

THE **BIG GREEN** POETRY MACHINE

Let's write some poetry

Young Writers are running a competition presently for 5-11 year olds.

The theme of the competition is 'Climate Change and the World around us'

The children are asked to write a poem, which can be in any style and link to the environment from litter, pollution and wildlife, to sustainability, conservation or exploring nature and local landscapes.

Time will be used in class, before Friday 3rd February, to introduce this competition to each class. There is a lovely video on the website to help support them, then we will share ideas before children have a go at writing their poem.

The school that submits the best overall set of entries will win The Young Writers' Award of Excellence and the class will sponsor £100 of Oxfam Unwrapped projects which positively impacts communities worldwide. PLUS a complimentary copy of the book our pupils feature in!

Every entrant receives a bookmark and we award a certificate of merit to all young writers chosen for publication.

We are considering running a holiday sports camp over 3 days of the February half term; [Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd of February.](#)

It will run from 9am - 3:30pm and would cost **£20 for 1 day, £35 for 2 days and £50 for 3 days.**

At this stage we are just trying to generate interest and will only be able to run it, if we have enough interest. If you would like your child to attend, please call the school office by Friday 20th January to put your child's name down. We will then sent out further letters to confirm whether or not it will go ahead.



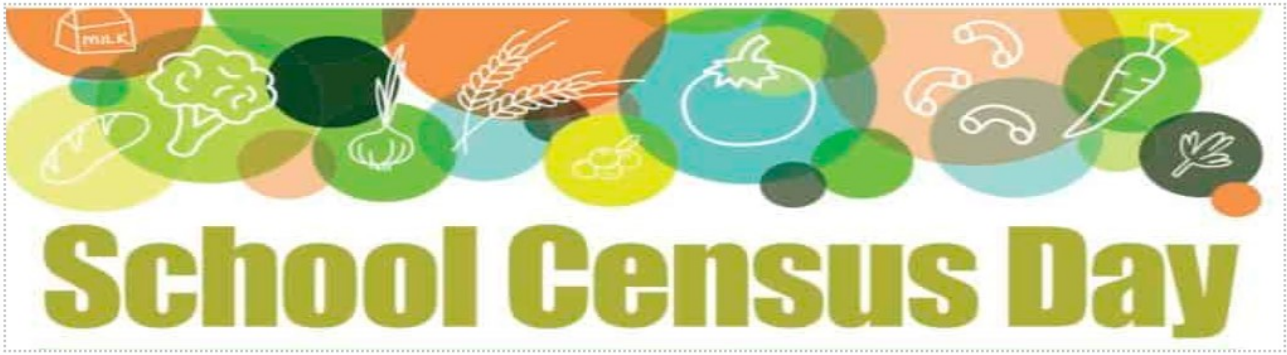
School admissions

Primary School Admissions

15th January 2023 is the last day you can apply for a Reception class place!

School admissions

You can visit our website via the link below which will explain how to apply and there is also a link to the Dudley MBC admissions page.



School Census Day

This Thursday 19th January is Census day

Our menu is

Chicken nuggets & chips

Cheese and tomato pizza & chips

Jacket potato

Followed by ice cream

Please remember to book on ParentPay

School Census day is incredibly important as it informs the local authority of our free school meal numbers which decides how much funding the school receives. The more meals that are taken on this day, the more funding we can secure for the school which can then be spent on education and resources provided to our pupils here at Brook.



Reading The Reading Eggs Challenge **Reading**

 As you are aware, before the holiday Mrs Fellows managed to set up a free subscription to 'Reading Eggs' for the Christmas holidays as an incentive for reading! 

A huge thank you to the pupils who took part and read during the Christmas break.
So the results are in!

A massive well done to **2HD**, they won the class award for spending a total of **152hrs 53mins** on Reading Eggs and read 253 books!! Each class also had a pupil winner who read the most books in each class:

Class	Pupil winner	Class	Pupil winner	Class	Pupil winner
1CR	Luna	3MH	Samuel	5AC	Olivia
1ZH	Zachary	3RT	Jensen	5HI	Summer
2EB	Daniel	4AC	Lexi	6HT	Evie
2HD	Jemima	4LF	Chaaya	6AH	Kyle

We have access to Reading Eggs until 1st February so please encourage your child to use it!





It has been brought to our attention that a number of our children are playing the game Roblox. Although this game does not have an age restriction, it is recommended for children 13 years and above. The game has chat functions and players are able to create their own games and content.



Some of this content is completely inappropriate for young children and can contain references to weapons, violence and pornography. We would urge all parents to be cautious when allowing children to access this game and to monitor their use thoroughly.

