



## Make the Future Better for All

May 2018

### Update

We apologise for the delay in the publication of this newsletter. We hope that the dates and information are useful and there is a lot to catch up with.

### Farewell Mrs Brewer

We are sorry to announce that Mrs Brewer will be retiring from her role in the school office at the end of this term. Mrs Brewer has been connected with the school for 25 years in a variety of roles and will be greatly missed.

### PTA Corner

We have 2 events coming up in the next month:

- Sports Evening: Monday 21 May,

- Summer Fair: Friday 8 June - letters will be going out shortly.

We hope you've all seen the Foundation mud kitchen which the PTA has helped to fund, and the School Council are in the process of choosing some equipment to go on the Junior playground. Neither of these would be possible without your continued support - thank you from the PTA.

### A Stream of Poppies

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, we were delighted to take part in the ceremonial planting of poppy seeds at King George V park on Town Street, Bramcote. This event was organised by Bramcote Historical Society and marks the 100 year anniversary of the end of WW1. A large strip of land has been cultivated which stretches down the hillside. It is intended that this will create a stream of poppies flowing down the hill when they flower. As well as sowing the poppy seeds, our representatives from Yr 6 also hammered in a cross in memory of George Cooke, a Bramcote man who was a member of the Scottish Rifles division, who lost his life in 1916. It is hoped that, if the weather gets a bit warmer, the seeds will germinate by July so please take the time to visit the park and see what the children have helped to create. It is lovely to be part of this community event which was very well organised. I fed back to the whole school in Monday's assembly so that all the children can be reminded of those people from our own area who should not be forgotten.

### Uniform & PE Kit

We would like to remind all parents that in September the children will only be allowed to wear white polo shirts, shirts or blouses, not blue. Notice of this change was given two years ago. Also, we need to ensure that, as from this day forward, all children wear shorts or skirts for PE, not tracksuit trousers or joggers which are only to be used for outdoor games in the colder months.

### SRE

Please be aware that some classes will be taking part in Sex and Relationship Education this summer so watch out for letters regarding this. Pupil participation is assumed unless we receive direct communication from parents to the contrary.

### Fire Drills

We recently held a successful fire drill in school with pretend blocked exits and missing children. If there were a fire drill at 8:50 or 2.55 when parents are on site, responsibility for the children would still remain with staff not parents. Parents would need to assemble on the junior or infant playgrounds away from the classes.

### Trim Trail

Some of you may have been wondering why the infant 'trim trail' has been removed. Unfortunately, it was no longer safe to use and the cost of making it usable has been rising year on year until it was no longer cost effective to do so. With an initial warranty of 10 years we have still enjoyed 17 years of fun so we think we have had good value over the years. We will, of course, continue to improve our outdoor play provision for all pupils.

### Quiz Success

We enjoyed hosting the most thrilling semi-final of the Junior National Quiz Championship in school on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

This is a national competition with teams from as far as Wolverhampton and Market Harborough arriving at BHPS for a 9.30 start. The standard of the competition was most impressive with the children answering questions about all manner of subjects.

In a thrilling contest of 40 questions, we had trailed a very good team from Fleckney Primary School until Q37 when our band of quizzers took the lead. Everything rested on the last question and, as we all held our breath, it emerged that we had won, qualifying for the national final in London.

We offer our congratulations to our fantastic team and thank our former DHT, Carol Heath, for her work training the team. Brilliant!

### Diversity Day

Please note that we are holding another 'Diversity Day' on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June when we will be celebrating cultural diversity in the context of British values. Watch out for more information to follow.

### Sun Policy

As the summer is finally beginning to get into full swing, we would like to remind you of our 'Sun Protection' policy. This outlines our approach and makes it clear that it is parents responsibility to ensure their children have a drink, are wearing sun cream and have a sun hat. It can be viewed on our website [www.bramcotehills.org](http://www.bramcotehills.org) in the policies section.

### Music Concert

We will be holding our annual music concert on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 1.45 and 6.30pm. If children are interested in taking part and wish to be considered as a solo performer, they will need to collect a letter about auditions (taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> June) from Miss Dance before the half term holiday. Children who are in the school choir or have music tuition in school are involved in group pieces.

### Mud Kitchen

Many of you will have seen our new 'mud kitchen' which has enhanced our outdoor play provision for our Foundation stage children. We are grateful for the funding support of the PTA and from those who took part in the cake sale which raised £166.

