



**Parent News: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are all aware it has been a hugely challenging week as we have reacted to the Covid situation on an hour by hour basis. Whilst this has been very difficult to manage at times the support and understanding that I have received from parents has made this situation much easier to cope with. As a parent myself of children both in Primary and Secondary schools I fully understand the anxiety you are feeling and the concerns you have about your children remaining in school. Many of you have contacted me to ask me why I am not closing the school to ensure that nobody would need to isolate across Christmas, I absolutely understand this request however, it is only the Department for Education who can authorise this and currently they will not. I can assure you that I am continuing to do everything in my power to fully protect all students and staff on site and I am taking no risks with any potential case. May I please remind students that they should not be visiting friends' houses who are isolating as they are putting others at risk, your support with this is much appreciated.

For the students on site next week, their education continues in as close to normal circumstances as possible. I felt privileged to observe some of our sixth form students rehearsing for our performing arts video and watch the students across classes continue to engage in their learning. I have also had the great pleasure of helping to serve Christmas lunch to over 300 students and staff coming into the canteen. Well done to our chef and his team in the kitchen for their hard work in preparing such a fabulous meal.

As you will have seen in a communication sent on Thursday we will now be closing for the Christmas break at **12.05pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** which will also be our Christmas Jumper Day. It would be lovely to see as many students as possible swapping their blazers for a Christmas jumper and donating £1 to Daisy's Dream our chosen charity for this year. Please also be reminded that we no longer have any kitchen facilities for the remainder of the term. All students must bring a packed lunch with them apart from our youngsters entitled to free school meals who will be provided with their own packed lunch.

**Student of the week:**

All nominations from last week:

Paige Auken In Year 8. She is always looking for ways to help everyone around her, contributes in every lesson and cares about her school and community.

Harry Axton in Sixth Form. Whilst dealing with a difficult situation outside of school he has continued to work in school to the best of his ability.

**Fab:**

- The teachers
- Fantastic online Year 10 lessons this week. I've had the pleasure of listening to a few, which have been fab. My daughter has been engaged with them all, and it's been great to hear the number of students getting involved by commenting or typing answers in the chat. I've even found myself learning something new and answering some questions out loud! Special mention to Miss Manning and Ms Cresswell - absolutely brilliant!
- Thank you for the continued updates, it's not an easy time... Just so you know – you are doing a fantastic job, we appreciate everything you do in these difficult situations.
- Thank you for putting our children's health at the centre of your decision – what an impossible time it is at the moment. We appreciate all your hard work.
- I would like to add that a huge well done is in order for all the staff at Brakenhale. You are doing exceptionally during the very uncertain times. It is not easy for anyone and you are doing amazing so please remember that!

**Staff member of the week:**

Miss Manning The best teacher ever. If you ever need anything go to her!!

Mrs Millard She dedicates so much time for the sixth form dance students and gives up her free time to give us extra training and experience

**Quote of the week:**

“In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.”

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes

*Jane Coley, Headteacher*

## What's on next week

This year we have a 2 week timetable so there will be a week A and a week B. **Next Week: A**

Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 7 Flu Vaccinations</b>
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Jumper Day raising money for Daisy's Dream</b> <b>Last day of Autumn Term – students finish at 12.05pm</b>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Government Additional Inset Day</b>

## Character Challenge 2 – Christmas Card Competition

Well done to Charlotte Dickson and Chloe Swindells in Year 9 and Daniela Darie in Year 10 who were the well-deserved winners of our Christmas Card Competition this year. Their designs have been used for the Brakenhale official Christmas card which is sent out to various members of the community.

The standard of entry was very high and you can see the runners up and other entries below. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Jodie Hughes, Sarah Jenkins, Faith Dalton, Daisy Luscombe, Bryony Thompson, Oliver Stubbs, Maja Strong, Shaan Ejaz, Lewis Coyle, Jonathan Mason, Zoe Phillips, Macy Lee, Michaela Sichova, Sachleen Rana, Luke Reeves, Priya Robinson, Jaya Bertoux, Hannah Gray-Shanahan, Danielle Sullivan, Mia Watson, Katy Goodall, Jun Nan Ke, Chloe Porter, Sofia Valenzuela Russo, Rachel Sullivan, Caitlyn Icton, Georgia Wilkins, Sidnie Kingsnorth.

