

## BIGLAND GREEN AMONGST THE TOP SCHOOLS IN BRITAIN

The Sunday Times guide to Britain's best schools (published on 5 December 2021) have included Bigland Green Primary amongst the top schools in the country. This is a great achievement and a credit to the hard-work and determination of the pupils, staff members, parents and governors.



The Director of Education, Steve Nyakatawa sent a message congratulating everyone in the school community for the achievement.

## NUMBOTS FOR YEAR 1 & 2 PUPILS

We have a new initiative to support our pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 with their understanding of number facts. The school has provided pupils with their own login for 'NumBots'. NumBots is all about understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that pupils move from counting to calculating. You can access NumBots using the following link:

<https://play.numbots.com/#/account/school-login/117576>

## STICKY QUESTIONS

Have you been supporting your child to discuss their sticky questions? Every child from Reception to Year 6 receives a weekly question on a sticker - but what really makes them sticky is you can keep on debating about them. Try to ask your child questions such as:

- Can you say why?
- Can you say more?
- What do you mean?
- Can you give an example?
- Why is that important?



## AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS & LEARNING MINDS

Parents are reminded the last day for clubs and Learning Minds is Friday 10 December. There are no after-school clubs or Learning Minds sessions from next week. Thank you to all parents and children who have been involved this term.

## ATTENDANCE: 29 NOV to 3 DECEMBER

Good attendance is 97% and above. Anything below needs improving. How is your child's class doing?

Sunflower	85%
Daffodil	93%
Honeysuckle	89%
Geranium	98%
Tulip	93%
Crocus	94%
Violets	95%
Orchid	94%
	Very Good
	Good

Lavender	82%
Bluebell	92%
Camellia	94%
Rose	92%
Ivy	94%
Hydrangea	98%
Hyacinth	95%
Poppy	98%
	Needs Improving
	Poor

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, then kindly telephone the school office or leave a message on parent hub before 9.30AM. Thank you to all the parents who are doing this already.

## END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Below are key dates for your diary as we move toward the end of the term and the calendar year.

13-15 December	Orchid class to Gorsefield
15-17 December	Poppy class to Gorsefield
15 December	Children's Xmas lunch
17 December	Bright Minds, Learning Minds and Life Skills for Yr4 & Yr5 breakfast in the morning from 8:00 AM - no late admissions.
20 December	Class Treats -regrettably, we cannot accept any donation of food/drink nor will we be able to invite parents to the class treats this term.
21 December	Winning House Team treats
	Last day of term - children finish school at 2:00 PM

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AT SCHOOL

The school has received strong support for parents to ensure that everyone at school are safe in terms of Coronavirus/Omicron. If there is evidence that the safety of pupils is at risk, then the school is doing LFD (lateral flow devices) to the whole class in KS2. If you do not want your child tested, then kindly inform the school in writing. Thank you again for your support and cooperation in these difficult times.

## BRIGHT MINDS AND LIFE SKILLS BREAKFAST

The children have had a fantastic autumn term and we are pleased that Bright Minds and Life Skills are helping to ensure that children continue to make good progress and achieve.

Year 6 were very pleased to tuck into their Bright Minds Breakfast on Friday 10 December:



## GORSEFIELD & BRIGHTMINDS

Please note that as Year 6 are in Gorsefield next week, there will be no Bright Minds next week for Year 6. However, pupils in Year 4, 5 and Life Skills will continue with Bright Minds next week and are looking forward to their breakfast on Friday 17 December at 8:00AM.

This will also be the last day of Bright Minds for children in Year 4, 5 and Life Skills.

The first day back for Bright Minds, for the spring term will be Wednesday 5 January at 8AM.

## EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

We are receiving a high volume of leave of absence requests. This is just a reminder that we are not obliged to agree to leave during term time and parents/carers are expected to organise family holidays during school holiday period. As a result, most of the absences requested will be unauthorised. Parents must apply for extended leave at least **10 days** before the proposed date of leave.

## GENTLE REMINDER

A reminder that teachers are not allowed to have conversations at the door. If you need to speak to the class teacher, kindly request a phone via email. Thank you for your continued support.

## NEW LOOK SCHOOL BAG

The school has ordered new look school bags which should be available to purchase from mid-January 2022. Your child will still be able to use the old style book bag but only rucksacks will be available to purchase from January onwards.

Junior Bag (EY/KS1): £10

Senior Bag (KS2): £12



Bottle not included\*

## SCHOOL OFFICE/MAIN RECEPTION

Due to current circumstances, the school office will temporarily have a barrier in place until further notice. This means that late children will wait behind the barrier to avoid congestion in the reception while staff take them into school. Parents cannot pass the barrier unless told otherwise.

Please use the following table to help guide you on how to contact the office. Thank you.

QUERY	HOW TO CONTACT	WHERE TO CONTACT
General queries and concerns	Email/call	<a href="mailto:admin@biglandgreen.towerhampstead.sch.uk">admin@biglandgreen.towerhampstead.sch.uk</a>
Arranging a telephone consultation with a teacher	Email/call	
Reporting absences	Call/Leave message/email /absence reporting form	020 7702 7088
Arranging alternative pick-up	Call	
Urgent matters	Call	

Idiom of the Week

'Different kettle of fish'

Something completely different