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Head teacher: Mrs Sarah-Jane Whiteside, **Bed (Hons)**

Dear Parents/ carers,

As we have welcomed a large number of new families to Brookfield Park this year, I am writing with a few reminders about items being brought into school.

Football Cards

Football cards seem to have made a come back and whilst the idea of card trading is a good one in theory, it has once again started to cause problems and is wasting valuable teaching time for the staff who are dealing with lost cards, upset children and parents angry at the staff for children's cards going missing. They should not be brought into school for these reasons and if parents send them in knowing this then please be aware that we are not responsible for their loss and if they are seen will be confiscated. However, Mr Corbett is happy to run a trading card club to give the children an opportunity to trade cards with an adult around. Mr Corbett will be in touch with more details about this and information about exactly where they should be kept during the day that the club is on.

Mobile Phones

Children may bring a phone into school if they need it for contacting parents after school or for safety reasons when travelling home, however this is just a reminder that phones must be given to your child's teacher during the day, in order to prevent them from becoming a distraction from their learning. Although every effort will be made to keep mobile phones safe, school cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage of any phones brought into school so please bear this in mind if sending in expensive phones. If your child is caught using their phone during the day or deliberately concealing it in their bag it will be confiscated and may be collected by parents or other another adult from the school office, at the end of the day, a message will be sent to parents in this event.

Toys (including fidget toys)

Only those children with a specific care plan for medical reasons will be allowed to have fidget toys in school, this includes brining in blue tack etc. Their use will have been advised by a medical practitioner and will be provided by the school, therefore these toys will not need to be brought into school for any reason.

Other toys, as has always been the case, are also not permitted in school as they can be an unnecessary distraction from learning. Items brought in for show and tell will be directed by specific teachers on specific days.

Stationary/pencil cases

School will provide all necessary equipment which means that pencil cases and other stationary are unnecessary and only serve to distract children.

Water bottles

Very large bottles and especially metal ones are completely unsuitable because of their weight when filled with water. Please make sure water bottles are around 20cm tall and are

plain (without squirters or other attachments) and made of a clear material. They must contain only water. Remember appropriate bottles can be purchased at school for £1.50 If your child brings in an unsuitable bottle as described above, they will be asked not to bring it in again.

Snacks

Please remember that appropriate snacks for children in KS2 are cereal bars or fruit and that children will not eat their snacks anywhere other than the specific area on the playground, this is because we have a child in KS2 with severe allergies to many foods including nuts and fruit and a number of other children with nut allergies.

Book Bags and School bags

As we now have lockers which offer much safer and tidier storage for children's belongings, it is even more important that children do not bring large ruck sacks into school. PE kits and swimming kits seem to be coming to school in very large bags containing lots of other, unnecessary items. We are looking into selling the small drawstring bags for PE and swimming kits but this type of bag is widely available from shops, they are very cheap and much easier to fit into lockers. It is still necessary for each child to bring in a small bag or book bag to carry reading books and homework books and any important documents to and from school but these will be stored in the classroom. We have the purple book bags available to purchase from school at a price of £5.00.

Thankyou for your continued support in this,
Yours Sincerely,

Sarah-Jane Whiteside

(Headteacher)