First place winners:



Second and Third places...



And all the other entries...



**Special Delivery**

With special Christmas thanks to the impressive design and build skills of Mr Budden, with help from Mrs Picton, in Design Technology, we now have our very own Festive ‘Special Delivery’ Post Box in pride of place outside Ms Coley’s office.

Staff are able to pop in their Christmas cards to colleagues and students are also able to post cards to their teachers and other school staff only (not to fellow students).

The date for last post is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December!





## Raising Money for Thames Hospice

For anyone who really knows me they know chocolate is more my friend than any form of exercise. However Thames hospice holds a place very close to my heart. Not only did they provide emergency support during my late husband's final days, they continue to support the children with ongoing support worker care.

I set myself a challenge to raise £300 by walking 5 kilometres.

I am pleased to say that I raised so far £260 (enough to support a family for 10 sessions) and walked a total of 13.7 kilometres.

Thank you to everyone who donated and those who wished me good luck, I truly appreciate it.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/danielle-turner14>

*Ms D Turner, Maths Teacher*



## Performing Arts – Christmas Showcase

Whilst we are very disappointed we can't invite you into the school to watch our students perform this term we are very pleased to announce our Christmas Showcase!

The Brakenhale Performing Arts Department and P16 Dance Company have put together a collection of performances from across Drama, Dance and Music to showcase student work this term. This has been brought together and will be available to purchase as a DVD/online event. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to share their amazing work with their friends and family from the comfort of their own homes.

The DVD/online event will be available to purchase from next week via parent pay and a school comms will be sent out to inform you if your son/daughter is involved in the performances. The DVDs will be distributed in the last week of term from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**[Brakenhale Christmas Showcase YouTube Trailer](#)**

*Mrs Duffy, Head of Performing Arts*

## School Dining Hall

We had a very festive week in the dining hall, serving around 400 Christmas Dinners to Year 7, 8 and Sixth Form students, together with staff. We send all our best wishes to all the students in Years 9, 10 and 11 at home who missed out. Ms Coley even took a turn serving:



The Admissions Department of Bracknell Forest Council handles the authorisation and administration of Free School Meals. If you think your son/daughter may qualify, please complete the Bracknell Forest Council application form via the link below.



[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/.../how-do-i-apply-free-school-meals](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/.../how-do-i-apply-free-school-meals)



It is worthwhile applying for Free School Meals entitlement even if your child does not require a school lunch because your son/daughter may receive financial assistance with other school related expenses.

*Taz Asran, Chef Manager*

**PE Update**

**PE Champions of Week**

 <b>PE CHAMPIONS OF THE WEEK</b>		
<b>Week of; 7/12/20</b>		
		
	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Student</b>
	Mr Potter	Aiden Butler
	Miss Willimott	Carris Lord
	Mr Maye	Daniel Bayle
	Mr Maye	Max Glover
	Mr Boucher	Hristina Mihalkova
	Miss Rushby	Brooke Johnson
	Ms Wilson	Cleo Miller
	Miss Butler	Lexie Butler
<b>Well done!</b>		
<b>#teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe</b>		

@BRAKENHALEPE

**Getting more out of PE at Brakenhale this winter...**

With the cold weather coming in, here is how to get the best out of PE at Brakenhale this winter.

**Mr Potter's top tips for PE...**

Wear PE tracksuit bottoms/leggings rather than PE shorts/skorts.

Wear your PE jumper on top of your PE shirt as an extra layer.

Put a plain t-shirt (black or white) or vest under your PE shirt for another extra layer (see acceptable kit item photos).

If you have a skin/thermal style top, these can be worn if **black or white only**.

Bring a pair of fingered black gloves to keep your hands warm (see acceptable kit item photos).

Ensure your socks are correct (PE socks - long knee socks or white sports socks) and don't wear your black school socks for PE as your feet will get cold as they are thin (see acceptable kit item photos).

Keep active as soon as you are changed and get to your lesson - start warm ups and dynamic stretches to keep moving and keep warm - plus it will impress your teacher.


