

Newsletter

13 September 2024

Issue 2

www.brook.dudley.sch.uk



As we finish our first full week back at school, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents, staff and children for a fabulous start to the new school year. The children look fantastic in their new uniforms and the atmosphere around school is calm and happy with lots of wonderful learning going on in lessons.

On a personal level, I would like to say that all your messages of support have been greatly appreciated. I have seen Mrs Fellows and passed on all your thoughts and best wishes.

Here's to another great year at Brook!

Inset days 2024 / 2025

Monday 4 November 2024

Monday 24 February 2025

Monday 21 July 2025



**COME FOR
COFFEE**
IT'S FOR MACMILLAN

Friday 27th September
at 9am in Buddies

Help us make our coffee morning a success in aid of

Macmillan! Whether you get your bake on or donate some cakes we will greatly appreciate anything at all! We really hope to see you there!

Brook fireworks

Thursday 7th November
Heads up to put the date in your diary!
Keep your eyes peeled for more information to follow!



Dates for your diary



Advance Notice

Settling-in Parents Evening:

Monday 7 October 3.40-7pm: [EYFS/KS1](#)

Wednesday 9 October 3.40-7pm: [KS2](#)

More details will follow to explain how to book an appointment.

Please read the below information regarding the Government changes to term time holiday fines.

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing from 19th August 2024

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by DfE, the following changes will come into force for School Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Please note: The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.



Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Per Parent*, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent*, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

*Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

- All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Young Voices

We currently still have spaces at our ever popular Young Voices club!!

Each year, Brook Primary school take approximately 40 children to the Genting Arena to perform at the Young Voices concert. It is an incredibly rewarding experience and one which the children will always remember about their time at primary school

This year, once again, we are very excited to announce that our Year 4, 5 & 6 pupils have the fabulous opportunity to perform with approximately 8,000 children from different schools on **Thursday 16th January 2025** as part of our Young Voices choir.

If your child is interested, we ask for their commitment by joining our Young Voices Club which will run every Thursday after school from 3.30pm - 4.30pm starting **Thursday 19 September 2024**. The club will give us the opportunity to practice the songs as we aim to learn them, without relying on the words- we also add some dance moves too.

We only have a limited number of places that will be allocated on a first come basis, so please book your child's place by completing the online form below and paying the £15 fee via ParentPay.

<https://forms.office.com/e/GsdKbNRse3>



Lost property will be available on the playground outside the Year 2 classrooms every Friday afternoon - anything that isn't collected will be thrown away as we do not have the facilities to keep so much.

It is essential that you label everything that your child wears and brings to school - 3 days into the new term and we have multiple lost lunchboxes, water bottles, fleeces and more uniform - all without names on.

Nut-free school

Although it is impossible to be completely nut free, we are doing everything we can to stop any nuts in school due to the amount of our children who have nut allergies. Please do not send your child into school with any nuts/peanut butter as this can really have an impact upon some of our children.





Starting secondary school in September 2025

Why not apply for a place online?

If your child is due to start secondary school in 2025 then you will have to apply for a school place before **31 October 2024**.

You **MUST** complete an application form either online at **www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions** or by completing the application form provided by your home local authority. You can include six school preferences on the application form; there is nothing to gain by only putting one preference.

Benefits of applying online

- E-mail decision received by 2pm on day of offer
- It's quick and easy to use
- You can apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- There's no risk that your application will be lost in the post
- You will get email confirmation that your application has been received
- It's safe and secure

The online system will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from 1 September 2024 until the closing date for applications on **31 October 2024**.

You should not assume that your child will get a place at a secondary school without you having to apply, even if you have an older child already attending the same school. This is a common misconception and often the biggest cause of disappointment for parents who believe otherwise.

For further information please contact Dudley School Admissions Service on **0300 555 2345**.



one click ... makes it quick
www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions



Are you an ASDA shopper?

