



# The Buzz @ Brooksward

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14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back! It has been lovely to see all the children excited to share their stories about the Christmas break and ready for their new learning this term. Spring Term Curriculum Newsletters for all year groups have been sent home via ParentMail. If you have not yet seen this, take a look at the Parents' Section on the school website where a version can be viewed so you are fully informed about the areas of learning your child will be covering.

I am particularly happy to be back at Brooksward after my maternity leave and am looking forward to all the exciting opportunities planned for the Spring Term. As you are aware, we have had some changes to the leadership team at the Delta Federation, with Mr Morley-Smith and Mrs McStraw moving onto exciting opportunities at King's Oak. Therefore, Ms. Alikhan and I will be sharing our time between Brooksward and Drayton Park throughout the week. I shall be at Brooksward on a Monday and Tuesday and Ms. Alikhan will be here on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Any matters that need to be discussed should be directed to the school office and one of us will respond in due course.

At the start of each half term, we introduce the children to the 'Learning Character' who embodies the focus for the half term. This week, the children have been introduced to 'Marie' our learning character who embodies all aspects of safety, both in and out of school.

Marie is named after the Nobel Prize winning physicist and chemist Marie Curie who conducted some excellent research on radioactivity and was the first woman to become a Professor at the University of Paris. The children heard about the fantastic work she did with x-ray equipment during World War One and were told what qualities our Marie loves to see in them: children who are safe; children who know who their helping hands are; and children who act as good citizens of Brooksward School, looking after other children and their environment. We will be celebrating these qualities in our 'Star of the Week' assemblies.



## Book Week at Brooksward

This will take place during the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> January. Full details will be sent out in a separate letter next week which will also be published on our website.

We will be running a number of activities throughout Book Week, including a **Second Hand Book Sale**. If you have any children's books that are no longer needed and you are willing to donate, please send them in to school with your child at the start of the week. All money raised will be going towards our STEM fund. There will also be a **virtual 'Storytelling Event'** on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 4-4.30pm. A link for this will be sent out before the event.

The '**Scholastic Book Fair**' will be coming to school for Book Week with a wide variety of books which can be purchased. We will open The Book Fair to parents of a specific key stage for half an hour each day after school. Details of which evening has been allocated to your child's Key Stage will be in next week's letter. Finally, we are also looking forward to seeing the children **dressed up as their favourite book character** on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January. The winning character from each class will be able to choose a book from the Book Fair as their prize!

## Safety at Brooksward

We have reminded children this week about the importance of staying safe in and around school especially the need to walk rather than run onto school premises (no matter how keen they are to get here!) to ensure the safety of themselves and others around them. A polite reminder also to parents - please refrain from bringing dogs onto the school site and also refrain from smoking or vaping outside school in consideration of others.

As this time of year can often bring a cold snap of weather, please ensure you send your children to school with suitable warm outdoor clothing. **If you have recently changed your email address, mobile phone or home phone number please also inform the office immediately.** It is vitally important we are able to contact you in an emergency, such as a school closure due to bad weather.

## Remembering Neriah

Although it has been wonderful to see the children so positive at the start of term, we have also had some sad news. One of our Year 3 children, Neriah Toby, unfortunately passed away over the Christmas Break on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December. Her passing was incredibly sudden and has been a devastating shock for her family and our school community. However, we were heartened to hear what a lovely time Neriah had spent with her family, celebrating Christmas, in the days up to this and how happy and enthusiastic she was in everything she was doing.

Neriah had been at Brooksward for less than a year but you would not have known it. Right from the start, she settled into Brooksward life, putting tremendous effort into her work and impressing her teachers, as well as making long-lasting friendships by showing her kind and caring nature. She will be truly missed by all here that knew her and we will be working with the family over the coming weeks and months about how best to commemorate her life.

Some children and staff have already started sharing their memories of Neriah and I am sure that over the next few days even more will be shared:

Mrs Dearn: *'Neriah always greeted me on the door with a smile and a very polite good morning every day, even when she moved to Year 3. Neriah started in my class after lockdown and straight away fitted into the class routines and the 'Brooksward way' of working. She achieved her targets, tried her best and when she did these things you got to see her shining smile that could light up a room.'*

Mrs Cribbens: *'Neriah was a very kind, caring and helpful girl. She always worked hard and enjoyed her learning. I loved seeing the proud look on her face when she had achieved her goals in class. She was a ray of sunshine in Otters class and a real pleasure to teach.'*

Mrs Moore: *'I enjoyed seeing how enthusiastically Neriah took part in her DT and Art lessons. Before Christmas with a small group of children she created a lighthouse with a working light which she was very proud of.'*



Sophia in Otters: *'She (Neriah) was kind, nice, caring and we had so much fun.'*

Lena in Otters: *'She always came to school with a big smile and I know she loves Pinky Pie.'*

Ivy-Rose in Otters: *'Neriah was kind and we played teachers together. She was always smiling and was the best friend ever.'*

Akira in Otters: *'(Neriah was) always happy and we had lots of fun'*

James in Otters: *'She was like a firework, always had a smile and was kind and caring and made the teachers smile.'*

Our whole school community will continue to keep the family in their uppermost thoughts, especially on the morning of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January when the funeral will be taking place.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Jo Alikhan and Jen Swain*

Headteacher & Deputy Head  
Brooksward School

**EMERGENCY OR BAD WEATHER CLOSURE PROCEDURE**

If you think that we may be closed due to bad weather OR we suddenly have to close due to lack of water, gas leak etc , we will advise you of this via Parentmail and Class Dojo. We will always update our school website too - [www.brooksward.org.uk](http://www.brooksward.org.uk)

Diary Dates

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Flu Immunisations (where consent given)  
w/c 24th January - Book Week including Scholastic Book Fair after school  
Tuesday 25th January – Virtual Story telling evening  
Friday 28th January - Book Day (dress up as a favourite book character)  
Friday 18th February - last day of term  
Monday 28th February - back to school  
5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7th April - Parents' Evenings