

NEWSLETTER, February 2023



Dear all

Welcome to our February update!

As we are half way through the academic year I wanted to use this opportunity to share again our vision, mission, and ethos.

Our **vision** - 'We enable **our learners** to understand the world around them, to become **fulfilled individuals** and **active and compassionate citizens** by providing an **innovative and valuable education**.'

Our **mission**...

- **Our learners:**
 - Enjoy learning, engage, make progress, and achieve
- **Fulfilled individuals:**
 - Strive to live safe, healthy, and rewarding lives
- **Active and compassionate citizens:**
 - Make a positive contribution to society
 - Respect each other
 - Recognise and celebrate our individuality
- **Innovative and valuable education:**
 - Contribute to co-producing outcomes that are relevant and achievable to be next stage ready

Our shared **ethos** is founded on collaboration, positivity and is solution focussed.

In practice this means we...

- Make time to listen
- Compromise
- Try to understand
- Smile and encourage
- Notice
- Value and appreciate
- Treat everyone with dignity
- Keep each other safe and free from emotional and physical harm
- Learn together and forever
- Challenge
- Persevere
- Innovate and lead
- Are reflective
- Share
- Celebrate and reward achievements

It has been lovely to see so many carers and parents attending our 'Join Us' sessions, coffee afternoons and workshops. We look forward to welcoming you to more events as the term progresses.

Jenny Baker
Headteacher

Chinese New Year in Primary

Learners in Primary celebrated Chinese New Year with a variety of experiences including a themed assembly, music, art and craft activities, food tasting and sensory exploration.



Ash Class Community Links



Ash class have been working really hard on their road safety and communication skills when out and about in the local community.

Isaac, Yarin and Diya were able to ask for drinks using their communication books. Jamie and Logan, with a little help from adults, were able to lead their friends safely across the road. On the way back to school, Frasier asked to use the swing at the park using his communication book. Well done all of you!

Children's Mental Health Week

There was a full programme of events for Children's Mental Health Week this month – the theme was 'Let's Connect!'. Twinned classes from the Primary and Secondary departments took part in joint activities. We enjoyed showing all of our connections across the school, we hosted our weekly visits from Wellington College and also went to 'connect' in the community.



On the Friday of Children's Mental Health Week, the Secondary department enjoyed a whole day of 'Let's Connect!' activities. These included making a tower from spaghetti and marshmallows (measured and judged by our maths specialist Zahir), a timed activity to make Lego models based on a picture (judged by our art specialist Kate) and class Kahoot. At break times learners tried their hands at a crockery smash to release all of their pent up anger – some aims were definitely better than others!

Secondary visit to the C.O.A.T.s Centre in Crowthorne

A group of 5 learners visited the C.O.A.T.s centre in Crowthorne to take part in games with the elderly visitors. Our learners chose to take 'Uno' with them to play. They had to explain the rules and then supervise the game. Everybody really enjoyed the afternoon.



KS3 and KS4 New Age Kurling Tournament



KS3 and 4 took part in a New Age Kurling tournament. A series of league games culminated in the knockout stages and ended with our final overall winner, Elm class. Congratulations!

Numicon



Numicon is an approach to teaching maths that helps your young person to see connections between numbers. Numicon is effective and fun. You can find out more about it here.

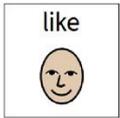
<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths/numicon-guide-for-parents/>

Ruby's Ramblings

Ruby had a lovely half term in Cornwall with her friend, resting and playing ready for the next half term.



This month's Buzzword is... 'like'



Follow the link for the video and more information on this month's Buzzword:

<https://youtu.be/BEWrJXP1gZM>



Role Play Room

Learners are really enjoying the new role play room which was set up last term and began with a Café theme. All themes are based around 'Employability', forming part of our TALENTS curriculum.



This week, Lebron has happily engaged in the new Construction theme. After the Easter break, the role play room theme will be the Emergency Services and we will publish photos of this in subsequent newsletters.



Family Support News

Thursday 9th March 10.00am - The Chatty Café

Scheme - We have organised another catch up at Bracknell Waitrose for carers and parents of Kennel Lane learners to go along, have a drink and meet other parents from school. We will also be joined by Becky Durrant, short breaks coordinator within Bracknell Forest who can share information about activities in the local authority that are accessible for SEN learners and their families. Please call the school office if you would like to join us.

Monday 20th March 10.00 – 12.00 – PRICE

Parent/Carer workshop – This session will be a 2-hour workshop where we will introduce you to PRICE. We will focus on a trauma and nurturing approach to managing behaviour such as understanding what drives behaviour. A separate letter will follow with further information.

Thursday 13th April 2023 – Drop-in Clinic - We will be offering an opportunity during the Easter holidays for carers/parents to visit our Family Support team in school. We can support and advise with a number of things including challenging behaviour, sleep difficulties, toilet training, communication, completing forms, signposting to other services etc. A separate letter with further details will follow.

