



Brakenhale School Parent News

Parent News: Monday 13th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you well!

Further to my letter to you on Friday, this Parent News includes some reminders and notices that are worth sharing at this point in the year. Please do look through the next six pages and inform relevant members of staff / teams (or contact us by email on mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk) if there are any questions.

Some of you have contacted me since my letter and thank you for doing so. If I have not yet got back to you, I will do so shortly.

I've now been in post for two weeks and it's been great seeing our children returning after the summer break. I have been utterly impressed by the standards in the uniform; as I stand at the school gate each morning, they enter looking immaculate. If there is a uniform issue, please ensure to alert the respective Head of Year. The line-ups in the morning are adhered to meticulously and I can stand in the courtyards seeing hundreds of children walking to classrooms, in silence - wonderful to witness. As I have been walking the corridors and popping into classrooms, the calm environment is one that enables great learning to ensue. This is excellent to see and must be maintained. I've had an enjoyable first two weeks and long may this be the case!

In my letter, I mentioned the car park at the beginning and end of the day. To reiterate, I want to encourage parents / carers who drive to drop their child / children to school to not come into the car park. I appreciate that the closure of the Coningsby gate has meant all students now enter through the one entrance on Rectory Lane. However, this is deliberate. All students can be greeted at the same place and where their uniform can be corrected, if it isn't as it should be. I know some of you have already contacted the school but if there is a need for you to drop off your child / children for a mobility issue, for example, please email mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk to inform us. I am happy for this to be the case for a small number but the sheer volume of vehicles in and out of the gate must be lessened.

This Thursday (16th September) is our Open Evening for in-coming Year 6 families, for 2022/23. As a reminder, the school day will end at 2pm for all students. Friday is a normal school day so all students should be in line-up promptly. For Year 7 parents / carers, there is a 'Meet the Tutor' event later in the term where you will be able to see the building and Ms Douse / Mr Coley will be in touch about this. Please can I ask that you do not turn up on Thursday unless you have a child in Year 6. This is to manage the flow of people and avoid lengthy queues.

Also, later this half term, I will be holding three 'Meet the Headteacher' events after school. This will be an opportunity for you to come in and see me, and the school. Invites to these will be sent out at a future date. You will be able to book on for these and they are open to parents / carers of children in any year group.

I look forward to seeing you in person in due course and I will write to you again soon. We will not have a weekly 'Parents News' to avoid a repetition of notices time and again. My aim as the Headteacher of our wonderful school is to ensure that our children receive the best education as this opens doors and will accelerate their life chances. I look forward to working with you all to enable this.

Bhavin Tailor, Headteacher



School Reminders

Student Contact Information

Please ensure that you keep the school updated with any changes to your contact details, **especially** email addresses and mobile phone numbers.



We use schoolcomms messages to keep you updated on information regarding your students. If for any reason you are not receiving our messages, please call the school office and we will be happy help.

If we do not hold any email contacts for you, this will result in a delay to you receiving messages as paper copies will need to be sent home by post.

School Gateway App

This app provides you with the opportunity to be able to view your child's achievements and check their weekly timetable.



If you have any problems accessing information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Biometric

We use fingerprint scanning at school as a safe a secure way for students to take their books from the library and also to purchase their food from the canteen. If your child has not had their fingerprint taken, they can do this take by going to the Library during break or lunchtimes. They will need to have a consent form completed and signed before the fingerprints can be taken.



Please contact the school office for more information.

ParentPay

ParentPay is the easiest way to make payments for your son/daughter's lunch money and any trips your child will be attending. If you do not currently have a login for ParentPay, please contact the school office who will be able issue you with details. If you are experiencing any problems with your account, please contact us.



Please ensure that sufficient money is added to your child's dinner money account and accounts are kept in credit to enable students to purchase their food.

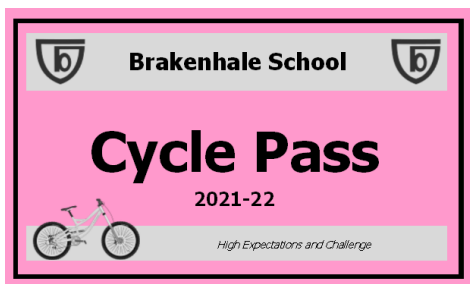
Cycling to School

Student safety is really important to us.

Can we please remind parents that to cycle or scooter to school students need a permit and compulsory helmet.

Can parents please keep reinforcing the message and remind students that the helmet must be worn securely and has to be put on before they leave the bike area at the end of the school day. Students must also dismount their cycle on entering the school site and walk them to the cycle sheds.

Please note that electric scooters are not allowed in school.



