



Speech, Language & Communication

As you may know, we are aiming to open our speech and language unit in September 2015. This will provide dedicated support to children with speech and language needs. As part of this development, as a school, we are working hard to improve our general practice in the area of speech and language and working to gain the 'I Can' accreditation. On the reverse of this newsletter are some ideas to support you at home and to help develop your child's speech and language. By using similar techniques both at home and in school, we can work better in partnership to make all of our pupils confident and able communicators.

Open Class Morning

Thanks to all parents who joined us for our Open Class Morning on Wed 26th Nov. These events are a chance for parents to come to see the school in action, including being in class and seeing what goes on. Further thanks for all the feedback given which helps us to get better at what we provide for our pupils.

Social Media

Some of you already know that the best way to keep up-to-date with what's going on at Brunel is by following us on Twitter (details above) or by checking the updates on our website.



In the near future, we'll also be launching our school Facebook account which will aim to offer another way to keep up-to-date with what's going on. We'll let you know as soon as it's up and running...



Handwriting workshop

Thanks to all parents who attended the handwriting workshop recently. Improving our handwriting continues to be a major focus for the school and it was great to be supported by so many parents.

Children In Need Superheroes

Well done to all who took part in this year's Children In Need fundraiser. We raised £171 for Children In Need. Thanks to School Council for their part in organising the day.

Uniform Exchange on Dec 15th

Parent Corann Malcolm is kindly organising another uniform exchange event on Dec 15th. Volunteers to help are needed so please contact the school office if you are willing to help out.

Stars In Our Schools

Today is 'Stars in our schools' day, a UNISON-backed national event to celebrate the role support and non-teaching staff play. We are lucky to have a fantastic team of support staff at Brunel who do their best to help our pupils achieve their very best. One of our team, Sasha Sweet, was profiled by Ark Schools and talks about how the role has changed over the years.

Read more at

<http://arkschools.org/news/stars-our-schools-teaching-assistant>

Y6 Boys Football Team – Invincibles?

Our Y6 boys team continued their unbeaten start to the season with another three victories this week. Keep it up, boys.

Newsletters by email?

We are considering moving towards sending newsletters by email in the near future. This would be convenient for lots of parents who would prefer to read the newsletter on their phone, tablet or computer. In addition, we could cut down on our paper usage. Don't worry though - a paper version would continue to be available for parents who requested one. We'll let you know if and when any changes occur...

Brunel at Spurs

Congratulations to Ellie and King who were chosen to be mascots at last night's European game at White Hart Lane, the home of Tottenham Hotspur. They were awarded this honour after explaining that they were keen sportspeople who recognised the hard work needed to succeed in sports.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

How can we tell that you are happy? What do you do?

How would you describe yourself to someone who hasn't met you?

If you could be any type of sandwich what would you be and why?

What is your favourite thing to do outside and why?

If you could be anywhere right now where would you be? What would you be doing?

What is your favourite animal? Why?

What was the best dream you ever had?

If you could have any animal for a pet which one would you choose

If you could have any "super-hero" power, what would you have?

If you joined the circus, who would you like to be? What act would you do?

If you could make three wishes, what would they be?

What is your favourite smell? What is the yuckiest thing you've ever smelled?

If you could be any animal which one would you be?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

What would you do with a million pounds?

What is the best gift that you ever received? What made it special?

What is your favourite outfit? What do you like about it?

What is the most exciting story you have ever read?

What is the coolest thing you have ever seen?

What would you like to learn to do?

What should we do more of as a family?

What do you enjoy doing with your family?

What would you do if you had no TV?

THIS WEEK'S TOP TIPS

1. Does your child use the same words again and again? Offering them new and exciting words will broaden their vocabulary and improve their talking skills.
2. Why don't you try the **'My Turn, Your Turn'** approach. If your child's sentence does not make sense, model how it should be said and ask them to repeat it (remember, praise, praise, praise!)
3. When you are home talking, can you help your child practise taking turns? They should be confident in being the both **speaker** and the **listener** in one conversation (sometimes it's hard not to talk over others!)
4. If possible, encourage children to look at the person speaking. This will help them read different facial expressions and ensure they understand what has been said.
5. When you are talking encourage children to ask questions. This will help them fully understand what is being said. Can they use: **Who? What? Where? When? How? Why?**

