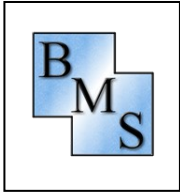




BROADSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2016

ISSUE No 2



On Monday 19th September a cheque for £1500 was presented to The Langside School following a series of charity events last year. The money raised will help towards the building of the respite home as part of The Lilly Pad Appeal. Well done and thank you to everyone for your fundraising efforts.

Inside this issue:

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STUDENT UPDATE FORMS

We have recently sent home Student Update Forms. Please check your child's details and make any necessary corrections. Student Update Forms are sent out on an annual basis, however should any contact details change throughout the year please inform the office who will amend your child's record accordingly. Thank you.

CAR PARK

We would like to remind all parents to please park responsibly in the school car park. Children should not be encouraged to walk across the car park but should wait in the drop-off zone, cars should only be parked in the marked parking bays.

When exiting the car park at the start and end of the day vehicles must turn left and proceed along to the Gravel Hill roundabout, this avoids a build-up/gridlock of cars in the car park which has a knock – on effect along Dunyeats Road.

We would also like to remind parents that the disabled spaces are *only* to be used by people who are entitled to do so and they should display their disabled badge in the windscreen when parked there, even if they are in the vehicle. Thank you for your co-operation.



Music lessons have got off to a flying start this term.

Each child has been issued with stickers advising them of the time and date of their weekly lessons. Could you please remind your child to check their lesson times as some pupils are forgetting to turn up. A music timetable is also displayed on the music block wall. Choir is now running Friday lunchtimes and Guitar Ensemble on Tuesday lunchtimes. These are free for anyone to join.

Thank you.

Parental feedback 2016-17

Parents were invited to give feedback at our recent 'Meet the Teacher' evening. I would like to say thank you for your lovely comments. We take feedback seriously as we are committed to making sure we work as effectively with parents as we can.

Please see below the results of parents who answered agree or strongly agree to the following statements

My child is happy at this school	99%
My child feels safe at this school	100%
My child makes good progress at this school	99%
My child is well looked after at this school	100%
My child is well taught at this school	99%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	93%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	96%
The school effectively deals with bullying	93%
The school is well led and managed	100%
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	100%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	95%
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	99%

"Thank you – a really useful evening. Email comms much appreciated too."

"The school has come a long way, since the Ofsted report four years ago. Hopefully teachers will stay and progress each and every child!"

"Very happy with the school."

"I would rate BMS as outstanding!! In all areas!!"

"Communication very good and daughter very happy with school."

"The school has improved greatly in the last 18 months."

"My son has only been here a short while but from first impressions to date I am VERY happy and so is he J"

"There seems to be a marked improvement in the school overall, very pleased."

As part of the feedback process we asked for specific feedback so that we can continue to make improvements that you have identified. Please see overleaf the actions we have taken in response to your comments.

You said...	We did...
<p><i>Communication doesn't always get through. I think it's great if everything is always available on the "parent's platform", so nothing gets missed, and you can refer back if needed.</i></p>	<p>As you may be aware we have a new website and this will be the 'go to' place for all information. Live content is constantly being added and updated so please check regularly. Any feedback, especially at this stage, is greatly appreciated. If you do not find what you want please let us know as we want to develop this platform to meet your needs.</p> <p>We send information out by ParentPay whenever we can but the BMS website will be the most up to date place to access information.</p> <p>Your child's form tutor is now available via email. If you do not have their email address, please contact the office.</p> <p>We are also currently looking at the possibility of using scannable QR-Codes as a means of quick links.</p> <p>If you have any other ideas of how we could improve communication please let us know (would a Twitter feed be helpful for example?).</p>
<p><i>Please can reports give an attainment grade against national average and an effort grade in each subject. Please, please, do not make teachers write pages and pages. Let them teach instead!</i></p>	<p>Assessment has been a very confusing area on a national scale recently. The Government has removed the old levelling system which most parents understood and have left it up to schools to report in the way they feel appropriate. This will make comparisons on a national level (except for in Year 6) impossible in the short term.</p> <p>At BMS we will be working with a threshold system which is easy to understand. The measure of being 'At Age Related Expectation' is much broader than previous systems – our threshold system will be able to break this down further to give parents valuable information. The measure of progress will be based on national expectations as we currently understand them.</p> <p>I held a parent's forum last term and discussed reports to parents in great detail. We will be giving regular updates to parents (with no comments) and the annual full report will also look different.</p>
<p><i>Need to be strict with children that are disruptive.</i></p>	<p>We totally agree! We have a very clear and easy to understand behaviour policy. We take a graduated approach to sanctions as we need to educate and support children to manage their behaviour as they grow up.</p> <p>We have a review of the policy booked for May this year.</p> <p>We have now added behaviour to the regular (termly) questionnaire for pupils. This will ask for specific feedback to enable us to pinpoint where to target any changes that need to be made.</p>
<p><i>Needs quite a bit of guidance with the homework and it takes quite a while to do.</i></p>	<p>Homework is an issue which divides the parental cohort. Some say there is too much whilst other think there is not enough.</p> <p>We are currently looking at homework as a whole school and how we can make it more meaningful for the child and more manageable for the parent.</p> <p>We will be sending out information about tweaks and changes to homework at the end of October.</p> <p>We have however increased our homework club provision at school this year from once a week to 3 times a week. This will support children (and parents) who might want homework to be completed with support from staff if needed.</p>
<p><i>Would expect more visibility on homework – would be useful to see in the regular format – with/against peers.</i></p>	<p>Following on from comment above, we are reviewing homework and how we make it more visible for all. We will feed back to parents at the end of October. We are looking at frequency, content, tracking and publication as well as use of planners and supporting independence for pupils.</p>

<p><i>Please can you review the uniform, ties should be worn as the children do not look as smart as other local middle schools!</i></p>	<p>You must have read our minds! We are just about to start a uniform review with the intention of changing the school uniform for September 2017. As such, the consultation period is starting imminently. We want our children to look smart and feel proud of their school. Please see additional information which will be coming your way very soon.</p>
<p><i>Lunchtime supervision: concerns that supervision in playgrounds still lacking.</i></p>	<p>You may be aware that we have changed our playtime structures this year. Previously only children in years 7 & 8 could play football at lunchtime – we felt this was unfair and in response have changed it so that anyone can play. There was also not much for children to do and this has been addressed by: taking out more equipment; providing netball posts; creating a designated quiet area; also allowing children to mix as a whole school. This is a work in progress and we will continue to review. Supervision rates are more than adequate but we are continually looking at ways in which we deploy staff to get the best outcomes.</p>
<p><i>Cannot add Vivo to website.</i></p>	<p>Vivo is a separate system held at a separate website. It is used by a number of different schools nationally. We have a link to it on our BMS website but are unfortunately unable to merge the two.</p>
<p><i>After school clubs – would be good to have confirmation of acceptance.</i></p>	<p>This is a valid point and we will ensure this happens in the future.</p>