Successful Young Writers

Mrs Lewis, English Teacher

Before the Summer, students had an opportunity to write their own short story as part of an outside writing competition with Young Writers. I would like to congratulate the following students for taking part and successfully being chosen for publication. A massive well done to you!

Poem Title	Child's Name
Smultrostalle	Aleena Hussain
The Only Thing We Can Do	Chloe Farr
Truth Or Death?	India Lenarduzzi

These stories, along with previous successful young writers, are displayed in the English corridor, next to F10. Come and read them and be amazed by the talent we have here at Brakenhale.

Keep a look out for other writing opportunities that will come out throughout the year as well as reading challenges too. Remember nothing is as expensive as a missed opportunity.

Identity monthly meets

Identity is a club that welcomes all. We meet each month. However, you can come to see us at any time - for a catch up, to discuss something that has been bothering you, to bring something to our attention, to ask questions.

If you haven't heard of us before, Identity is a group run by Mrs Lewis and Miss Bunkell.

You can find Mrs Lewis in F10 and Miss Bunkell in S01 and Identity meets in F10.

Anyone is welcome to attend, if you are LGBTQ+ or a friend of the community.



Next meets in F10:

- Friday 24th September 3.05-3.35pm (Week A)
- Friday 22nd October 3.05-3.35pm (Week A)

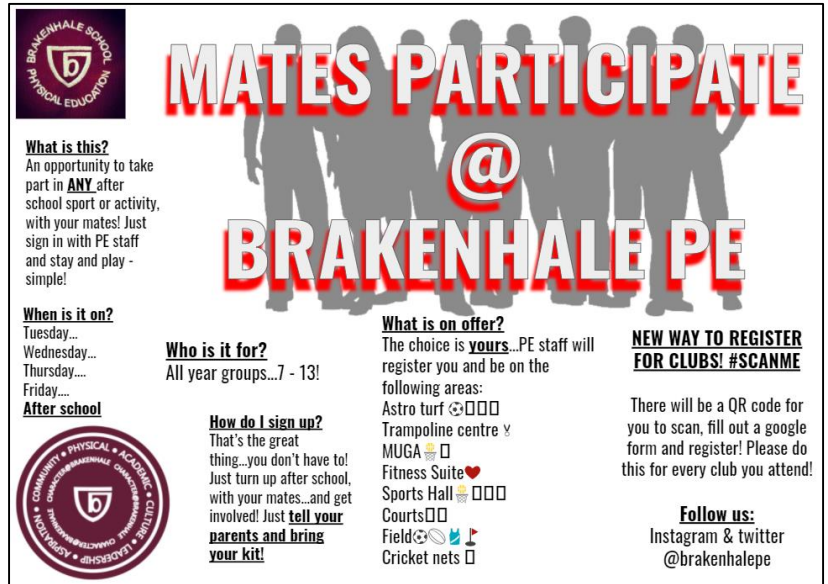
PE Update

Mr Potter, Head of PE

Mr Maye, Second in PE

Welcome back to PE @ Brakenhale! I all hope you have summered well and are looking forward to getting back to being physically active and engaged in the subject. The staff team and I are looking forward to getting pupils back into our lessons and seeing them active in our new after school sessions, but more on that in a minute.

We welcome the addition of Mr Collins to PE this year and some of you will be taught by him. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of teaching PE down in Australia, so we are looking forward to learning a few things from him as well.



What is this?
An opportunity to take part in **ANY** after school sport or activity, with your mates! Just sign in with PE staff and stay and play - simple!

When is it on?
Tuesday...
Wednesday...
Thursday...
Friday...
After school!

Who is it for?
All year groups...7 - 13!

What is on offer?
The choice is **yours**...PE staff will register you and be on the following areas:
Astro turf ☀️📏
Trampoline centre 📏
MUGA 📏
Fitness Suite ❤️
Sports Hall 📏
Courts📏
Field📏📏📏
Cricket nets 📏

NEW WAY TO REGISTER FOR CLUBS! #SCANME
There will be a QR code for you to scan, fill out a google form and register! Please do this for every club you attend!

How do I sign up?
That's the great thing...you don't have to! Just turn up after school, with your mates...and get involved! Just **tell your parents and bring your kit!**

Follow us:
Instagram & twitter @brakenhalepe

After school activities will look different this year....we are proud to announce our new **MATES PARTICIPATE** strategy. We want you to be active and engaged with your mates after school, as this is the best way to stay fit and keep active! So, if you want to come down and play basketball with your buds, or have a session in the fitness suite with your friends, then do it, we welcome you! Tell your parents, bring your kit, sign in with PE staff and do it! This will be the week beginning Monday 20th September.



PE KIT

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO NAME ALL YOUR PE KIT, BELONGINGS AND BAG!