**\*\*\*Due to health and safety, we do not allow full outdoor coats, PE/Brakenhale hoodies, scarves, snoods or beanies to be worn in PE\*\*\***

Being in the outdoors all year round is a brilliant thing, but we do understand that the weather can be tough on students, that is why it is key to get students adequately prepared for the lesson.













If for whatever reason a lesson cannot go ahead due to inclement weather, there is a pre-planned indoor space for students to be taught in, by their PE teacher. This will be the sports hall, fitness suite, one of the movement studios, the main hall or trampoline centre.

Many thanks and I look forward to seeing your children continue to be active throughout the winter months.



**PE @ BRAKENHALE**  
**GETTING THE MOST OUT OF PE THIS WINTER!**



ITEM	ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED
<p><b>GLOVES</b> (MUST BE PLAIN BLACK, NO ATTACHMENTS OR MARKING)</p>		
<p><b>T SHIRTS OR 'SKINS'</b> TO WEAR UNDER PE KIT (MUST BE BLACK OR WHITE)</p>	  	  
<p><b>SOCKS (MUST BE PE SOCKS ONLY - PLAIN WHITE SPORT OR BLACK KNEE LENGTH)</b></p>	  	
<p>All other PE items can be worn to 'layer up' and keep warm. PE shirt (black) along with games shirt (burgundy) or purchase the black tracksuit bottoms or the PE jumper for additional layers also. You can purchase the new PE holdall from the school shop to place and carry all of your kit/items in and get a locker to store them in as well!</p>		

Thank you  
The Brakenhale PE Department

Mr M Potter, Head of PE

On Twitter & Instagram: @brakenhalepe

#teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe #bekind

**Character Challenge 3**

# Character@Brakenhale



#teambrokenhale



*High Expectations  
and Challenge*

## Character Challenge #3

# #leadership



*What next? You decide....*



*Take the lead and tell us  
what you would like to do  
next in your very own  
challenge. Keep an eye out  
for your idea in a future  
challenge!*

✉ Please send your submissions to: [character@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:character@brakenhale.co.uk)

📅 Deadline: Friday 8th January 2021



## Help and Support from the SSC

### Positive Mental Habits poster (BelievePerform)

BelievePerform, a source of performance psychology, well-being and mental health content for the sport community has a number of paid-for posters and infographics. One of their free resources is '10 positive mental health habits that will help you deal with challenging events'.



### Here are new safety rules for Tik-Tok

TikTok Update Parental Controls with Family Pairing Feature (SWGfL)

TikTok is used by many teenagers and sometimes children younger than than 13, despite its terms and conditions. Using the new Family Pairing feature can allow parents to guide their child's TikTok experience in a safer way. Features include:

**Search:** Decide what can be searched for. This includes content, users, hashtags, or sounds

**Screen Time Management:** Sets how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day

**Discoverability:** Decide on the account being private (you decide who can see their content) or public (anyone can search and view content)

To find out more information about TikTok's Family Pairing feature and to download a helpful poster to share with pupils and parents, go to: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

*Miss J Manisier, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead*

## Lost Property

Please can we kindly remind all parents and students to name all items, including uniform, PE kits, water bottles, pencil cases, other tools for learning - EVERYTHING.

We have a member of staff dedicated to reuniting lost property with owners and she endeavours to return items daily. However, she is unable to return items to students without a name and items will be disposed of at regular intervals. Email: [lostproperty@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:lostproperty@brakenhale.co.uk)

**All items of unnamed and unclaimed lost property will be donated to charity at the end of term.**

Mrs McCrorie, Curriculum Support

## Curriculum Support Reminders



**Lost Property**  
**Tools for Learning**  
**Face Masks**

These are now temporarily available from the Book Room in the LRC on the first floor, 8.20am to 8.55am.

