



9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to a new school year and we hope that you have all had a lovely Summer. Over the past week, it has been great to see all the children back in school looking smart and ready to begin their new academic year. They have all settled in extremely well and I know the teachers have really enjoyed getting to know their new classes this week. The children have been busy finding out about the class routines and rules and it has been lovely hearing our families talk about how much their children have enjoyed being back at school.

I would like to welcome our two new teachers Mr O'Keefe in Year 3 and Miss Mallon in Year 5 and I am sure that you will join us in supporting them to settle in. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new families and staff who have joined our Britannia family this week. I know that you will all support them as they begin their journey with us at Britannia. Remember that although it feels sad sometimes to see your child moving on, it also means that you are just moving onto a new adventure.

Summer Building Work

During the summer holidays, there has been extensive building work at the school as we have had the first phase of a heating system replacement done with new pipework and radiators throughout the building. I am sure we will definitely feel the benefits of the new radiators in the winter! I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff for their hard work in the final week of the holidays where they worked tirelessly to get the school ready for the children's return. Further developments of the school grounds are due to take place and shortly work will begin on the KS2 yard trim trail. This was something that the children have identified as something they would like and they have played a part in developing the designs alongside the school leadership team.

Attendance

Attendance at school is important and this is closely monitored throughout the year. We expect that children will attend school every day and arrive on time unless they are too unwell. A child whose attendance is below 90% is classed as persistently absent and school endeavours to work with families to improve these figures. This data is monitored by school, the local authority and the DFE. Should school have any concerns about your child's attendance, they will get in touch with you. Throughout the year, you will receive regular updates through use of a traffic light letter to keep you informed of your child's attendance. Regularly missing school can result in your child developing gaps in learning and difficulties with social interaction. Holidays will not be authorised except in special circumstances which must be discussed with the Headteacher and the governing body have taken the decision to fine for holidays during term time.



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Class Information

This week your child will be receiving a newsletter which will include useful information about your child's new class and their learning for this term. It will also include a time and date for a welcome meeting for Years 1-6 where you can meet the teacher and ask any questions you may have about the new class. It also gives your child the opportunity to show you around their new classroom. Stay and Play sessions will be released for the Reception class once they have settled so keep an eye out for the Reception newsletter.

The elections for school council and our senior prefect team will be taking place this week and at the start of next week and following this they will meet to discuss the priorities and charity they would like to support this year. As always, if we have any volunteers amongst our school community who would like to support working with the school council or eco council please contact school.

Important Information

PE days – Children should come to school in their trainers, black tracksuit bottoms or leggings, school PE T-Shirt and school jumper on these days.

Reception- Monday and Friday

Year 1- Thursday and Friday

Year 2- Monday and Tuesday

Year 3- Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4- Wednesday and Thursday

Year 5- Tuesday and Wednesday (this will change once swimming commences to Wednesday and Thursday)

Year 6- Wednesday and Thursday

Year 5 will also be starting their swimming sessions this term. However, due to the ongoing repairs at Whitworth swimming baths, this has been delayed. Once the sessions begin, children will need the correct kit. This should consist of a swimming costume/swimming trunks (not long shorts), towel and a swimming cap for long hair. Should your child require goggles you must provide school with written consent for this.

Welcome Meetings KS1 and KS2

Year 1- Wednesday at 3.30pm

Year 2- Tuesday at 3.30pm

Year 3- Wednesday at 3.30pm

Year 4 – Tuesday at 3.30pm

Year 5- Thursday at 3.30pm

Year 6- Tuesday at 3.30pm



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Extra-curricular clubs will be starting this half term and further information will be provided over the coming weeks.

Upcoming School Events (Please note these could be subject to change)

This half term is already looking very busy and there are some exciting events planned which have been detailed in the table below.

Date	Event	Further Information
13 th September 2022	Roald Dahl Day – Children can come to school dressed as a character from one of his books.	Children will be celebrating the life and works of Roald Dahl.
15 th September 2022	Whitworth High Year 6 visit	See letter provided.
19-22nd September 2022	Bikeability	See letter provided
29 th September 2022	Reception Welly Walk	Further details to follow
30 th September 2022	Whole School Welly Walk Mcmillan Coffee afternoon	Further details to follow
30th September	Gold Book Assembly @9am	
7 th October 2022	Harvest assembly	Children to bring in donations for the local food bank.
10 th -14 th October 2022	Book Fair in school	
14 th October	Visit from an Author – Andy Tooze	
17 th October	Parents conferencing	Further details will follow - this will be a face to face event.
19 th October	Individual school photographs	
21 st October	Year 6 Assembly	Parents welcome to attend

Reading

Reading remains a key focus for the children at Britannia and we will continue to be developing and enhancing our reading material for the children throughout the year. Please support your child with their reading throughout the school – it is a vital skill they need for the future. Reading regularly with your child enhances life chances and supports academic success. Children should aim to be reading each day and this should be recorded in their reading records. The library will be up and running shortly and you will be notified of further details in due course.

School Development

The school is constantly striving to move forward and our areas of curriculum focus alongside our core subjects for this year will be RE, Computing and Geography. The topics your children will be covering can be found on the website and on the class newsletters. Remember to talk to your child about their learning and anything extra they complete can be sent into school to share with the class. Writing will also be a key focus throughout the year and staff will be taking on board the Lancashire TALK programmes to support the children further with their writing skills. We know that writing during COVID was an area that children made less progress in and it is taking longer for children to close the gaps that appeared during the pandemic. You can support your child by helping them to learn the high



frequency word lists, talking to your children about new vocabulary and encouraging them to form their letters correctly when they are at home.

Our school Art Gallery will be added to once again this coming year and visitors into school continue to comment on the high quality of the art work seen in the children's work. We look forward to adding more masterpieces to the collection. The school newspaper and website are excellent ways to keep in touch with all the events throughout the school so make sure you keep checking.

PTFA

Our PTFA are always looking for ways to raise much needed funds for the school so if you are interested in supporting the school we welcome new members and volunteers. Please contact the office if you would like to receive further information about events and meetings.

It promises to be a very exciting academic year and we look forward to working with you all again this year. If you require any further information please contact the school office on 01706874447 or via email on bursar@britannia.lancs.sch.uk.

Reminders for Parents

- **Doors open at 8.45am and the register will be taken at 8.55am. After this time, children will be marked late and must enter school through the office.**
- **Children in Years 1-6 will finish school at 3.25pm and Reception at 3.20pm.**
- **Children should be in appropriate uniform/PE kit and school shoes (not trainers).**
- **Children should have either fruit or toast at morning playtime. Toast can be purchased through ParentPay.**
- **No rucksacks – only a school book bag is required.**
- **All stationary to use in school is provided by school.**
- **Children may bring a water bottle containing water (not juice) into school to drink throughout the day.**

I look forward to working closely in partnership with you this coming year to ensure that our children all achieve their potential and continue to shine at Britannia.

Finally, I like many of you, am deeply saddened by the passing of our Queen. Her dedication and service over 70 years to us, her people, was truly remarkable. Today, in assembly, we gathered together to honour and mark the love and service she has shown in a celebration of her life. Over the course of the next week, further details of how we will mark this occasion in school will be sent home. May she rest in peace!



Yours Sincerely

Mrs N.Longstaff