Please hand in all lost property to Mrs McCrorie in the book room/LRC - First floor. Thank you.

High Expectations and Challenge #teambrokenhale

We also look forward to the return of school fixtures, we have some rugby coming up so maybe some of you boys will want to get out and train ready for those, in our MATES PARTICIPATE clubs after school!

Our usual high standards will be expected in PE, especially with PE kit so please read the bits along with this and make sure you are organised.

If you have any questions or queries regarding PE, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Upcoming Fixtures

- Year 9 Boys Football
 - English Schools FA Cup - (Home)
 - Brakenhale School vs The Winston Churchill School

School Dining Hall

Taz Asran, Chef Manager - kitchen@brakenhale.co.uk

The School Dining Hall is open daily for all students as follows:

- 7.45 - 8.30** Breakfast which includes:
Fresh Fruit / Yoghurt bar / Cereals / Bacon or Sausage Rolls / Danish Pastries / Hot Chocolate
- 10.00 – 11.30** Break-time (staggered)
- 12.30 – 2.00** Lunch-time (staggered)
- 3.05:** Any unsold food may be purchased at half price by cash or account

Sample menus are available on our website in the [Parent Zone](#)

There is a 3 week menu rotation. Please note, due to delivery issues that are being faced nationally, we may encounter delays to some products. If so, there may be slight alterations to menus

Next week will be week 2.

Free School Meals

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.

[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.



Brakenhale School



CANTEEN PRICE LIST 2021/2022



	Price	
	Regular	Large
MEALS		
Main Meal	£2.10	*
Meal Deal (main meal + drink or pudding)	£2.50	*
Soup of the Day	£1.10	
Soup with Bread Roll	£1.30	
Jacket Potato + 1 Filling	£1.50	
Jacket Potato + 2 Fillings	£2.00	
Salad Pot	£1.25	£2.00
Pasta King	£1.30	£2.00
Yoghurt Bar	£1.25	£2.00
Fruit Salad / Cold Dessert / Jelly Pot	£1.00	
Hot Pudding	£0.80	
SNACKS		
Pizza	£1.25	
Paninis	£1.80	
Beef / Chicken / Veggie Burger	£1.60	
Hot Wraps	£1.60	
Chicken Nuggets / Popcorn	£1.60	
Hot Dogs	£1.60	
Lamb Kebabs	£1.60	
Bagels	£1.60	
Chicken Wings Pot	£1.60	
Potato Wedges	£0.80	
Waffles	£0.60	
Cookies	£0.50	
DRINKS		
Cold Drinks Range	From	£0.50 to £0.80
Hot Drinks		£1.00
Frutina Slushie		£0.80 £1.00
Ice Cream / Lollies		£0.50

* Please note that the price of the main meal and meal deal will be increasing to £2.20 and £2.60 from 1st November 2021

Brakenhale School Lottery

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](https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play)

You have to be in it to win it.







Action for Happiness

Find out more information here : <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>

Self Care September 2021

Self-care isn't selfish, it's essential. No-one's perfect. But so often we compare our insides to other people's outsides. This month we're encouraging everyone to be kinder to themselves (as well as others), especially when things go wrong. Self-care increases our resilience and helps us get more out of life. It also helps us accept others as they are too.

Self-Care September 2021

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly	4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes
6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'	8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok	11 Make time to do something you really enjoy	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	
13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one	14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break	15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgment	18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you	19 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself	
20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories	21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside	22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love	25 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	26 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing	
27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn	29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



- HR Officer / Headteacher's PA
- Teaching Assistant
- Cleaner

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

Term Dates

Please find below our updated Term Dates for this academic year 2021/22. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee falls during the Summer half-term and all schools have therefore been allocated an additional day's holiday in celebration of it. This additional holiday day will be on Monday 21st February, 2022 added onto the Spring half-term.

Term Dates 2021-22

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Monday 6th September - Friday 17th December 2021

Autumn Half Term - Monday 25th to Friday 29th October 2021

Christmas Holiday: Monday 20th December 2021 to Monday 3rd January 2022

SPRING TERM 2022

Tuesday 4th January – Friday 1st April 2022

Spring Half Term - Monday 14th February to Monday 21st February 2022 (including additional day's holiday in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (during summer half term))

Spring Holiday: Monday 4th to Monday 18th April 2022

(Good Friday 15th April, Easter Monday 18th April)

SUMMER TERM 2022

Tuesday 19th April – Tuesday 19th July 2022

Summer Half Term - Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022 (including extended bank holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee)

Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd July 2022 **Inset Days**

Summer Holiday: Wednesday 20th July 2022

(May Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022)

INSET Days Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd September 2021
 Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd July 2022

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>



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