If you require anything else please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you.  
Mrs McCrorie



**Brakenhale School**  
*High Expectations and Challenge*  
#teambrokenhale

**Tools for Learning**

**TOOLS and EQUIPMENT for LEARNING**

- Filled Pencil Case
- Scientific Calculator
- Brakenhale Art Book
- Subject Specific items for Key Stage 4





**TOOLS FOR LEARNING PENCIL CASE**

- Large Transparent Pencil Case
- 30cm Ruler
- 3 Black or Blue Pens
- HB Pencil
- Rubber
- Pencil Sharpener
- Glue Stick
- Highlighter
- Protractor

## House Points this Week:

We continue to recognise the hard work that our students are doing through our House System by issuing House Points. Our House system remains very competitive so please check our communications for the latest placements of each house!

Keep up the Hard work! Congratulations to everyone who has gained house points this week:

## Achievement Points This Week

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Academic Point	595	263	145	158	51	0	0	1212
Academic Point (x2)	24	8	34	62	18	0	0	146
Academic Point (x3)	72	6	30	0	3	0	0	111
Aspiration Points	0	207	0	0	0	0	0	207
Aspiration Points 2	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	16
Community Point	39	219	20	3	0	0	0	281
Community Points (x2)	2	2	6	0	0	0	0	10
Culture Points	7	194	22	13	0	0	0	236
Culture Points (x2)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Leadership Points	0	176	0	0	0	0	0	176
Leadership Points (X2)	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
Leadership Points (x3)	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	6
Physical	63	176	0	3	1	0	0	243
Physical Points (x2)	10	26	0	0	50	0	0	86
Physical Points (x3)	51	45	45	84	63	0	0	288
<b>Total</b>	873	1332	305	328	186	0	0	<b>3024</b>

## House Points this week.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Farley (BLUE)	246	316	71	69	56	0	0	758
Jennetts (YELLOW)	211	343	74	90	60	0	0	778
Swinley (RED)	194	280	90	96	42	0	0	702
Temple (GREEN)	222	393	70	73	28	0	0	786
<b>Total</b>	873	1332	305	328	186	0	0	3024



House  
Winners  
**Temple**



# Literacy

## Literacy Legend

Ms Wilhelmy : For being absolutely on it with apostrophes and comprehension!

Gina Millard: For correcting her use of where/were

## Word of the Week

### The what...

A key word will be selected from a scheme of work from each half term per subject. These key words will have been used in lessons and students will have seen them on knowledge organisers.

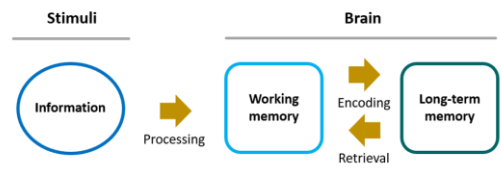


## Living Literacy

### The Why...

We want to test students' memory.

- Can they remember which key words were used in which subject?
- Can they remember which teacher introduced it/used it/praised them for it?



### How it works

In lessons:

Staff will have introduced key words in lessons. Students may have had a chance to pronounce the key word correctly themselves in lessons and may have even been rewarded for using it!

Each half term, students will be sent a Google Form. Their job is to match the key words with the correct subject.

We will collate results and measure the impact that the key words are having on students' learning.

### What we need from you

Please encourage Students to complete and send back the Google Form when they receive it.

If they have been successful, they will receive achievement points and a certificate.

Good luck!



## Do Good December

Do Good December 2020 :

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>

Daily actions to help you focus on what really matters:

### KINDNESS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	1 Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	5 Make a gift for someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one	8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	12 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	13 See how many different people you can smile at today
21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Give away something that you have been holding on to	19 Buy locally and support independent shops near you	20 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated
28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy	22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat
	29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2021	Let's look beyond our differences and help each other. Every act of kindness matters		

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**

Learn more about this month's theme at [www.actionforhappiness.org/do-good-december](https://www.actionforhappiness.org/do-good-december)

**#DoGoodDecember**

[www.actionforhappiness.org](https://www.actionforhappiness.org)

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

## Attendance

If the absence is in relation to coronavirus do not attend school if you have any of the following:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