We will also be talking to the children about the game in our Internet safety sessions in school.

ROBLOX
Powering Imagination

According to the Roblox website, 'Roblox is the world's largest interactive social platform for play. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the game, it is a multi-player online gaming platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. Roblox is free to play and available on all modern smartphones, tablets, desktops, Xbox One, Oculus Rift, and HTC Vive.'

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

What parents need to know about ROBLOX

ROBLOX STUDIO
The Roblox Studio allows users to create their own games and 'worlds' for others to play on the platform. As the games are user generated, it gives users the freedom to potentially include things you do not want your child to be exposed to, for example, weapons, violence and even pornographic content. There are no age restrictions on the games created in the Roblox Studio and to remove games from the platform Roblox relies on people reporting negative/violent content.

CHATTING & FRIEND REQUESTS
Whilst the games in Roblox are aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds, there are currently no age restrictions for signing up. This means that both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other and send friend requests through the platform. Once a friend request is accepted, this means that they can communicate with each other outside of gameplay.

ROBUX ONLINE PAYMENTS
When a user creates a game, they earn something called 'Robux', which works as a currency within the platform and enables the purchase of upgrades and memberships. If the created game is of good quality and attracts multiple players and in-game adverts, children have the ability to earn a lot of 'Robux.' Once a user has earned a certain amount of Robux, they can convert this to real cash and withdraw it to a PayPal account. To withdraw money, users need to be over 13, have a PayPal account and have paid for the Roblox premium subscription.

NOS National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

ALERT!
Tell your children to be careful and to think twice before they click any random advert or popup. There are a lot of phishing scams that advertise free Roblox etc. with the intent of stealing your child's personal information.

UNLIST SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
Make sure your child's social media accounts are not listed in the settings/account information. If they are, advise them to set them to private or remove them from their account. This will ensure that nobody will be able to find and contact them on their social media platforms outside of Roblox.

CHECK SHARED INFORMATION
In the account settings, check that your child is not giving away any personal information in their bio/profile. For example, their full name, phone number or snapchat name. If you see that they have, explain why this is potentially dangerous and remove immediately.

2-STEP VERIFICATION
Roblox has a great two-step verification security feature which we recommend you enable to add an extra layer of security to your child's account.

HAVE A CHAT ABOUT 'GRIEFING'
Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player in a game. This can be done by setting traps, damaging or stealing something from another player, intentionally killing them and generally doing something in the game to spoil their gameplay. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating and upsetting for players.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS
Roblox is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional in-game purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will enable you to restrict how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

DISABLE IN-GAME CHAT
Roblox is great for children to play together and chat to each other. However, if you want to completely turn off in-game chat for your child (meaning they cannot contact anyone, including their friends) you can do so by following these steps: When logged in, go to the Account Settings page by clicking on the gear icon at the top right corner of the page, then click Settings. Next, click on the Privacy tab and under 'Who can chat with me in game?' select 'No one' and this will disable in-game chat!

IS YOUR CHILD UNDER 13?
Unfortunately, there are hundreds of YouTube videos showing children how to change their age settings on Roblox, so firstly, you should talk to your child to set up some rules/an agreement. There are additional safety features for children under 13, for example having their posts and chats filtered for inappropriate content and behaviour, so it is worth checking that your child has set up their account with the correct age. You can find this in their account settings.

Young Voices 2023



YOUNG VOICES
The largest school concerts in the world!

Last night 31 of our pupils and 4 members of staff attended the Resorts World Arena for the Young Voices Concert and what an amazing experience it was!



