



The Brownlee Newsletter

November 2018 UPDATE

"A school where the individual is valued in a supportive and safe environment where everyone's learning experience is celebrated."

Dear Parents

I wanted to update you on a couple of pieces of information which have arisen since the publication of the November Newsletter last week.

Visit by the Education and Training Inspectorate

We are expecting a visit by members of the ETI on Monday and Tuesday of this week. This is a Sustaining Improvement inspection which is carried out in schools which are deemed to be 'Good' or 'Highly Effective' and can effectively monitor and evaluate their own development and improvement.

Unfortunately, due to the on-going industrial dispute over pay, conditions, workload and funding, teachers in the vast majority of schools are undertaking 'action short of strike'. This is the refusal to carry out additional and unnecessary workload which has no direct impact on children's learning. Therefore, when the school inspectors visit Brownlee next week they will meet with me and the Chairman of the Board of Governors to discuss the Safeguarding arrangement for pupils including all our policies, risk assessments and procedures for Child Protection. The inspectors also speak to some P6 children but will not have access to classrooms, children's books or pupil performance data. Unfortunately, this will result in our school receiving a very general compliance statement regarding Safeguarding but no assessment of learning will be able to take place. I am always extremely proud of the high standard of work carried out by our pupils and staff in Brownlee and I would love this work to be quality assured by the ETI, however, we are tied into this action along with the vast majority our colleagues throughout Northern Ireland and therefore we have to respect the direction of the Teacher Unions and implement this action in Brownlee.

Complaints Procedure

Our school's Complaints Procedure is available on our website to read in full, however, I wish to bring to your attention a few points in relation to this.

- If you have a concern in relation to a member of staff, please speak to the class teacher first in order to resolve the matter. The member of staff will keep me fully informed of any such concerns and I should only become involved if the matter is not resolved or is of a child protection nature against the member of staff.
- Concerns should not be raised directly with members of the Board of Governors. It is only if a matter has not been resolved to your satisfaction after speaking to the teacher and Principal / Vice-Principal that a complaint should be put formally in writing to the Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Thankfully we do not have many concerns that reach Governor level and I trust that parents always feel they can contact the school at any time in order to ask a question or raise an issue that has affected their child. Following the steps of the Complaints Procedure will ensure that your concern can be dealt with in the most effective way.

Filming by UTV

We have been approached by UTV regarding using the school for some filming on Thursday 22nd November. This is for a new programme called 'Rewind' which will be hosted by Julian Simmons. The programme will look at different aspects of life today and compare them with days gone by. Brownlee has been chosen due to its historical significance as one of the longest established schools in Lisburn, the architecture of the original building and of course the brilliant children in our school. During the filming it is likely that some children may be included in a funny scenario with Julian or perhaps in the dinner hall or walking down the corridor.

We would appreciate it if you could return the reply slip below in your child's folder before Tuesday 20th November so we are aware as to who is able to be part of the programme. I know the vast majority of parents have already given permission for your child's image to be used in the media, however, UTV has asked us to supply them with specific permission for this programme.

Yours sincerely

Colin Elliott

(Principal)

REPLY SLIP

I give permission for my child to be included in any filming taking place for the UTV programme 'Rewind'.

Name of Child: _____ Class: _____

Signed Parent / Guardian: _____