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# Newsletter 9

## 10th November 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another sporting week this week. Y5/6 boys and girls competed in a football tournament and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. As a result of their teamwork, boys won a silver medal, winning 4 matches out of 7. Girls came joint third, winning 3 matches out of 6. Well done to all involved!

In other news, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November is World Children's Day. Every year all Rights Respecting Schools take part in a special campaign to promote children's rights around the world. The focus this year is on helping unaccompanied child refugees and the campaign mascot is Paddington Bear. Our children have been learning about this over the past few weeks in assemblies and special class activities. In addition, we will be holding a special event to mark World Children's Day on 20<sup>th</sup> November. This will involve Paddington Bear and more details will follow in a letter from Mr Simpson and the School council on Monday.

Children in need is next Friday (17<sup>th</sup>) - as for last year, children at Broomfield can donate 50p to come to school wearing a spotty accessory or spotty jumper. All funds will go towards Children in Need. Wristbands will be on sale of £1.00.

Finally, please note two important pieces of information. Yesterday, letters went home with children detailing Broomfield's plans to join Ebor Academy Trust. Today is the beginning of the consultation period and Tuesday evening Ebor are coming to answer parents' questions. Please make sure that you have read this information (which is also attached to this newsletter). In addition, please note the change to the date for KS2 Christmas performance.

### Attendance Report for Week Ending 20th October

<i>Class</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Minutes Late</i>
Gold	94%	
Violet	97%	
Indigo	99%	
Blue	95%	15mins
Green	98%	
Yellow	94%	
Orange	99%	
Red	99%	10mins
<b>School Totals</b>	96%	25mins

	<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3rd	Christmas tree festival in All Saints Parish Church, Northallerton
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Macular Society Concert
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fair & café, stalls and book fair
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Christmas performance in Methodist Church, Northallerton. Time TBC
Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Christmas performance in Methodist Church 6.00pm
Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Closes 2.30pm

### Christmas Fair - stalls available

Our annual Christmas Fair will be held from 4pm - 5pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. This year, all classes will bake and run a café and games. However, there are opportunities for anyone who wants to hire a stall at the fair, for £12.00 to sell appropriate wares. Please contact Mrs Newcombe for stall requests.

### Bags2School

Children were given a bag2school sack before half term and there will be a collection of old clothes on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Please return the bags on either Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> on the Thursday morning. Many thanks.

### Car Park and Broomfield Avenue

There has recently been an accident outside the school gates and we would like to remind parents and carers about the importance of driving slowly and parking considerately on Broomfield Avenue and in our school car park. Inside the car park, the speed limit is 5mph - this is in order to keep our children safe. Our caretaker monitors parking and speed in the school car park and may ask you to move on or slow down. This is also in order to keep our children safe, so please take these suggestions politely - rudeness towards a key member of staff is unhelpful.

### Mrs Beck Maternity Leave

We are very excited to congratulate Mrs Beck in Reception, who is expecting her second child. Mrs Beck's maternity leave will begin in February and we will announce who will teach Red class shortly.

### Elise & Matilda's Cake Stall

Thank you to everyone who supported their stall. They raised £147.90 which will be shared equally between Wendy's Wish & Cancer Research.

### Week Commencing 13<sup>th</sup> November

<b>Monday</b>	3.30pm Jewellery Club KS2
<b>Tuesday</b>	Violin & Keyboard lessons 3.30pm Art Club Y3/4 3.30pm KS1 Football Club
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch time Explorers Club 3.30 pm Sewing Club Y3
<b>Thursday</b>	KS1 Celebration Assembly 3.30pm French Club-Any age 3.30pm Tchoukball Club KS2
<b>Friday</b>	Children in Need Guitar lessons Friday pm 3.30 KS2 Football club

### Important

Can parents please ensure that when you drop children off in the mornings, you exit the school via the back door, rather than coming through school to exit via the front door. This system is in place for the security of our pupils. Thank you.

### Don't Forget

Copies of all newsletters and other important information are available on our school website

[www.broomfield.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.broomfield.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Follow us on Twitter @BroomfieldCP

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will know from the news, education in this country is changing. The government is promoting an academisation agenda that allows greater freedoms for schools. The government believes such a policy gives governors and headteachers greater opportunities to provide an excellent education for children.

Over 60 per cent of all secondary schools in England are now academies and more than 20 per cent of primary schools have also converted to academy status and this number is growing steadily.

