

# Bramble Bulletin

31st March 2023 (Vol 1)

The Bramble Academy



## Headteacher's Updates

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy term, even with a snow day added in to keep us on our toes! The children have continued to engage with their learning, impressing us with their enthusiasm and thirst to make progress. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support this term and your kind words following the news that my period of being Interim Principal at Bramble Academy has been extended to August 2024. I am looking forward to continuing working with you and the children at Bramble Academy.

### Community links

We have enjoyed welcoming more of our community into school this term. Our coffee events with myself have been very useful in supporting me to understand the journey of Bramble and discuss ideas before implementing them, if you have not been able to join us yet, we look forward to seeing you at future events. We held our Parents' Evening in our classrooms for the first time since pre-Covid (which seems like only yesterday and a lifetime ago all at the same time). It was lovely seeing our children share their favourite learning with their grown-ups and hearing the excited chatter in our corridors. Thank you for your flexibility with timings and movement around the site, we will look at ways which will make the evening flow better in the future.

Every class has also held session for grown-ups to come in and join their child for an art session – we hope to hold more sessions next term.

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### Staffing news

Mrs Garbett has made the decision to focus on her work in Year 2 and leading English across the school. We thank her for all her contribution as Deputy Headteacher at Bramble Academy, I know that she has added a lot of stability to the school and will always endeavour to do the right thing for the children.

Mrs Harper was successful during our interview process to become the Deputy Principal at Bramble Academy. She is currently an experienced Assistant Headteacher, with a wealth of experience across the primary age range and subjects. She has been for a visit and already started to get to know the Bramble Way – we look forward to welcoming her on our first day back.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break and we'll see you all in two weeks!

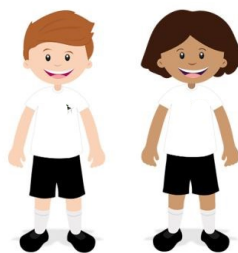
*P. M. Theodosiou*

Miss P Theodosiou

## Celebration Assemblies

Following parent feedback we are happy to inform you that the Celebration Assemblies have been a huge success this half term and they will continue throughout our next half term.

We would like to remind parents attending the assemblies to please keep your mobile phones on silent and store them in your bag/pockets throughout the assembly. You will have the opportunity to take photographs of your child after the assembly has finished.



## Parents' Group



We are in the process of setting up a parents group, this will consist of volunteer parents and Bramble staff who will be working together to make our school a better environment for children to learn in.

The main aim of the group will be to raise extra funds through a variety of fun events such as a summer fayre, bake sales and other creative initiatives.

## PE Kit

A polite reminder to our pupils and their grown ups that correct PE kits are to be worn on PE days. We understand that sometimes there are emergencies and wearing the correct kit may not be possible, please let your child's teacher know if this is the case.

### PE Kit expectations;

- Black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms
- White t-shirt
- Plain black or school jumper/cardigan
- Suitable footwear (trainers)

### PE Days

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Reception | Tuesday              |
| Year 1    | Monday & Friday      |
| Year 2    | Monday & Tuesday     |
| Year 3    | Thursday & Friday    |
| Year 4    | Tuesday & Wednesday  |
| Year 5    | Monday & Wednesday   |
| Year 6    | Wednesday & Thursday |

Other activities which might be supported by the parents group are sports day, local trips and visits, raising parents concerns and hopefully much more.

If you are interested in joining the parents group in any capacity please contact Hannah Clover in the school office through Weduc, by email, by telephone or simply by popping in to reception.

## Attendance and Punctuality

What a wonderful improvement in attendance we have seen this half term, our average attendance rate is now 92.8%! We are still some way off our 96% target but with extra effort we are sure to get closer to it.

Arriving to school on time ensures all pupils start their day positively and without disruption, it also enables them to receive the same information which is

shared with their class in the morning and during registration.

Did you know that pupils with 90% attendance are missing a month of school per year which makes it more difficult for them to reach their target grades.

If there is anything we can do to support you in increasing or maintaining your child's punctual and positive attendance please speak with Mr. English.



## Head Teacher's Coffee Afternoon

It was lovely to see parents joining us for a coffee afternoon, this term it was held in the new library to allow parents to have a look at our pupils new space.

### Homework

You said—Could we do an optional homework showcase?

We did— Spoke to teachers and pupils about homework in line with school priorities, an update will follow.

### Sports Day

You said—You would like to be on site for sports day.

We did— Considered dates and options to allow parents to attend multiple sessions (if you have more than one child).

### Nursery & Reception

You said—You would like Reception & Nursery to receive Stars of the Week certificates.

We did—Started to ask teachers to nominate Stars of the Week after the Easter break with a view for Reception to join the main assembly in the last half term in preparation for transition to Year 1.

### Wanting to see more of what's happening in school

You said—You would like to see more photos of your children in class.

We did—We have arranged for there to be weekly updates on Weduc & social media from every class.

*\*There were many other items discussed which we will continue to work on and share with you.*

The next coffee morning will be held on **Tuesday the 23rd May 2023 at 8.45am**, please do join us if you are able.



## School Meals

The new summer menus are now available on Weduc and on our website. If you have any difficulty accessing them please speak to the office.



Have you checked your eligibility for Free School Meals recently? If you are unsure whether you are eligible for Free School Meals or if your circumstances have recently changed then it is always worth completing a form.

Applications are available either from our Reception desk or on our website in the Parent Information Section.

## Year 1 Bake Sale

Mrs Akpovi and the Year 1 class held a very successful Bake Sale on Thursday 30th March and raised a fantastic £95.64 for The Fire Fighter's Charity. We are all very proud of their achievement and commitment to supporting this charity.



## Key dates for next half term

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|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 17/04/23     | First day back in school                |
| 23/05/23     | Coffee morning 8.45 am                  |
| 20/04/23     | Parents' Group meeting 8.45 am          |
| 27/04/23     | EYFS Library visit                      |
| May          | Y2 SATs throughout the month            |
| 01/05/23     | Bank Holiday—May Day                    |
| 02/05/23     | Y6 Breakfast clubs start for two weeks  |
| 08/05/23     | Bank Holiday—Coronation of King Charles |
| W/C 09/05/23 | Y6 SATs                                 |
| 19/05/23     | Class Photos                            |
| 26/05/23     | Last day of half term                   |

## Staying Safe—Online Safety

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### Keeping your child safe online

Children today have embraced new technologies as a source of information, education and entertainment. The use of digital technology has been completely normalised by this generation and it is now fully integrated into their daily lives.

Children and young people are using technology in new and exciting ways, enhancing and enriching their lives with the many tools on offer.

In their exploration of these technologies, young people are not only developing their ICT skills, but also a whole host of 'softer' skills – creativity, communication and networking skills, for example – which will be much in demand by the employers of the future.

Children and young people need to be empowered to keep themselves safe; we have included links below for parents to give you further information on how to stay safe and aware online.

### Links for Parents and Carers

Using the internet can make learning fun, fast and easy. The following sites offer help to keeping you and your child safe online:



[Think U Know – Parents and Carers](#) – produced by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). Their site offers really good advice on keeping your child safe online.



[Are you a switched on Parent?](#) – Scan the QR code to find out!

