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Learning for Life

Broadfield Primary School

SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

15 September 2011

A GREAT START. Welcome to all the children in Nursery, Reception and other year groups who have joined Broadfield this term. It's lovely to have you as part of the Broadfield family and I am delighted with the sensible way you have begun your time here.

BRING YOUR SPECIAL ADULT TO SCHOOL WEEK. We are opening our doors to parents from the beginning of the school day to 11.00am every morning from **Monday 26 to Friday 30 September**. Different arrangements apply in Reception - see separate letter for details. This is your opportunity to experience a typical lesson alongside your child. Parents will also sit in on registration and assembly and enjoy playtime with their child. Look out for the letter that will be going home soon giving more information about this special event.

HARVEST. Our Harvest celebrations this year will focus on support for the new **Dacorum Foodbank** which provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis. In addition to having a visitor from Dacorum Foodbank speak to the children in assembly about the charity's work, we will also be collecting **food** in partnership with the **Windmill Children's Centre** to donate to the foodbank. More information will follow later in the month.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS. The following work has taken place to improve the school over the summer holiday:

- **Tesco and Longcross** (Tesco's partner construction company) have decorated the two main school halls and built the new Keil Garden, which is an outside classroom for children in Years 1 and 2.
- All classrooms have been fitted with new '**short throw**' **interactive whiteboards**. This is already having a very positive impact on teaching and learning.
- The **Year 4 toilets** have been completely refurbished.
- The **Reception classrooms** have been decorated.
- The **exterior of the building** has been painted.
- **New play equipment** has been installed in the Infant playground.
- An **electronic diary** has been installed in the staffroom.
- The school's **server** has been upgraded.
- The **Infant cloakrooms** have been refurbished.

OFFICIAL OPENINGS. Parents are warmly invited to attend the following two events:

- **1.45pm Friday 23 September** - opening of **Keil Garden** (outside classroom for children in Years 1 and 2) by **Mike Penning, MP**, and **Rachel Keil**, former Chair of Governors.
- **2.00pm Thursday 13 October** - opening of new playground equipment in Infant playground by **Mrs J Prior**, former Headteacher of **Broadfield Infants' School**.

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS. A letter will be sent home soon about Parent/Teacher Consultations for parents of children in Years 1 to 6. The consultations will take place from **3.30 - 6.30pm on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October**. A separate letter will be sent home nearer the time about November's Consultations for parents of children in Foundation Stage.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM. From time to time parents may have small or larger concerns about their child's welfare or education. The first point of contact in most cases should be your child's class teacher. Either pop in after school for a quick word or, for longer meetings, write a note in your child's **Home/School Link Book** requesting a meeting or make an appointment through the School Office. If a problem is more persistent please make an appointment to speak to the relevant Key Stage Leader. They are as follows:

Foundation Stage	- Mrs E Foster
KS1	- Mr M Nickolds
KS2	- Miss A Tinsley and Mr S Lloyd

Deputy Headteacher Miss L Ingram and myself are available to meet with parents to discuss more serious issues or if parents feel that a problem remains unsolved.

REMEMBRANCE DAY. We have invited a **professional trumpeter** to play **The Last Post** in the playground to help us mark **Remembrance Day** at **11.00am** on Friday 11 November. More information will follow nearer the time but parents and friends of the school are encouraged to join us for this special occasion.

SCHOOL COUNCIL GOES GLOBAL. Enterprising members of the **School Council** have set up an organisation that will see **surplus sports kit** shipped out to children in developing countries. Thanks to the generosity of parent governor **Mr J Lee** we have **six large boxes of badminton kit** to send to a school in **Uganda**. We are looking for the help of a parent to deliver the boxes to an address in **Luton** from where the kit will be transferred to Uganda. Please have a word with me if you can help.

CAREERS FAIR. Children in **Years 5 and 6** thoroughly enjoyed visiting last Friday's **Careers Fair**. You can read about the event in the attached article from this week's Hemel Gazette. A member of staff from one of the exhibiting companies, **BT Openreach**, sent me this email following the Careers Fair:

'It was really nice to visit the school and a pleasure to talk to the children. They were so polite and studious. They asked lots of questions and were really good listeners too.'

SCHOOL COUNCIL VISIT TO LONGCROSS BUILDING SITE AT TESCO, JARMAN PARK. Over the summer holiday I received this lovely letter from **Steven Peers** of **Longcross Construction Limited** following a visit made by the School Council at the end of last term. Well done children!

'I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Longcross Construction Limited, to congratulate the behaviour of the pupils who visited the site on Wednesday 13 July for the open day, as well as the pupils who attended to do the mural work on Wednesday 27 July.'

On both occasions the children were very well behaved, showed exemplary behaviour and were very courteous to all they encountered. These children are a credit to your school and the local community in general.

We are very much looking forward to working again with Broadfield Primary School on the final phase of our partnership over the coming weeks.

Once again thank you for two most enjoyable days with the staff and pupils.'

NOAH AND THE RIOTS. In the first assembly of the school year I talked to the children about the story in the Bible of Noah and some of the parallels with the riots that they may have seen on their television sets over the summer holidays. The following key messages were given:

1. Noah built the ark bravely in the face of much criticism from the crowd. As children and young people we must stand up for what is right even if faced by criticism or ridicule.
2. Whatever the circumstances, stealing is always wrong.
3. Listen to your conscience and do not do something if you feel it is wrong.
4. Do good - we started our assembly with a prayer asking God to help us to be a community of people that does good.

BROADFIELD YEAR OF THE OLYMPICS LAUNCHED. Our **Olympic Year** was launched yesterday with the visit of inspirational speaker **Steve Cunningham**. Profoundly blind since the age of 12, Steve spoke to the children about how he overcame his disability to set a **new world blind land speed record** of 147 mph and then became the world's first blind pilot. Steve's visit touched on many challenging issues such as aspiring to do one's best, overcoming barriers, dealing with prejudice, respecting others and how to handle bullying.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND VISITORS. The following events have been arranged to enrich the children's education:

Date	Year Group	Visit/Visitor
9 September	5 and 6	Careers Fair
14 September	Whole School	Visit of Steve Cunningham, the world's fastest blind man
19 - 23 September	5B	Cycle training
26 - 30 September	5S	Cycle training
4 October	Whole School	Assembly by Owen Cooper - Hemel Foodbank
6 October	4	Visit to British Museum
14 October	5	Visit to Hatfield House
9 - 11 November	4	School Journey to Woodrow High House
13 December	5 and 6	Visit to Adeyfield School Pantomime

