

19 October 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's report
Autumn Term – October 2011

It hardly seems possible that we are nearly at half-term! Staff and pupils returned after the summer holidays and quickly settled into new classes, routines and challenges. Some pupils noticed the new windows and doors that were fitted during the Summer break and most noticed the newly decorated school halls that now look much brighter and bigger! Hopefully all the pupils in the primary school will feel warmer this winter as the heating system has also been replaced. Sadly the 6th form patio canopy that was erected, has failed to meet building regulations, and will need more work.

The refurbishment of the Badger building is nearly complete and will be in use after half term. The reconfiguration of rooms includes a fantastic new 'After School Club' area with kitchen and toilets. Also a training room for both staff and parents, a staffroom and a quiet staff working room. I am delighted with the work and the difference it has made.

However, having received 'Outstanding' from Ofsted last September (2010) Brookfields has not reduced its commitment to providing the very best personalized education for all pupils.

Having introduced social skills into the Key Stage 3 curriculum, the staff and pupils followed new programmes and schemes of work jointly written by school staff and Alex Kelly (Consultant Speech and Language Therapist). Students worked on social skills, self esteem and friendship skills. Baseline data was collected at the start of the year and by July, having reassessed the pupils, it was clear that an enormous amount of progress had been made.

Well done to Sandra Boardman – English Co-ordinator, Miriam Gulliford – Speech and Language Therapist, all staff who delivered the programme and to Maggie Fray who tirelessly made numerous resources to support the weekly delivery.

We have just received a certificate declaring Brookfields to be a "Centre of Excellence in developing Social Skills"!

We are also delighted to inform you that Brookfields School was awarded the FMSIS (Financial Management Systems in Schools) during the summer holidays. Many congratulations to the staff and Governors involved in the considerable additional work required. Particular thanks to Andrew Brown and Julie Kennett for completing all the elements for assessment.

At the beginning of this term we heard from the SSA Trust (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) that Brookfields School has been awarded the 'Research Charter Mark' at extending level. Congratulations to Jen Angelini who worked incredibly hard to compile an extremely impressive portfolio of evidence, video and data to support her research. Indeed some of her submissions have already been used in local and national training sessions.

Jen and the School will receive the Award on 1st December 2011 at the National Conference.

School Calendars 2012 are now on sale at £5.00 each. Many of your sons and daughters feature during the year. An excellent Christmas present!

The shopping evening was held on Friday and although not as well attended as last year, it was an amazing success raising much needed funds for school. Many thanks to P.T.A. for all their efforts and very hard work especially Kerrie Flint.

Other events this half term have been the Harvest Festivals. Many of you attended these excellent sessions where we celebrated Harvest and recognized achievements from the school garden and horticulture lessons. Well done to David Quinnell and Jane Stokes for organizing these.

Finally we were treated to a performance of MacBeth by the Dolphin School from Twyford. The pupils in the secondary school watched in amazement as the play was delivered in a very dramatic manner.

Fundraising for the outdoor classroom in Early Years continues and we are gradually reaching our goal so that work can begin.

I hope you all have a very pleasant half term break and just a reminder pupils return on Tuesday, 1st November.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Headland
Headteacher