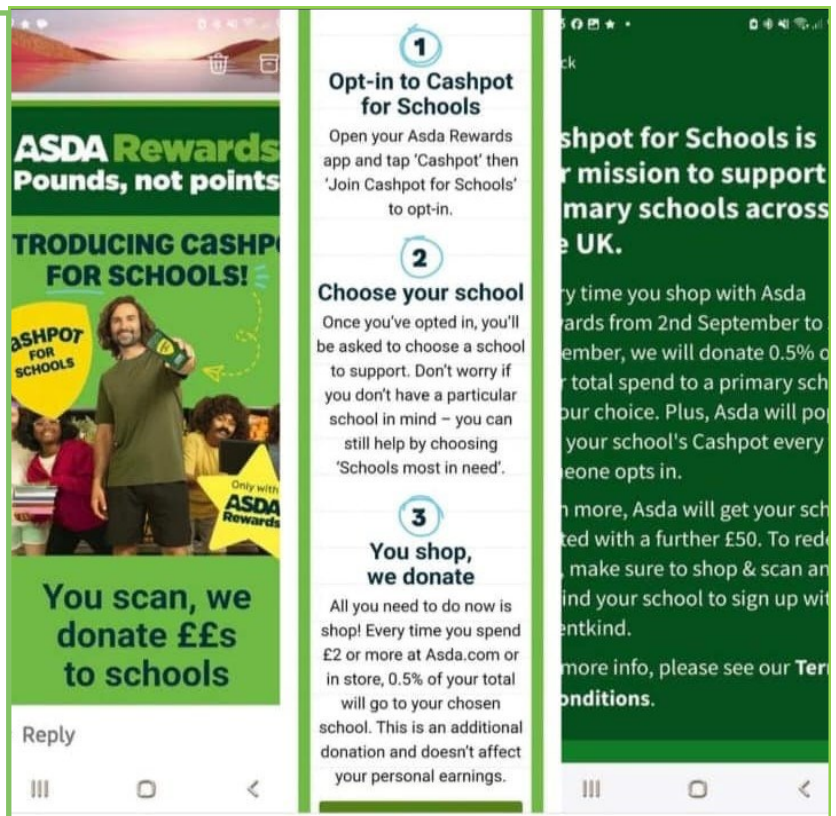
ASDA have started up a cashpot rewards for schools!!

If you have the ASDA rewards App you can go on and add Brook Primary School to the cashpot for schools and it lasts for 90 days.

Everytime you shop, ASDA will donate money to the school and it doesn't affect your own cashpot!!!

Absolutely amazing opportunity to raise some funds for the children at Brook Primary School and it doesn't affect your own cashpot!

Feel free to spread the word everybody



Early Collections

We would like to remind you that you should **NOT** be collecting your child early from the school office unless in exceptional circumstances.

During the last school year, we had lots of parents/carers coming to collect their children early (between 2pm and 3:15pm) from the school office. Whilst we do appreciate that you may have a good reason to do this, it puts a huge strain on our staff.

We understand that some parents have pre-agreed alternative collection arrangements due to exceptional circumstances which we wish to continue to support.

As you know, we are a large school and it takes time to be walking children to and from the office and this is just not manageable due to not being able to leave the school reception unmanned.

Please be aware therefore, that we may not be able to collect your child immediately for this and you may have to wait a while until we are able to fetch your child.

Please remember that all parents/carers must provide notice in advance and with a relevant reason if you are collecting your child early from school. Please note you will be asked to provide proof of appointments.

We apologise for this but I am sure you can imagine that it can become very unmanageable very quickly.

Please don't hesitate to come and speak with us about this if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks for your continued support

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS / CARERS - CLASS LISTS

Teachers are sometimes asked for class lists for birthday parties etc.

Unfortunately, due to data protection laws, we are not able to provide such information. If parents wish to invite all pupils in a class, we can give the total number of children and unnamed invites can be circulated.

