



# Mars Class Newsletter

September 2018

A very big welcome to Brighstone Primary School. I hope you and your child have enjoyed your first few days and are feeling relaxed and settled.

## The adults working with you this year

**Class Teacher:** Mrs Kirsti Cousins

**LSA:** Mrs Sharon Tate

**Friday am:** Mr Ashley Goldsmith (PE)

Mrs Cousins and Mrs Tate are the Key People for all children in Mars Class. If you have any questions or worries please don't hesitate to speak to either of us.

## What do you need to bring?

### **Every day:**

- Bring your Reading Bag with your reading books, and a named water bottle.
- Spare clothes if your child is prone to accidents (and wipes if appropriate) – we have a limited supply in school.
- If your child is having a packed lunch please ensure the lunch box is clearly labelled as well.
- Bring a named coat when the weather gets cooler, as we do like to spend as much time outdoors as possible and weather can be very changeable.
- P.E. kit (named please and in a named bag – PE will be every Friday morning but please bring kits in on Mondays to allow for changes to timetables)
- Wellies and wet weather gear can be very useful for outdoor play and we will happily support children to put them on until they are independent. Please ensure everything is clearly named.

You do *not* need to bring in any snacks as fruit is provided.

We encourage children not to bring toys into school as these do get lost. Do speak to me if your child needs a special toy for comfort though as we can always accommodate this.

## **Reading**

Your child will be given a reading book to bring home and share, and a book they have chosen from the class library. Please do try to read together every evening if possible as this is a good habit to start in Reception. Please sign in the reading record book each time you listen to your child read. The books will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays each week.

## **Golden Assembly**

This takes place on Friday mornings from 8.40am. Parents are invited into the hall to see the children who have been written in the Golden Book being celebrated for their achievements. It's also a good time to see and meet other parents.

## **Snack Cafe**

The Snack Café is open every morning after Phonics and children can access it freely. There is always fruit and water available, and children are entitled to free milk until they are 5. We encourage them to drink water, and I am more than happy to remind your child if they (like me) forget to drink! (Just let me know).

## **Toilets**

We are lucky enough to have an “en suite” classroom! This enables the children to go to the toilet whenever they need to. I encourage them to go at certain times (eg before Worship or lunch) and we don't expect them to ask. Toileting can be a troublesome thing for some children and we will do everything we can to keep it calm and stress free. We do insist on hand washing and good hygiene, and we have a limited supply of spare undies. If your child is prone to accidents it would be really helpful if you could keep a spare pair of pants, socks and a carrier bag on their peg. Thank you.

## **Collective Worship**

As a class, we will begin to go to Collective Worship in the hall as soon as the children are ready. This may take a few weeks as being in the hall with the whole school can be a daunting experience at first. We have key stage worships on some days which are smaller and often held in a classroom.

## **Show and Tell**

By popular demand, we have a Show and Tell session most days, where children can stand up and talk to the class about something special they have brought into school. This is a great confidence building exercise and also teaches children about asking and answering questions. In order to keep it fair, we will set up a rota and invite children to bring in an

item when it's their turn. However, this will be flexible and if a special object has been found/given/acquired we will make every effort to fit a spontaneous show and tell session in!

### **Homework**

Homework is not compulsory in Reception, however lots of people do ask for it and the children enjoy learning at home with their families. We provide a list of suggested activities each half term, and there is a motivational reward system in place throughout the school to encourage participation. Look out for the green book in your child's bag. These will be collected in at the end of each half term.

### **BSA**

The Brighstone School Association (BSA) meets approximately half termly for around an hour in school. All parents are invited to attend and the meetings are very informal and friendly. We discuss fundraising and spending, plan events, and are always very open to new faces and new ideas. Our first meeting this year is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. Please do come along and see what it's all about, with absolutely no expectation that you have to come to every meeting or event. Meetings are held in the Year 3 classroom which is located at the front of school, next to the pedestrian gate. Please do ask me if you have any questions.