Some schools are converting and then joining forces with like-minded schools to set up their own Multi Academy Trust, or MAT; others are joining established MATs on conversion.

You may be aware that in North Yorkshire, a number of schools have already become academies and some have already formed MATs with other schools. At Broomfield the governors and senior leadership team have been considering the options available for our school, observing what is happening and trying to work out what is the best way forward.

Following a governors' meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2017, we are today launching a consultation period to explore the possibility of converting to academy status. This does not mean to say we will become an academy, it is simply to commit to exploring the options and seeing if this move is right for us – our staff, our children and our community.

Should we decide to academise, we are looking at joining forces with Ebor Academy Trust, a York-based MAT currently comprising 15 schools across York, Selby, the Yorkshire Coast and the East Riding and The Humber. In early, informal talks with Ebor, we have discovered they share our values and ethos and we believe their policy of putting the child at the centre of everything that they do makes them, potentially, an ideal partner. Should we join them, they would handle core business activities such as payroll, HR and site management, leaving teaching and learning – our real passions – to us.

You can find out more about Ebor on their website <http://www.eboracademytrust.co.uk/> The information will help you understand more about the organisation that we may eventually join and why we think they appear such a good “fit” for Broomfield.

To do nothing would be an option, but in these changing times, with less support from the local authority because of cost savings imposed from central government, it is not perhaps a realistic option if we want to continue to look at ways to improve our school.

During this consultation period, governors and senior staff have arranged a formal meeting and drop-in events to discuss the principle of becoming an academy with parents, carers and staff. There will be every opportunity for everyone's views to be heard and questions answered, before governors make the final decision. There is a lot of work to do and we will keep you informed at every stage.

We know that the prospect of change can be worrying for many people but we want to reassure you that no decision will be taken before governors are completely satisfied they are in possession of all the information

they need, including considering feedback from this comprehensive consultation with all our stakeholders. We welcome your views, comments and contributions about supporting the best way forward for our school.

An information sheet is attached with more details and a timeline of consultation activities, together with some frequently asked questions and answers. Our website also has this information and any further questions and answers, as they come up, will be posted online.

We do hope you are able to attend at least one of our consultation events.

Yours sincerely

Peter Wilkinson

Susan Gill

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

Governors of Broomfield School are considering academy status and joining the Ebor Academy Trust. This information sheet sets out the arrangements we are putting in place to consult with parents and carers, staff and our local community so that everyone can have a voice and a chance to contribute to the consultation process. Overleaf we set out some answers to frequently asked question that will hopefully provide not only a degree of reassurance but also some further explanatory information that should help you reach a more informed understanding. As the process gets underway, we will keep our school website updated with any further information that emerges.

The consultation process starts with the publishing of this letter and ends at 9.30am on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Below are meeting dates and times which you are welcome to attend. You can also submit questions or comments via email ([admin@broomfield.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@broomfield.n-yorks.sch.uk)) or a suggestions box in the school office reception and all contributions will be presented to governors, who will consider them before making their decision.

## Timeline

1. Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November: Consultation begins.
2. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November: Information evening at school for parents, carers and local community, 6pm until 7.30pm. Governors, the school leadership team and Ebor representatives will discuss academisation and what it may mean for Broomfield.
3. Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: Drop-in at school from 3pm until 5pm. This will be an opportunity to discuss academisation and talk to governors and the school leadership team on a one-to-one basis.
4. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December: Drop-in at school from 8am until 9am and again from 3pm until 4pm. This will be an opportunity to discuss academisation and talk to governors and the school leadership team on a one-to-one basis.
5. Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Consultation period ends at 9.30am, when all responses received will be collated and sent to governors.
6. Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December: Governors hold Extraordinary Full Governing Body Meeting to consider responses and vote either to continue to explore academisation or to reject the proposal.

## **Academisation and joining Ebor Academy Trust - questions and answers for Parents & Carers**

### **What is an academy?**

Academy schools are state-funded schools in England which are directly funded by the Department for Education and independent of local authority control. Academies have greater independence and freedom to enhance the curriculum and expand resources for the benefit of their pupils. They are still inspected by Ofsted and have to follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as other state schools.

### **Which schools can choose to become Academies?**

Only schools judged “good” or “outstanding” by Ofsted, like Broomfield, can choose to become an Academy.

