



BROCKHURST & MARLSTON HOUSE

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Bonfire Night on Friday 4th of November.

This is one of the biggest events in our School Calendar and as such, does require a great deal of planning. Apologies for the long and detailed email, but there are a number of things that all guests attending need to be aware of to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all on the evening, so please do take five minutes to read through. I will send this email again on Thursday 3rd of November so that you can re-fresh your memory.

All boys and girls in Forms 1 - 6 are expected to attend as they all participate*. Parents are warmly encouraged to come to watch. Pupils in Form 6 and above are expected to stay after school and will be given supper, supervised, then taken to the meeting places for their age group. Parents of pupils in Form 7 will receive a separate email from their Form Tutor about arrangements.

*This applies to both Full and Flexi pupils. Flexi pupils are also expected to stay in school throughout the afternoon as we want to avoid having a lot of children coming and going during the afternoon, which is very busy and a structured whole school approach is needed to ensure the smooth running of the event. The activity programme will run as normal in the afternoon.

Bonfire Night will commence at 6.30 p.m. when all the boys and girls from Forms 1 - 7 form the traditional Torchlight Procession leading to the bonfire. Parents are invited to start arriving from 6 p.m. (**NOT** before please) and make their way to the South Terrace (see map). The fire will then be lighted followed by a firework display which will be staged on the far side of the lake.

Please note that **parents should not expect to meet their children until after the Torchlight Procession**, at which point all children will be round the bonfire. Form 7 will be collected from the southernmost part of the bonfire. There will be a sign for Forms 6, 5, 4 pupils to stand under and wait for their parents after they have put out their torches. The older children will find their parents around the bonfire.

Please can we ask that parents **do not stop and chat to their children on the way down through the Torchlight Procession**. **Parents who stop and talk to their child will be asked to move on.** The children are holding lit torches and it is important that they are not distracted from this task. It is also important that we keep the line moving steadily down and there are no hold ups.

The whole event should be concluded within the hour, after which we hope parents will stay for light refreshments in the chess courtyard (please see below). All siblings are most welcome but we should warn parents that some of the fireworks are very noisy and may be frightening to very young children.



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Torches

Parents are encouraged to bring their own torch to the event. It is very dark at the bottom of the lawn.

Please do not bring light up toys to the event - the type one might find at fun fairs.

Parking

Please arrive in good time to secure parking. Owners of **all 4X4 vehicles** will be directed by marshals to a part of the riding arena field (just opposite the sports field) where a specially lit pathway will lead them (swiftly) to the front lawn. Please cooperate with this plan, designed to allow off-road parking space for everyone. Parking for all other vehicles will be around the site car parks and parents will be directed where to go as they arrive at the school.

Clothing

Children should wear gloves, a close-fitting woolly hat (for safety reasons **NO long tassels should be worn please**), Wellingtons and a dark anorak. The path to the bonfire is usually quite muddy and adult spectators are strongly advised, like the children, to wear Wellingtons. In general, the evening is smoky and muddy and there is a degree of low level hiking involved, so we would encourage all concerned to wear robust old clothing. The school will not accept any liability for damage to individuals clothing.

Safety

PLEASE DO NOT SEND OR BRING ANY FIREWORKS (including sparklers). Children are not allowed to handle them.

Access

We advise that guests who may struggle with mobility **do not attempt to follow the torch light procession down to the bonfire and remain on the south terrace to watch the fireworks from there.** The pathway down to the bonfire can be slippery and dark, and the steps back up are tricky.

Refreshments

There will be a free hot dog and soup for pupils and their family members after the display. These are given out at the Junior Science Lab, adjacent to the chess set courtyard.



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The BMR will be selling mulled wine and hot chocolate, both in the front courtyard on arrival, and on the South Terrace by the main house before the start of the event from 6 p.m., and then afterwards by the food at the chess set. The price per cup will be £2.50 and we hope to be able to offer card as well as cash payment, but please do bring some cash if you are able to.

And finally..

This is a very special evening in the school calendar. The Torch Light Procession requires the children to concentrate and for this reason, and to create the lovely atmosphere seen in previous years, we ask that noise on the terrace and whilst walking down to the bonfire is kept to a minimum. Whilst all members of the family are welcome, we ask that younger **and older children** are respectful of the pupils involved, of staff, and of the grounds, and stay closely with their parents/supervising adult. We do always have returning past pupils attending the event and we do expect them to well behaved and with an adult. The main house is strictly out of bounds during the event. The toilets in the Turner Centre corridor (between the library and the science labs) are available during and after the event.

Best wishes,

Rachel