



# Brighstone C.E. Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy year, I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you for all your support for, and engagement with, the school.

Once again, we have packed a lot in to the year! We all have different key events that we each particularly remember, and the many highlights that stand out for me are the visit from the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir (and I am delighted to say that plans are in the pipeline for a return visit in the new academic year), country dancing at various events, all the amazing fundraising events that the BSA have organised (thank you!), the many trips that classes have been on, the Y4 and Y6 residentials to Tile Barn and London, various wonderful visitors, Science Day, Forest Day, our bellringers being on BBC South Today, achieving Ofsted 'Good', and many more!

We sadly say goodbye to Mrs Johnstone in her role as class teacher and subject leader, but I am delighted to say that she has offered to carry out supply teaching for us as and when needed.

Thank you to everyone who has filled in the parent survey; I will collate and share the results in September.

## **School Place Planning (School Closures)**

This has been at the forefront of all of our minds over the last few months, and schools identified for closure will be named in September 2024. A further consultation period will follow, with the final decisions made in February/March. Please be reminded that you are able to, and encouraged to, share your thoughts and views at any time by emailing [strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk). More information can be found at IOW council's [School Place Planning](#) website.

## **Governors**

We say a big thank you and goodbye to some of our governors this year: Steve Fairclough (Chair of Governors), Jane Thomson (Vice Chair), Heather Fairclough, Claire Slade-Carter and Sam Cambridge. Our current board consists of: Sarah Turvill (new Chair of Governors from September), Tony Saunders, Rev Jackie Maw, David Maw, Emily Rufian, Samantha Sharp, and Brian Mitchell. We have some vacancies on our governing board; further information about what the governors do can be found on our [website](#).

## **New Academic Year 2024-2025**

Even though we are just about to go into the summer break, I am aware that the next few weeks are a time when you start planning and preparing for school starting back in September, so here are a few reminders and helpful hints.

### **School Day Timings:**

Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time so they don't miss the register and any learning. Anyone arriving after 8.30am will need to report to the office and provide a reason for the lateness. Persistent lateness may result in a fine from the Local Authority. We acknowledge that families will have occasional mornings when things go wrong and we would rather the children arrived late than not at all.

### **Attendance and Leave of Absence:**

A reminder that all requests for leave of absence during term time will be unauthorised and may be subject to a fine unless deemed "exceptional" in accordance with the school's Attendance Policy, Local Authority guidance and DfE statutory guidance.

Our school target is 96.5%. The occasional day off soon leads to an attendance of less than 90%, which is then classed as 'persistent absence'. Missing school means missing out on learning, which can have long-term negative effects on academic progress and social relationships. Regular attendance helps establish a routine, discipline, and a sense of responsibility which continues throughout childhood and into adulthood and working life. Each day of school missed can create gaps in your child's understanding of subjects and can also lead to difficulties in making and maintaining friendships.

If you are facing challenges that impact your child's attendance, please reach out. We are here to support you and your child. Your cooperation is essential to ensure that your child receives the best possible education. Thank you for your support in promoting good attendance.

**Uniform:**

Thank you to everyone who ensures that their child turns up to school in the correct school uniform and PE kit – they look so smart!

Here is a reminder of our uniform:

<p>Our school uniform consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy blue jumper or cardigan</li> <li>• Grey trousers, shorts, dress or skirt</li> <li>• White polo shirt (tucked in)</li> <li>• Pale blue gingham summer dress</li> <li>• Grey, black or white socks or tights</li> <li>• Black shoes</li> </ul> <p>There are no gender-specific uniform requirements.</p>	<p>Our PE kit consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy t-shirt</li> <li>• Navy blue shorts/skort, leggings or tracksuit bottoms</li> <li>• Navy blue jumper or hooded top</li> <li>• Grey, black or white socks</li> <li>• Dark trainers or black plimsolls</li> </ul> <p>Children are expected to come to school wearing their PE kits on their designated PE days. Specific sports kits for interschool events are provided by the school.</p>
<p>Other expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long hair must be tied back in school colours</li> <li>• Hair accessories must be in school colours</li> <li>• Jewellery must not be worn (unless for religious reasons), with the exception of small, discreet earring studs (which must be removed or covered for PE/swimming)</li> <li>• The wearing of branded clothing is not permitted</li> </ul>	

Further information about our uniform and where it can be purchased from is available on our school website: <https://www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk/school-uniform/>

If finances are a concern, please speak with our Family Liaison Officer, Melissa Jones, who will assist you. The BSA has a second-hand uniform rail in the school foyer. Just pop your donation in the box on the table.

Please encourage the use of **deodorant** for older children. No aerosol sprays are permitted to be used in school. Any **earrings** that have not been removed for PE days will need to be covered with micro pore tape.

**PE days:**

Year group	PE days
Reception	Mondays and Fridays
Year 1 and Year 2	Mondays and Fridays
Year 3 and Year 4	Thursdays and Fridays
Year 5 and Year 6	Tuesdays and Fridays

Due to a change in his working hours, Mr Goldsmith will now only be in school on Fridays. The Friday PE lessons will be taught by Mr Goldsmith, while the other sessions will be taught by the class teachers. (The reduction in his working hours means that there won't be any after-school sports clubs next term.)

### **Healthy Eating – Packed Lunches:**

Packed lunches can contribute to almost a third of a child's weekly food intake and therefore need to be balanced and nutritious.

Thank you for making sure that your children's packed lunches strive to be well-balanced with fruit and vegetables and not too many sugary and salty items. Please support us by **not including these items** in your child's packed lunch: sweets, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks, fruit-flavoured drinks or any food containing nuts. Please also be mindful of the use of single use plastic.

A reminder that **snacks for break time** should only be fruit or vegetables and children should only have **water** in their drinks bottles. (*Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are provided with fruit and vegetables for a snack through the government's School Fruit and Veg Scheme.*)

Our school dinner provider, Chartwells, offer daily nutritionally balanced meals. These meals are free for children in Years R-2 and for anyone in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM). The cost for any other children is now **£3.20** per day. Where possible, dinners need to be paid for in advance on the School Money system or via the school office. When dinner arrears reach £16 (equivalent to 5 school days), you will be contacted to pay the bill or provide a packed lunch for your child.

### **Communication:**

Email will continue to be our main way to communicate with parents (a few paper copies of specific letters and forms are available in the school foyer, and others can be made available on request). Our text messaging service will also be used for shorter messages, or to inform you that there is an important email being sent.

You can contact your child's class teacher via the class email address, but please note that they can only respond outside of teaching hours, so, if you have an urgent message, you are advised to contact the office in the first instance.

Further information, news, letters and master copies of forms and calendar dates will also be via our Facebook page, our school website and our weekly newsletter, the Buzz, which is available on our school website every Friday afternoon.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Once again, we thank you for your support, and we hope you all have a wonderful summer! We look forward to seeing you back in school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Mrs Lennon  
Headteacher

Mrs Jones  
DSL and Family Liaison Officer