

A U T U M N T E R M 2 2 0 2 2

NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

What a term it has been! We have been working very hard here at Brick Lane School to ensure your child is safe and happy. Although we have had a few changes they have all been very positively and warmly welcomed by all. It has been equally rewarding for all of us though.

It has also been an immense pleasure getting to know you parents a little more since September and I am grateful for your ongoing support.

This term we have welcomed Ms Ali in Greenwich class and Ms Greene has been a lovely addition to the admin team.

We have recruited 2 Teachers both starting in January Mr Mason teaching English and Mrs Zullo-Avila teaching ICT, Performing Arts and Art. We appointed and await starting dates for a Kitchen Assistant and one Teaching Assistant.

We are currently recruiting for an Occupational Therapist. So, onwards and upwards.

I wish all of you a calm and blissful Christmas break and here is to a joyous New Year!

Mr De Vecchi
Headteacher

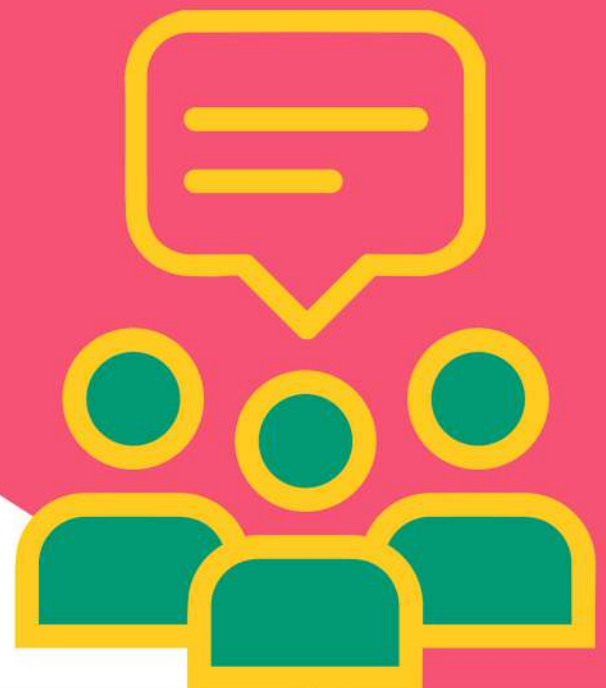
OptionsAutism

CHANGES TO THE LUNCH MENU



We would love to make some changes to the menu we offer at Brick Lane School for after the February half-term! I have already planned to add Cottage Pie and some curry dishes but we would like your suggestions too!

Please email:
donna.stroude-ademokoya@bricklaneschool.co.uk
with any suggestions for new items your child would like as well as any feedback about the current menu. If you or your child have any questions, please get in touch!

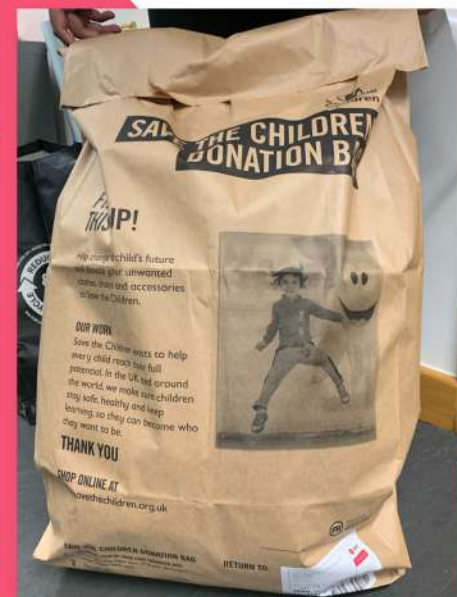


CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

It was so lovely to see so many staff and students wearing Christmas Jumpers on the 8th December!!

A big thank you to everyone who donated, as a school we raised £50 for Save the Children, a charity dedicated to making sure children are fed, educated and looked after.

We also had a donation bag of clothes that will be sent to the charity directly, and Andrew's mum filled it to the brim! We really do appreciate families supporting the charitable events we do in school so please keep an eye out for any future events taking place!



WELCOME TO GREENWICH CLASS!

Mrs Buckley and Miss Ali are delighted to have Greenwich Class join us at Brick Lane School! We are the first primary class to start here and we have been having lots of fun with our learning ever since Day 1.