Top Tips

IASS - Bracknell Forest information advice and support service.

Impartial information, advice and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) and their parents or carers, including:

- The Law - Education, Health & Social Care law relating to SEND
- Annual review of Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)
- Home to school transport queries
- Queries about Exclusions from school
- Personal Budgets – how to take up and manage personal budgets
- Local Offer – support groups and activities that are available locally

Confidential Helpline: 01344 354011

Email: IASS@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

website <https://www.bracknellforestiass.co.uk/>

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy Meeting

Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) would like your views and input into a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy. Kennel Lane School will be hosting a tea and talk session on behalf of the Local Authority on Thursday 9th March at 1.30pm – 2.30pm to provide you with an opportunity to find out more and contribute to the strategy.

What is the Bracknell Forest SEND strategy?

- It is a description of the work we will focus on over the next three years (2023 to 2025) to support children and young people with SEND to achieve their educational outcomes.
- It describes five main priorities for children and young people with SEND. Each priority includes a number of actions to improve educational outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

How can parents and carers take part?

Please email marc.o'hagan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk and samantha.morgan@kennellaneschool.com to confirm you would like to attend and/or if you have any questions or points you wish to raise in advance.

Baby Massage Course Information



We are providing this information on behalf of Bracknell Forest Council.

Why not spend some quality time with your baby by joining Community Learning's upcoming Baby Massage course running on Tuesdays from 28th February to 21st March, 1.30 – 2.30pm at Bracknell Open Learning Centre? It's a wonderful, relaxed way to enhance your bond with your baby. You'll learn easy techniques to help relieve colic and constipation and to improve sleep patterns. Plus, you will gain a better understanding of baby's needs and how to understand their verbal and non-verbal cues.

Find out more about how to take part in this relaxing activity, promoting one to one time for you and your baby at: <https://tinyurl.com/BabyMassageMarch23>

Dates for the Diary



Friday 3rd March	World Book Day	
Monday 6th March	RSHE Workshop	10:00 – 11:00
Friday 17th March	Comic Relief / Red Nose Day for Rwanda	
Friday 31st March	End of Spring Term Primary & Woodlands Hub 12.45pm finish Secondary 13.00pm finish	
Monday 17th April	Start of Summer Term	

Makaton Signing and Symbols

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a language system that uses signing and symbols to support people to communicate.

Makaton supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language & expression.

You may have seen Makaton being used on Cbeebies – Something Special or Bedtime stories.



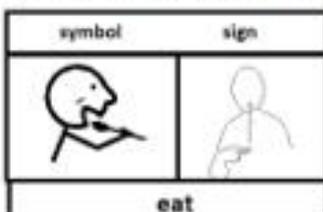
Can Makaton Help my child?

Makaton can help lots of children to communicate. For example those who have difficulties understanding or remembering what has been said, children who have little or no speech or whose speech is difficult to understand.

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Makaton builds on early communication skills such as pointing and gesture and can help children with communication difficulties to express themselves more easily.



Will Makaton delay my child's speech?

No! There is robust research evidence that Makaton supports communication and can often act as a 'stepping stone' or 'bridge' to developing speech and language skills

How do I start to use Makaton with my child?

A small range of everyday vocabulary is usually a good place to start. Your Speech Therapist can help you to choose some words to get started and share the signs with you. Use the signs alongside speech in your daily routines with your child. Teach the signs to other family members so that they can use them too. It may take a while for your child to make the connection between the sign and meaning of the word. Try not to be disheartened if your child does not sign right away, even your average baby will listen to language around them for 12-18 months before they start to speak

If you would like to attend Makaton training to learn more about Makaton, to learn signs and symbols either speak to your child's Speech and Language Therapist or email the team. Please don't hesitate to contact school on 01344 483872, if you would like further information on how to support your young person.

Online Makaton Resources

There are many resources that can help you to use Makaton.

The Makaton Charity Website.

The Makaton Charity Website: - <https://www.makaton.org/>

On the Makaton website, you will find; sign of the week, blogs from Makaton users and their families, lots of resources to purchase or download (including many free resources)

The Makaton Charity Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ThemakatonCharity/>

Here you will find sign of the week videos, information about offers and new resources.

CBeebies Resources

What is Makaton? A helpful introduction to Makaton on the CBeebies website

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something.special-getting-started-with-makaton>

Getting started with Makaton. Helpful video tips on the CBeebies Website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something.special-getting-started-with-makaton>

Really useful signs: again, from CBeebies website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something>.

Something Special on CBeebies:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something>

Other useful Makaton resources

Signing Hands Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/signinghands/> and website <https://signinghands.co.uk> Signing have worked collaboratively with The Makaton Charity to produce lots of songs stories. Resources and activities that are all supported with Makaton singing.