of lessons to ensure children have the relevant knowledge and practical experiences to aid their writing. This is particularly useful for our vulnerable pupils and those with SEND. For the most able pupils, 'deepen the moment' challenges them to stretch their abilities by broadening the detail in their writing rather than plot pushing to the end of the text.

The teaching team have lots of 'Experience Days' planned for the coming year and we hope that by inspiring awe and wonder children will love coming to school to learn.

Our first 'Experience Day' was a visit with James McKay from The National Falconry School.



[Home :: The National Falconry School \(myzen.co.uk\)](http://www.myzen.co.uk)

Considerate Parking

Pick-up and drop-off times are busy outside schools. This can cause an increased safety risk to both children and parents.

Parking restrictions outside schools are there to keep you and your children safe. Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger and you also risk being fined. It's important that motorists follow the [Highway Code](#).

Safety tips for parking outside schools

When picking up or dropping off children at schools, you should do the following:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.
- Park sensibly and do not cause an obstruction.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or access ways.

Number for reporting absences and for any queries

01246-823344

Social Media

Follow us Facebook: [Facebook](#)

School website for all policies and information

www.brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

School email address

info@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher's direct email address

headteacher@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

Safeguarding Reports and Queries

safeguarding@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

[Derby Safeguarding Children Partnership \(ddscp.org.uk\)](http://ddscp.org.uk)

Reminder Leave of Absence Requests

Absence During Term-Time (August 2024)

I would like to clarify the school's position regarding holiday or leave of absence during term time. Authorising absence is a policy decision. I have to work within the National Framework. All school absence is a serious matter monitored by the LA, Education Welfare department and Ofsted and all school procedures are checked regularly.

Holidays are **NOT** permitted in term time. Requesting holidays because it is cheaper to go in term time is not a valid reason, neither are celebrations abroad considered a necessity.

Taking holidays in term time mean children quickly fall behind with their work and may require extra support to catch up.

Please read the information on our website carefully and be very clear of the new sanctions that came into force in August 2024.

The flow chart on our website makes clear our expectations and the framework we will adhere to.

[Attendance - Brockley Primary School](#)

Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools

National Threshold

A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by ALL schools in England, this is:

- 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period
- These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence
- For example, a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold
- The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years

Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school
- For example, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid **within 21 days**
- If **not paid within 21 days**, the fine will increase to **£160 per parent, per child**, payable between the 22nd and 28th day

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

- £160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued, and the case will be presented **straight to the Magistrate's Court**

- **Prosecution** can result in **criminal records** and **fines of up to £2,500**
- Cases found **guilty** in a **Magistrates Court** can show on the parent's future DBS certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **'failure to safeguard a child's education'**

If you are still planning a holiday during term time then you will need to complete a Leave of Absence form these are available via the link [brockley-leave-of-absence-request-form-september-2024-pdf.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#) or paper copies are available from the office.

The full documentation as issued by the DfE is available by following: [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Only my best is good enough



Reading Ambassadors 2024

We are delighted to introduce our Reading Ambassadors for the new academic year. Their roles include:

- maintaining the school reading area and the development of reading classrooms.
- writing mini reviews and sharing them in the reading areas across the school.
- creation and maintenance of a Suggestions Box to support the purchasing of new books and other ideas to improve reading in our school.
- soliciting feedback from their peers and collating suggestions of new books that are relevant and exciting for all age groups across the school.
- being involved in the organisation of book events such as Book Week, National Poetry Day, and World Book Day.
- offering advice, support and recommendations to their peers about which books to read.
- helping to run Book Clubs.
- helping to run Reading Mornings for parents and carers who are invited into school to read stories in the reading area.
- helping to develop and run a reading assembly once per half term.
- helping as Reading Buddies for KS1 children who need extra reading support.
- organising Outdoor Reading Areas as part of our OPAL approach to play and learning

Reading Ambassadors wear lanyards so that they are easily recognisable across the school, and have their own reading display where each week they take it in turns to share a recent favourite read.

Reading Ambassadors help reading successes across the school and shout about their peers who are flourishing.

We cherish and support our Reading Ambassadors and are proud of the difference they make.