

# THE BRAKENHALE SCHOOL, RECTORY LANE, BRACKNELL, BERKSHIRE RG12 7BA

Mr P M Salter, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH  
Headteacher



Tel: 01344 423041  
Fax: 01344 300397  
Email: [post@brakenhale.bracknell-forest.sch.uk](mailto:post@brakenhale.bracknell-forest.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.brakenhale.bracknell-forest.sch.uk](http://www.brakenhale.bracknell-forest.sch.uk)

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Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Dear Parents

The Brakenhale School is launching a School House system to further encourage a growing feeling of community within the school. School houses will:

- provide supportive family groups to which all members of the school will belong
- create a strong feeling of community within the school
- encourage participation in all aspects of school life
- give students responsibility by providing roles in the leadership and management of the houses

Throughout this academic year the School Council has been consulting with students about the creation of a house system, the number of houses and the naming of those houses. There was widespread agreement that Brakenhale should have a house system with four houses and the most popular theme was to name the school houses after famous and influential people of the 20th Century. The Council agreed that the houses should be named after Winston Churchill, Mahatma Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt and Nelson Mandela; a short biography of these famous people is enclosed.

The house colours have been designated as follows:

- Churchill - Blue
- Gandhi - Green
- Roosevelt - Red
- Mandela - Yellow

The first major competitive event between the school houses will be Sports Day on Friday 19th June and we would encourage the students to wear an item of clothing in their house colour on that day. There will be further consultation on how a student's house could be shown on their uniform. House events in the coming year will include various competitions in music, the arts, debating and sports. Throughout the year each house will be involved in fundraising for charity.

Your child has been allocated to one of the four houses (individual letters of notification have been sent out).

Any issues where brothers and sisters have not been allocated to the same house should be notified to Student Reception as soon as possible.

There will be short house meetings during the first two periods on Thursday 11th June when students will have their first house gathering and have the opportunity to sign up for Sports Day.

Yours sincerely

Paul Salter  
Headteacher



# Churchill House, Gandhi House, Roosevelt House and Mandela House

## Winston Churchill

*“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”*

Winston Spencer-Churchill (1874 – 1965) was a British politician best known for his leadership of the UK during World War II.

He was Prime Minister twice, the first time between 1940 – 1945 and then again from 1951 – 1955. He was an Army Officer, historian, artist and a Nobel Prize-winning writer. He held many political positions and was well known for his speeches which inspired the British people and Allied forces during WWII.

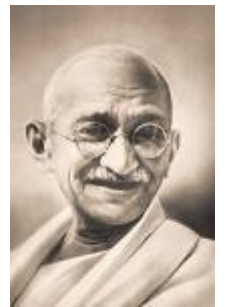


## Mahatma Gandhi

*“Be the change that you want to see in the world.”*

Mohandas Gandhi (1869 – 1948) became the pivotal figure in India’s history in the twentieth century. He is commonly known around the world as Mahatma Gandhi and in India as “Bapu” (father).

Gandhi led Indians in calling for the British to leave India. He was imprisoned for many years and on numerous occasions. Gandhi was a peaceful man who practiced non-violence and being truthful, he encouraged others to do the same.



## Eleanor Roosevelt

*“People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built.”*

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962) was a United Nations diplomat and humanitarian. This modest woman passionately campaigned for human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone - everywhere.

Eleanor Roosevelt’s concern for humanity made her the driving force behind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a universally accepted standard of achievement for all nations.



## Nelson Mandela

*“The greatest glory in living lies not in ever falling, but in rising every time we fall.”*

Nelson Mandela (1918- ) was an opponent of apartheid in South Africa and internationally. He became a symbol for freedom and equality.

He was imprisoned for 27 years on Robben Island and released in 1990. He was elected President of South Africa in 1994, the first to be elected in a fully democratic election, and served until 1999. He received more than one hundred awards over four decades and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