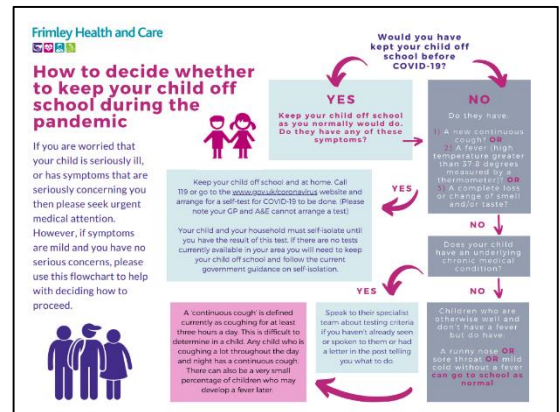
To find further guidance and advice you should take reference from relevant government and NHS guidance available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any issues that may be preventing regular attendance or causing lateness, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Mrs Silvey, Attendance Officer*



## Easy Fundraising

With [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) you collect free donations to your selected cause every time you shop. You can make a big difference on everything from groceries to getaways and it doesn't cost you a penny!

When you shop the easyfundraising way with one of their 3083 shops and sites they give easyfundraising a commission for your purchase which is turned into a donation for your selected good cause.

When you visit the website [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) - simply search for the retailer you want to shop with and click out to them using the green 'Go Shopping' button. You will be taken straight to the retailer's website and your experience will be identical as if you had gone there directly but easyfundraising will be able to track your purchase to ensure a donation for your good cause.

You can also install their Donation Reminder - this means a box will appear if you are shopping with a retailer who participates in the Donation Reminder and you don't even need to visit the easyfundraising site! All you need to do is click Activate Donations and any eligible purchase will be recorded for you. Take a look at the Donation Reminder [here](#). The Donation Reminder is supported by Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer and Safari but can't work on mobile phones or tablets.

Shopping on your mobile? No problem, for mobile phones and tablets there is the handy easyfundraising App, perfect if you like to shop on the go and available completely free of charge from your App store. Now you can not only shop using it but you can check out your own donation total and see how your cause is getting on too. More information can be found [here](#).

Don't forget to shop through [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to effortlessly help raise money for the school!



## Brakenhale School Lottery

### Congratulations to the most recent prize draw winners.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to our school lottery. We are continually looking to increase new members each month, so if you have not signed up yet now is your chance to do this.

There is a weekly draw in which you could win a prize (approximately £20 depending on participants, which increases the more members we have). Plus you have a weekly chance to win up to £25,000.

There is also a chance to win restaurant vouchers this summer.



Click on the link today and join up: [Support the Brakenhale Lottery](#) You have to be in it to win it.



**Vacancies**



- Performing Arts Teacher
- Senior Science Technician (Maternity)
- Maths / Economics Teacher
- Maths / Economics Graduate

Please visit our website for more details:  
<https://brakenhale.co.uk/about/vacancies/>

**Feedback Initiative**

We would encourage you to submit your views and feedback at any time, and we look forward to hearing from you regularly.

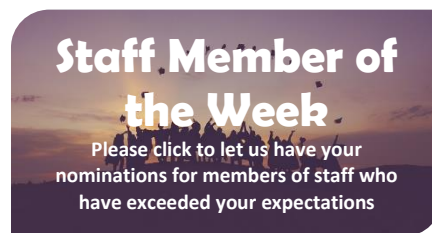
Electronic submission:



[Fab](#)



[Drab](#)



[Staff Member of the Week](#)

**Future Diary Dates**

\* Please note that all events may be subject to change

Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	<b>Additional Inset Day</b>

**CAN YOU HELP?**

**MISSING**



Loki is a young, ginger and white male cat. He went missing on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Please take 5 minutes to check your sheds and garages as he may be stuck. If found, please call Sandy 07789222489

## Term Dates

### Term Dates 2020-21

#### AUTUMN TERM 2020

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 **Inset Days**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Autumn Half Term - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Christmas Holiday: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

*(Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January Bank Holiday)*

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 **Additional Inset Day**

#### SPRING TERM 2021

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

**Spring Half Term - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Spring Holiday: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

*(Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Easter Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April)*

#### SUMMER TERM 2021

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Summer Half Term - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 **Inset Days**

**Summer Holiday: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**

**INSET Days** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

**Additional INSET Day** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

*Please check the school website regularly for current information.*

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates>



**#challengeforall**

Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7BA

☎ 01344 423041 ~ ✉ mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk ~ 🌐 www.brakenhale.co.uk

*High Expectations and Challenge*