In Maths, we have been practicing our addition and subtraction skill using part/whole models. We also went on a shape scavenger hunt around the school to learn more about 2D and 3D shapes.

In English lessons, we have learned about different buildings around the world and designed our dream homes. We were really inspired by books like "Iggy Peck, Architect" when we worked on this.

In Science we have been investigating how we can create and change shadows using light sources, and in Humanities we have learned about where and when different buildings are.

One of our favourite sessions is Enrichment and this half term we have focused on how we can look after ourselves, our community and our environment. We made bird feeders, bug hotels, and tried lots of different healthy foods.



CELEBRATING OUR STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

We would like to take the time to celebrate the achievements of Mrs Islam.

Mrs Islam has been recognised by British Vogue as one of the 'Top 25 most Influential Women of the Year' for her work in promoting and campaigning for Women's Rights.

Mrs Islam was also invited to meet the Queen Consort at Buckingham Palace as part of Camilla's '16 days of activism against gender-based violence'

We are all immensely proud of your achievements!



CLINICAL SUPPORT FOR CHRISTMAS TIME

The holidays are a time for families to create memories and enjoy time with one another. However, for some families, the holidays are stressful and overwhelming. The holidays can become overwhelming for children with autism if they are in large crowds, see/smell unfamiliar foods, or have an increase of social interactions, changes in routine, and environmental changes. Here are some ways to reduce stress and support children and their families during the holidays.

- **Communication: It's okay to tell extended families and friends no. It is also okay to have boundaries. Be clear about your child's needs and limits.**

- **Create a plan to take a break: If you are attending a family member's home you can ask them to use a room or quiet area so that your child/ young person can decompress. If you are in your own home, provide your child with that time to slow down and create balance for themselves. During this time, you can take deep breaths with your child. You can also provide a sensory fidget or suggest drawing or reading.**

- **Prepare before the events: You can prepare your child for upcoming family events by using social stories, giving your child or young person information. You can bring them their favorite foods if they have a specific diet. If your family members are hosting, you can ask them what foods will be on the menu. Prior to the event you can make a mock menu at home to try.**

- **Use your school / no school calendar to keep track of the days.**

Happy Holidays!

GLOBAL STUDIES AT BRICK LANE SCHOOL



In Global Studies this term, Year 7 have been studying the Middle Ages. We have covered the Battles of Hastings, life under Norman control, Robin Hood and the Black Death.

In Regents class we made Motte and Bailey castles just like the Normans built when they conquered England. Students used a combination of cardboard, paint and lollypop sticks to create their amazing castles.



In Olympic class we have discussed whether William was a successful King and learnt about the Feudal system that he put in place to keep control of the country. We have also compared the causes, transmission and response to The Black Death and Covid 19.



REGENTS CLASS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Regents class made some lovely decorations for our school Christmas tree in the dining hall



CLINICAL WORKSHOP – JANUARY

Please see below details for the Clinical Workshop being offered for parents in January. More information will be shared closer to the date:

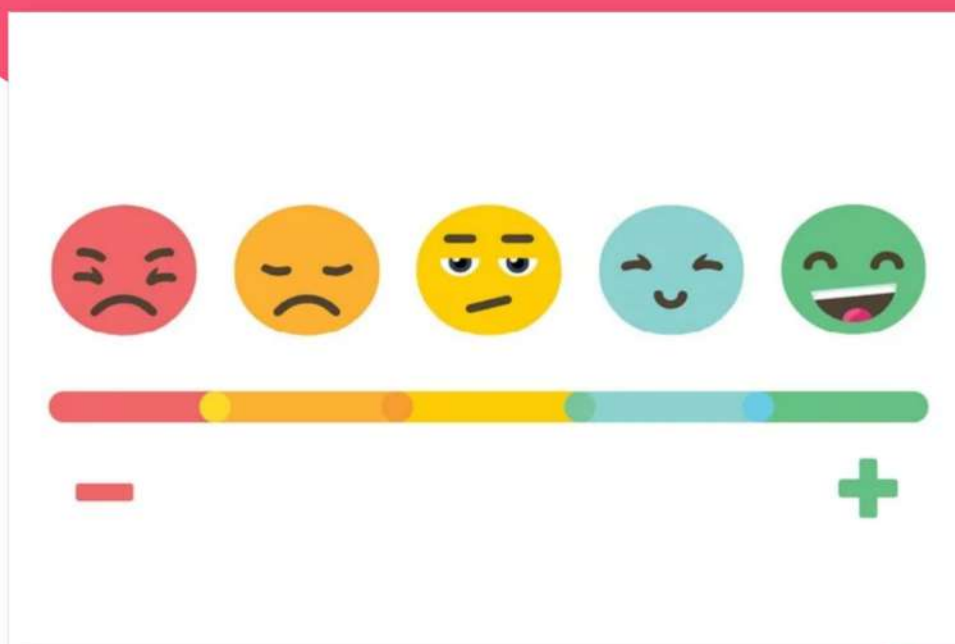
Bring It Home: Zones and dealing with big feelings