If a selection of friends is desired, then obviously children will need to remember the names of the friends they wish to invite.

Our apologies for any inconvenience, but we must protect the information that you all supply to us, trusting that it is only used for appropriate official purposes.



Hair and Jewellery

No jewellery is allowed in school for safety reasons.

Only one pair of pierced small earrings with discrete colouring may be worn (that must be removed for PE) and a watch.

Any child who cannot remove their own earrings should come to school without them on PE days.

Any responsibility for lost/stolen or broken items cannot be accepted by the school.

Hairstyles must be reasonable and in sympathy with our school uniform. Extreme colours, patterns dyed into hair, spikes, shaving or sculpting is not considered suitable for school and should be reserved for holidays or weekends.

Long hair should be tied back for health and safety reasons, including at playtimes as there is play equipment in the playground.

Water Bottles - We encourage our children to bring water bottles into school. Drinking plenty of water keeps the body hydrated, which equals happy and bright children! Not only does it boost mental and physical performance, but water is vital to a child's development and general well-being, for a variety of reasons.

We have noticed a lot of children coming to school with highly-concentrated squash and juice. Consuming too many sugary drinks and fruit juices can lead to dental problems. Water is kind to little teeth, and helps keep them healthy and strong.

Please encourage your children to bring water to school and NOT squash. Water helps the brain to function, keeps children energised, and boosts concentration, which can all help our clever children excel in the classroom.

It is so important that children drink water!

Please remember to put a name label on your child's water bottle!



Lost Glasses

One of our children has lost their bright pink prescription glasses!!

Please check your child's school back in case they have accidentally picked them up.

If you find them please return them to the school office as soon as possible.

Bikes & Scooters

As we are encouraging families to walk to school, we have seen an increase in the number of bikes and scooters on the playground. Unfortunately it is not safe for children to ride these on the school premises and they must be pushed. If children continue to ride them, they will be banned from bringing them onto the playground.

Also dogs are not permitted on school grounds (even if carried) so please be mindful of this when you walk to school. Please continue to leave the school grounds quickly so gates can be locked and avoid blocking or restricting exits by congregating in groups. Please help us to keep our families safe.

BROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

OPEN DAYS

Monday 30th September - 9.30am
Thursday 17th October - 9.30am or 2pm
Friday 15th November - 9.30am
Wednesday 4th December - 9.30am or 2pm

Brook Primary is a community school, we are proud of all our pupils and what we help them achieve

RESPECT

PRIDE

RESILIENCE

CHALLENGE

INDEPENDENCE

Why not come and see us in action?

Please call the school on **01384 389888** or email at **info@brook.dudley.sch.uk** to book a date.



<https://brook.sch.life>



Reading

Reading allows us to be transported from our own world to another.

Between the pages of a book, we can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters and learn about a culture entirely different from our own.

We can also learn new words and phrases, experience a range of emotions, and acquire skills and knowledge.

Please make time to read with your child at least 3 times per week- it is so important and will really help your child.

When reading with your child simply make a quick note in their reading record too we love to celebrate our children who read lots at home!



Brook Buddies



Brook Buddies parents it's that time again! If you require a place at Buddies this year, please remember you need to fill in a new Buddies agreement, which can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/V2Sw2WJSHb>

1 form needs to be completed for each child.

Brook Buddies runs every morning and evening. Why not join us for breakfast or some after school fun? Our session times & prices are below:

Breakfast club:

8:00am-8:45am - £3.50

Afterschool club:

Full session 3:20pm-5:45pm - £8.00

All bookings must be made by Thursday of the week before you require childcare.

Please note: (Summary from Brook School policy)

Parents should collect their child promptly at the end of a session otherwise you will be charged a fee of **£10.00** to cover staff costs if they are **more than 10 minutes late**. If this situation arises more than three times in one term, their child's place at Brook Buddies may be forfeited!