### Attendance

*At the start of this Summer term we are able to give you information about your child's attendance so far this term. We would also like to reduce the number of times children are late. Please note that school starts at 8.45am. The whistle should go a minute before this so that children are ready to enter their class at 8.45. Thank you for your support.*

School average attendance 97.09%

Your child's attendance

Unauthorised absences

Lates

*NB. Some figures have had to be rounded. One day counts as two attendance marks (am and pm)*



## Focus on...

## SATs and School Assessments

### Did you know...

Next week, the children in Yr 6 and Yr 2 will be taking their Standard Assessments Tests (SATs). Year 6 take tests in:

- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
- Reading
- Mathematics (Arithmetic and Reasoning Papers)

The Yr 6 SATs are administered in strict test conditions. Test paper bags are only opened immediately before the test and papers are sealed immediately after completion, locked away and then collected securely to be marked elsewhere. Tests are administered according to a strict national timetable. There is no test for writing but teachers are required to back up their teacher assessments of a child's writing with reference to their on-going performance in class.

The Yr 2 SATs can sometimes spill into subsequent weeks and, although test scripts are handled securely, the papers are not sent away to be marked and the children's results are only used as a piece of information to inform a teacher assessment. A writing grade is given in the same way as Yr 6 and the Yr 2 children take tests in:

- Reading
- Mathematics
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

There is a greater emphasis on preparing the children for the tests in Yr 6 whereas sometimes the children in Yr 2 are less aware that they are doing anything different. Yr 6 results are passed onto secondary school but, although we prepare them for the tests, we do try to emphasise that they are not the 'be all and end all'. We simply ask children to do their best. SATs results have been used heavily as a school accountability measure over the years and I welcome the recent change in OfSTED's emphasis onto a stimulating curriculum and providing children with a rich variety of experiences.

**Diary Dates for 2017 ~2018** (also on the school website at [www.bramcotehills.org](http://www.bramcotehills.org))

**Language of the half term - Japanese**

### May

14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Yr 6 & Yr 2 SATs week  
 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> PTA Sports Evening  
 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Yr 5 election assembly  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.00 Yr 6 KITE Whitby Parents meeting  
 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Broxtowe Football and Netball Tournament to be held at BHPS  
 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> & Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May Yr 3 to Castleton  
 Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Sapphires assembly 10.00

### Half Term Holiday Mon 28<sup>th</sup> to Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June

### June

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> am Sports Day  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 2R to visit Trowell Garden Centre  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Diversity Day  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 2H to visit Trowell Garden Centre  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Evening 6 – 8.00 PTA Summer Fair  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Auditions for Music Concert after school  
 WB 11<sup>th</sup> Yr 1 Phonics Check week  
 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Whole School Class Photos  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Parent meeting for new Foundation starters September 18  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 1.45 – 2.45 New foundation Sept 18 starters Group A afternoon visit  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 1.45 – 2.45 New foundation Sept 18 starters Group B afternoon visit  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June- Yr 3 assembly 10.00  
 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Yr 6 to Whitby  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 2.00 – 2.45 New foundation Sept 18 starters Group A story time  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 2.00 – 2.45 New foundation Sept 18 starters Group B story time  
 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 2R assembly 10.00  
 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Yr 1 Parents Activity Morning  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 2.00 – 2.45 New foundation Sept 18 starters Group A story time  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Music Concert 1.45 – 2.45pm and 6.30 – 7.30pm  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Final of National Quiz Competition in London

**Diary Dates for 2017 ~2018** (also on the school website at [www.bramcotehills.org](http://www.bramcotehills.org))

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Art Exhibition  
 Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June – 2H assembly 10.00  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 2.00 – 2.45 New foundation Sept 18 starters Group B story time

### July

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Foundation trip to Wheelgate  
 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> INSET Day  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Yr 1 trip to White Post Farm – return approx. 3.30pm  
 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Yr 5 to Ironbridge  
 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> am Diamonds mini beast hunt  
 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Yr 4 Class activity Assembly time – parents welcome  
 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Yr 2 Sleepover  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2.00-2.45 New foundation Sept 18 starters Sapphires story time  
 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Yr 2 to Yorkshire Wildlife Park  
 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Yr 6 production  
 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Yr 6 production  
 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> am Sapphires mini beast hunt  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2.00-2.45 New foundation Sept 18 starters Diamonds story time  
 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> pm Yr 4 Picnic in the park in school time  
 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Disco  
 Weds 25<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers assembly 2.00  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term

### September

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> First day of Autumn Term  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 11.00-12.00 New foundation Sept 18 starters to meet at Bramcote Park  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm New foundation Sept 18 starters 'Meet the Team' event for parents only  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> & Friday 7<sup>th</sup> ½ days for new foundation children  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> New foundation Sept 18 starters begin full time  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Meet the Team event for Key Stages 1 & 2

Dates not previously published are underlined