### **Who runs an academy?**

An academy is run by an academy trust that is led by a Board of Trustees who are a non-elected body of around 12 individuals chosen for their experience and area of expertise in such issues as education & teaching, general management, finance, legal, marketing, HR etc .

### **Why a Multi Academy Trust?**

In recent years, the Government via the Department for Education (DfE), has changed funding for schools which will result in lower funding in real terms in the future.

This means that Local Authorities are no longer able to provide the support and services for schools that used to be available. As a result, schools across the country are being encouraged to work more closely together, initially through informal “clustering” arrangements but increasingly by becoming academies and joining other like-minded schools to form Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) so that they can share central services and each member school can concentrate on the teaching and welfare of its pupils.

### **What are the advantages of joining a Multi Academy Trust?**

There are a number of benefits of joining a Multi Academy Trust. These include:

- Closer collaboration between schools leading to better outcomes for pupils
- Shared buying power means specialist expertise can be funded and extra curricular activities provided
- Economies of scale in purchasing supports school budgets
- Services such as finance, HR and IT can be centralised freeing member schools up to focus on teaching and learning

### **Who are Ebor?**

If this proposal goes ahead, Broomfield will become an Academy and join the Ebor Academy Trust. Currently, Ebor is a Multi Academy Trust comprising 15 schools across York, Selby, the Yorkshire Coast and East Riding and The Humber. Ebor is setting up “hubs” in each of these geographic areas with each hub containing around 10 schools or around 2,000 pupils. Ebor is a teacher led, charitable, not-for-profit organisation and any financial surplus generated on a year to year basis is reintroduced into the education provision in its schools. A copy of Ebor’s ‘School Report’ brochure is attached which gives examples of the ways schools have benefitted from joining. Ebor’s values where the child is at the centre of everything they do closely mirror those of Broomfield. More information can be found on their website at [www.ebor.academy](http://www.ebor.academy)

### **Is this a good move for my child, for Broomfield and its staff and for the wider community?**

At a time of great changes in education, with, as detailed above, reduced local authority budgets and consequently less support, we believe teaming up with a like-minded organisation such as Ebor that

is already well established, will give Broomfield greater financial stability and provide more opportunities for our children particularly in the areas of curriculum and speciality teaching both of which should lead to enhanced pupil outcomes. In addition, Ebor already have an established School Improvement Programme that is offered under LA licence, to schools outside Ebor's operating area as well as specialised teaching programmes. These are used to create both enhanced career opportunities for staff without them having to leave to get them, as well as additional sources of revenue which are used for the benefit of all member schools of the Trust.

### **Will our funding change?**

As an academy, the school would have more control over its funding and decision making. An academy receives its money direct from the DfE not via the Local Authority giving it greater freedom to spend its money in a way which better meets the needs of its pupils.

### **How much does it cost to convert to an Academy?**

The DfE gives a grant of £25,000 to cover legal and administrative costs, most of which is usually used in the process of academy conversion.

### **Will any jobs be lost if we do decide to proceed and will staff terms & conditions remain the same?**

No jobs will be lost in this process. Staff will be transferred across under TUPE arrangements with exactly the same terms and conditions of employment.

### **Will teaching standards change?**

Joining a Multi Academy Trust, and Ebor in particular, would enhance the continued training and development of our staff, enabling us to achieve even higher standards and widen curricular opportunities.

### **Will the schools continue to work with the local council and other schools?**

We have a very good relationship with NYCC and other schools in Northallerton and we intend to continue and develop these partnerships for the benefit of our children and their families. Ebor also works well with clusters and other organisations, as do other schools in their trust.

### **Will we actually see any differences on a day-to-day basis and will our name change?**

Signage and stationery will change slightly, saying that Broomfield is part of the Ebor Academy Trust and we will become Broomfield Primary Academy. Children will be in the same classes and taught by the same teachers. However, longer term benefits will be access to more teaching and learning resources, more support from specialist teachers in subjects such as modern foreign languages, music and the creative arts and career development opportunities with Ebor's School Improvement and specialist teacher programmes outlined above.

### **Will there be any changes to admissions?**

No. There would be no changes to current admissions arrangements.

### **How do I find out more about academies?**

A useful starting point is [www.gov.uk/types-of-school/academies](http://www.gov.uk/types-of-school/academies)

### **How can I get involved in the consultation process?**

You can attend and contribute to a meeting (see overleaf for details), or email us, or you can write to us, care of the school office. There will also be a comments or suggestions box at the school reception.