



Brighstone C.E. Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

New Road – Brighstone – Isle of Wight – PO30 4BB – Telephone (01983) 740285

www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Charity Number: 307389

E-mail: office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Friday 2nd September

Moving Forward, Aiming High!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new school year of 2022-2023! We are passionate about achieving and maintaining high standards so that children are able to thrive and flourish. The start of a new year is a great time to remind everyone of our expectations so we can start as we mean to go on. It also contains a few minor changes to our usual practices. We thank you for your time reading this letter and helping us to achieve high standards for our children.

Uniform

At Brighstone Primary School, we agree with the DfE's guidance on school uniform, which states:

We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:

- *promoting the ethos of a school*
- *providing a sense of belonging and identity*
- *setting an appropriate tone for education*

The majority of our children look very smart and always have the correct, clean uniform, which is why it is so apparent when a child does not. Toward the end of last year, some children began coming to school in trainers every day, football kits instead of PE kits and non-uniform hair accessories. The lines between what is correct school uniform/PE kit were being blurred. A reminder that **hair** should be tied back; this includes ALL children (and hair accessories should be in school colours).

If you are unsure of our uniform expectations, please see our [uniform policy](#) on the school website. If your reason for not providing the correct uniform is financial, please speak with our Family Liaison Officer, Melissa Jones, who will assist you. The BSA hold a second hand uniform sale every third Monday of each term (see the BSA Facebook page and noticeboard in the playground for further details).

Sports Fixtures and PE Kits

From our recent parent survey, it was evident that sport and PE at Brighstone Primary School is very highly thought of. We would like to reflect this in how our children look when taking part in sport and so, from September, at any out of school sporting fixtures, children will be provided with a team kit.

From September, on their PE days, children will come to school in their PE kits. This idea has proved successful for many schools over the last couple of years after being introduced during Covid restrictions. The benefits include:

- Removes time taken up changing in school and means more teaching time for PE
- Less opportunity for misbehaviour when changing
- Supports children who may feel anxious changing in front of others
- Supports parents who may have concerns about children changing in front of others

Children taking part in **clubs and sports teams will have to change after school** – some children take part in lots of after-school activities but it will not be possible to wear sports kit to school every day, **only on PE days**. We will review this change to our routines and procedures and may alter them again with notice to parents.

A reminder that our PE kit is a white t-shirt with school logo, navy blue shorts/skort, plimsolls for Years R-2 and plimsolls or trainers for Years 3-6. During the colder months, children should wear their school jumper/cardigan and/or navy blue tracksuit (no brand logos). We are in the process of changing our PE t-shirt; this will be a phased change over the next year. Please take five minutes to give your opinion on the new PE t-shirt via the link below:

PE Kit Survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/XAQKQL/>

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.

Punctuality

It is important for children to learn to be punctual. We ask for your co-operation, as young children are dependent on being brought to school. A lot of time is wasted altering the dinner register and repeating instructions when children arrive after registration. It can be very frustrating and upsetting for the child to miss a very important time of the lesson, and late arrivals can cause disruption to the lessons and Collective Worship that have already started.

Our school day starts at 8:25am. **From Monday September 5th, the gates will be open at 8:20am** and close at 8:25am (we will trial and monitor this slightly later opening to see how it goes). Anyone arriving after this time will need to report to the office and provide a reason for the lateness. A reminder that persistent lateness may result in a fine from the Local Authority. The one-way system (enter from Warnes Lane) is still in operation in the mornings as this provides a calm, orderly, safe start to the morning.

We acknowledge that families will have occasional mornings when things go wrong and we would rather the children arrived late than not at all.

Leave of absence

A reminder that all 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 and Local Authority guidance.

Healthy Eating – Packed Lunches

To grow and stay healthy, children need to eat a nutritionally well-balanced diet. It was noted during the summer term that **some** children's packed lunches were not well-balanced, and contained many sugary and salty items with no fruit or vegetables.

Schools are an influential setting and can contribute significantly to improving the health and wellbeing of pupils. Good nutrition in childhood can help to prevent a variety of health problems, both in the short term and later in life. There is increasing concern that many children are consuming too much fat, sugar and salt and too little fibre, fruit and vegetables.

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

The short-term effects of unhealthy packed lunches and food intake can include poor growth, tooth decay, obesity, anaemia, constipation, poor concentration and behavioural problems, which may have an impact on a child's learning. The longer-term effects of a poor diet in childhood can be an increased risk of stroke, cancer, heart disease and diabetes in adulthood.

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 £2.35 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 £12 (equivalent to 5 school days), you will be contacted to pay the bill or provide a packed lunch for your child.

Homework, Spellings and Communication

In an attempt to cut down (even more) on paper usage, aside from the start of year forms, email will be our main way to communicate with parents. Please ensure that we have the correct email address and to check your spam/junk folder regularly.

We will now be using the online platform **Google Classroom for homework and spellings**. More information regarding this will come from the class teachers via email.

We will endeavour to keep you as up to date as possible; please also “like” our Facebook page where you will find regular updates and information: <https://www.facebook.com/BrighstoneCEPrimarySchool>

Parent/carer activities

As mentioned in the Buzz at the end of the summer term, we have planned a Meet and Greet information session for parents/carers on Tuesday 6th September at 5.30pm – 6.30pm, where you will get the opportunity to meet the teachers and find out about the year ahead. We are also looking to involve parents more in school activities and information sessions. While we have some ideas already planned (including the Harvest Festival and Share a Story sessions), we also welcome your ideas for information sessions that you may find beneficial (e.g. online safety, Maths, phonics, etc...); we will be sending out a short survey soon to gather your thoughts and ideas.

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

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to the year ahead!

Best wishes and see you all on Monday,

Mrs Lennon
Headteacher

Mrs Jones
DSL and Family Liaison Officer