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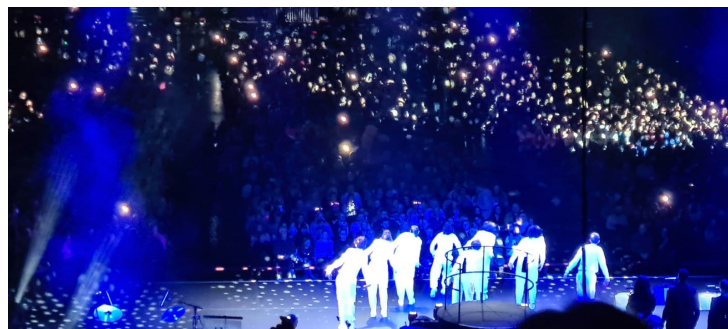
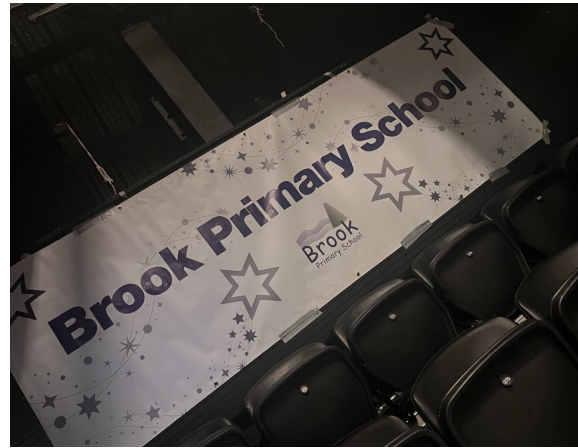
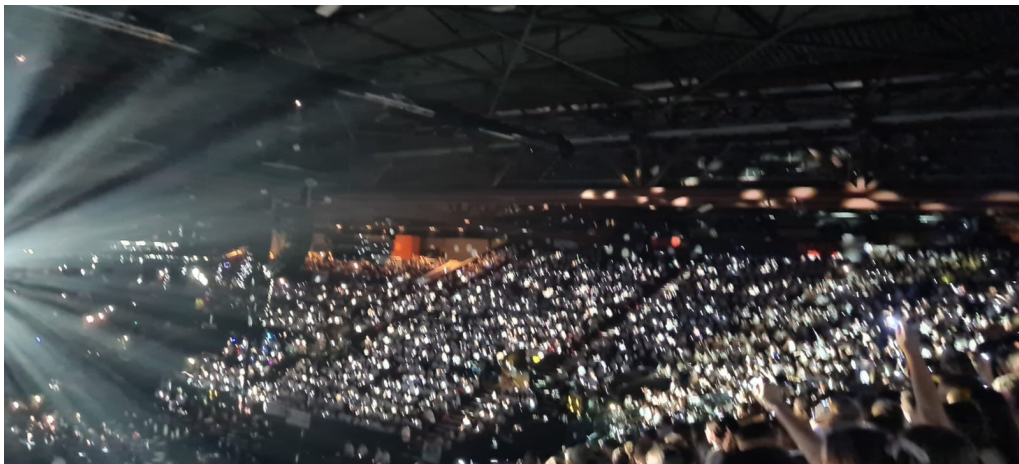
The children have been working hard to learn lots of songs and dance moves, which they performed in front of thousands of people. They were also lucky enough to sing with:

Heather Small

Urban Strides

The Beatbox Collective

& Anna Phoebe



Spelling Shed

Well done to the top spellers in each class for the past 7 days!

The top class of the week is...
4LF - WELL DONE!

RSD	Rose
RHW	Joshua
1ZH	Hayden
1CR	Luna
2HD	Bethany
2EB	Jacob
3WH	Jack
3RT	Frankie
4AC	Samuel
4LF	Freddie
5C	Charlie
5HI	Isaac
6HT	Mieszko
6AH	Emily

The school office opening times are:

Monday – Thursday:
8:30am–4:30pm

Friday: 8:30am–4pm

The absence line answer machine also opens at 8:30 and you cannot leave a message before this.

It is essential that you either call us or leave a voicemail to report your child's absence with their name, class and reason for absence to prevent us having to call you.



WE NEED YOU!

Here at Brook, we value the importance of regular reading with our children and aim for every child to be listened to, by an adult, at least once a week.

Some families find this extremely difficult, so we are working really hard to provide this opportunity in school.

This is where you need your help! We are looking for parents, who would be able to offer a small amount of time to listen to our pupils read.



If you are able to give any of your time, please visit or call the school office to discuss arrangements.

We would really appreciate your help!

Attendance:
02/01/23 - 06/01/23

3RT, 3W/H, 4LF were the highest attendees in KS2 and 1CR were the highest in KS1. Well done!!

Rec SD	94.05%
Rec H/W	91.95%
1CR	100%
1ZH	93.33%
2EB	96.67%
2HD	98.33%
3RT	100%
3W/H	100%
4AC	96.11%
4LF	100%
5C	97.78%
5HI	98.89%
6AH	96.67%
6HT	97.78%
School Total	94.05%
Target	96+%

Brook Buddies

Brook Buddies runs every morning and evening. Why not join us for breakfast or some after school fun?

Our session times and prices are below:

Breakfast club:

8:00am-8:45am - £3.50

Afterschool club:

Half session 3:20pm-4:45pm - £5.25

Full session 3:20pm-5:45pm - £8.00

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!

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

Buddies parents please note:

If you need an emergency place—this needs be paid on Parent Pay no later than 3pm.