



OPPORTUNITY WITH DIGNITY

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Merja Paakkonen
Head Teacher

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As spring is round the corner it looks as though we are going to finish the winter season without any snow days. It has been an unusually wet winter which I'm sure we all hope will result in a dry, sunny spring. Thank you for your patience and co-operation in sending lots of spare clothes for our little ones who have, despite wearing waterproofs and wellies, got very wet when playing outside. It's important that the students go out for their breaks to socialise with students other than their immediate class friends, to benefit from fresh air and to experience different physical challenges.

We have said farewell to Sophie from Class 3 who has moved to another school. Alex, from Class 2, will move from Hertfordshire during the half term so his last day at Breakspeare is this Friday. We wish Alex, Sophie and their families every happiness as they begin another phase of their lives, both students started their school career with us. I would like to welcome Safa to Class 3 and Oliver who will start in Class 2 after half term. Our thoughts are with Sofia from Class 6, and her family. Sofia has been in Great Ormond Street Hospital for a considerable period of time. She is now on the mend but it will be a while before she can return to school.

Our learning support assistant Mark has made a fantastic recovery and is back at work in Class 7. This is brilliant! We will say goodbye to Kirsty, one of our learning support assistants from Class 2, as she moves to work in her neighbourhood school at the end of this month. We are currently recruiting for this coming vacancy. Rebecca will start as a new lunch time support assistant after half term. Nyree O'Brien has been appointed to our governing body as a co-opted governor. Welcome Nyree to our active governing body.

Just a couple of reminders:-

- Regular and punctual attendance is a legal requirement for pupils registered at schools. Please remember to inform the school office about your child's absences. We cannot take messages from the transport team. Absences are authorised only for medical reasons or for very exceptional circumstances.
- Please register on Schools Gateway to pay dinner monies and any other payments electronically to school. Our admin team is happy to help with any difficulties you are having. Just give them a call. We already have a significant number of parents who are registered to this service. The feedback from those parents is positive and the use of Gateway makes our admin procedures more effective. Visit the website: www.schoolgateway.com
- Our governing body has agreed a Debt Policy to the school. Our admin team informs parents and carers about procedures relating to outstanding payments to school. In order to ensure that we are able to carry out financial transactions timely it is very important that parents and carers pay, for example, dinner monies punctually to school. Unpaid dinner monies cause the school to be in debt to Herts Catering. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Lastly but not least I would like to encourage you to explore our new website. <http://www.breakspeare.herts.sch.uk/> please follow our 'News' and 'Calendar' sections on our website as they are updated regularly. In the future the PSA newsletter will be focusing purely on PSA matters as class activities will be updated on our website.

Wishing you all a great half term!
Merja