Where: Brick Lane School

When: January 10th at 10am

Who: Shana Toner, Speech and Language Therapist

What: Understanding big feelings and the best ways to support self-regulation at home.



PSHE LESSONS AT BRICK LANE SCHOOL

In PSHE Olympic class have been looking at healthy lifestyles, harmful substances and addiction. Olympic class have done some excellent work around this topic and have lots of knowledge. I am really proud of the mature way that Olympic Class have approached lessons about smoking, vaping, alcohol and drugs.



Regents class have been learning about personal hygiene and harmful substances. Some brave students allowed Dr Blackmore to have a look at their teeth. Some students also acted as a dentist to check my teeth.

Going forward, the focus of our humanities lessons in Year 7 will be the local area. We will be planning a walking tour route around Brick Lane which we will follow in the last lesson of the term.



The aim is to develop the students' skills of being in the community and travelling.

If you have any questions, please email victoria.blackmore@bricklaneschool.co.uk

We have carried out a pupils' survey in November and although a few improvements are needed, the answers were very positive.

Pupils are happy at Brick Lane school; they feel safe and believe the Teachers help them to do their best.

Most importantly, pupils enjoy being at Brick Lane School.

A few actions for us are:

- Ensure all pupils have and know who their trusted adult is
- Set up a school council
- Ensure lessons are dynamic and challenge all pupils to achieve their very best.

Thank you for all your responses. Your voice makes the school a better place.

We have also carried out a parents survey and although only 4 parents replied the answers were also quite positive. A more detailed publication of the results will be sent out to all parents shortly but here is a summary:

The majority believe their child is happy at this school and all believe they are safe here. Parents believe the school deals with bullying quickly and effectively. Parents also replied that school dealt with their concerns properly whenever they were raised. Comments from parents included *'My son is very happy at this school, he is excited to tell me about what he has learnt each day'* *'BLS is a treasure'*.

A few actions for us are:

- Ensure the curriculum is shared with all parents
- Improve communication with parents

Thank you for your responses and feel free to reach out at any point, not only during surveys.

BRICK LANE'S BAKE OFF

This term we've been practicing our baking skills and we have perfected them by following different recipes leading up to the first ever Brick Lane's Bake Off.

The pupils chose the judges and ensured they signed a contract swearing to be unbiased and honest! It was a challenge on texture, taste and presentation.

Parents also got a taste of it and really enjoyed seeing the product of their child's efforts.

It was a very difficult decision for the judges but they have chosen the baked treat made by Courtney as the winner.



Well done everyone, the treats were absolutely delicious!

Important Dates 2022/2023

**Wednesday 21st December - Tuesday 3rd January -
Christmas holidays**

**Wednesday 4th January - Friday 10th February - Spring
Term 1**

Tuesday 10th January - Parent Workshop (Therapy)

**Tuesday 24th January - Parent Workshop
(Safeguarding/Pastoral)**

Monday 13th - Friday 17th February - Half Term

**Monday 20th February - Friday 31st March - Spring
Term 2**

Tuesday 14th March - Coffee Morning

Friday 17th March - Staff Development Day

Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 17th April - Friday 26th May - Summer Term 1

Friday 21st April - Eid-Al-Fitr (School Closed)

Tuesday 25th April - Coffee Morning

Monday 1st May - Mayday (School Closed)

Tuesday 2nd May - Parent Workshop (Therapy)

Monday 29th April - Friday 2nd June - Half Term

Monday 5th June - Friday 21st July - Summer Term 2

Tuesday 13th June - Coffee Morning

Thursday 29th June - Eid-Al-Adha (School Closed)