

# Newsletter



**March 2024**

## Head Teacher's Update

Dear Families,

How wonderful to read the Newsletter and see the range of activities and experiences our pupils are lucky enough to participate with. My thanks as always go to **all** the staff who make this possible whether it be through maintaining the facilities, organising the activities, supporting the administration or working with pupils on the day itself. Everything you see within this newsletter is a whole team effort and I am really grateful for that team!

A demonstration of how wonderful the entire school community is in supporting each other as a team was particularly evident to me when we heard the sad news of the death of Beth Selwood in February this year. Beth was a pupil in the Secondary part of the school who loved to dance and sing amongst many other things and our pupils have been remembering Beth since her death by raising money for Chance to Dance, one of the groups that Beth loved and attended regularly.



We remember Beth with very many happy memories and were grateful to her family for opening Beth's memorial service up to so many staff, pupils and their parents.

The day was a lovely celebration of Beth's life, all pupils attending behaved impeccably and were a credit to their families and we were privileged to have been able to attend the service in order to remember Beth.

We are lucky at Brookfields to have staff within the team who have worked at the school for a very long time. However, it does then make it hard when we have to say Goodbye to them! I am really sad to be saying Good Bye and Good Luck to Steph Turner, who is retiring at Easter. Steph is one of our longstanding members of staff who came to the school in a 1:1 capacity and stayed for 24 years! Steph has worked in many roles within Brookfields but will always be associated with Food Technology and is responsible for many of our pupil's excellent culinary skills!

Steph will be sorely missed but we wish her well for her retirement.

Also retiring are Gilly Cummings who is our Maths and Cognition Lead, and Tricia Pedley, one of our Support Assistants who found a home in the Brookfeast Kitchen and Key Stage 3.

Gilly has worked at Brookfields for 9 years and has done an amazing job in bringing our Maths Framework into sequential order and into making Maths accessible to all pupils. Gilly has supported many pupils in overcoming a lack of confidence in participating in Maths lessons fully and has prepared many for independence in their futures. Tricia has supported pupils in many Key Stages over the 12 years that she has worked at Brookfields but found her niche supporting pupils developing independence in food preparation within our 5 star commercial kitchen, in preparing and selling lunch for staff and visitors to the school.

Both Gilly and Tricia will also be much missed and we wish them, along with Steph, every good wish for their futures.

Also leaving are Karen Withers, our Swimming Instructor and Naomi Kingston, Henson class teacher. Karen has been at Brookfields since 2019 and is a fundamental part of the school community. This was particularly evident over COVID, where Karen hit the ground running and was able to keep the pool open, offering pupils a vital means of enrichment at a time their lives were restricted for which I will always be grateful. Naomi is a more recent addition to the Brookfields Community but has already made her mark and will also be much missed. We wish both Karen and Naomi Good Luck for their next adventures. ☺

Kirsty Simmonds and Caroline Greenstreet have both now started their Maternity Leave and are delighted to have welcomed Jacob and Finn into the world respectively. Finn arrived before Caroline had officially started her Maternity Leave but thankfully over the weekend rather than in school – thank goodness for that! We look forward to welcoming them back in due course.

I am so pleased also to welcome Bronwen Cooke back to Brookfields, as our Lead for Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes. Some of you may remember Bronwen from her time as class teacher in the Early Years part of the school before she re-located. We are excited to have her back in the team. We have also recently welcomed Jessie, Sophie and Ade to our staff team and Linner, Karin and Sam will be joining us after Easter.

Recruitment does still pose a problem, but we are slowly making inroads to try to ensure that pupils have the support they need to be able to access the curriculum as fully as possible.

I hope that you, and all staff and pupils have a wonderful Easter Break. Thank you all for your support over some of the challenges of the term. It is never taken for granted and always very much appreciated.

Don't forget the clocks go forward this weekend though so one less hour of sleep!

I look forward to seeing everybody back at Brookfields on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of April.



Catherine Bernie  
Headteacher

## Primary Exploration Strand

What an amazing term we have had in Exploration, it has been lovely to see how engaged the children have been in both our topics 'Let's Create' and 'Sweet Dreams'. In our topic 'Let's Create' we explored and engaged with texts such as 'Mrs Wishy Washy' and 'Brown Bear Brown Bear'. The children experienced a range of activities from getting wet and muddy in Imagination to getting colourful and making animal prints. The children also enjoyed moving like different animals and sorting based on size and then colour. In our topic 'Sweet Dreams' they have explored and engaged with the texts 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' and 'Wow Said the Owl'. The pupils were able to experience activities in more darkened spaces enabling them to enjoy the various sensory space inspired lights. It has been highly creative in Explore during the last few weeks with the pupils making mini aliens, getting messy and creating star printed paintings and cardboard owls.







It has also been lovely to see how well our pupils have transitioned to Forest School this term exploring the different topics in an outdoor space, following footsteps and meeting new creatures. The frogs were certainly something the children were excited to see jumping in and out of the pond.



Some of our children have also been accessing the community and going to an off-site climbing centre which they have loved (see page 24). We ended the term with our Stay and Play morning which was a lovely end to highlight the pupils' progress and have fun searching for hidden eggs! Well done to all pupils on what has been such a busy term.

I hope you all have a great Easter Holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Tamsin Banfield, Strand Lead and all the Exploration Staff Team.**



**Indigo Class** have had a busy term! The children have enjoyed a range of experiences such as Forest School, swimming, splash and our daily walks. The pupils have also had lots of fun during their weekly cooking sessions where they made and iced several types of cakes, explored fruit and built on their cutting and spreading skills. The favourite though, had to be their 'Ice Cream Afternoon'!



Along with these experiences Indigo Class have enjoyed their regular Tac Pac lessons and Immersive Drama sessions with Make7Sense Theatre. Well done to all pupils!

We hope you have a lovely Easter Break!

***Sarah and the Indigo Class Team***

## **Engagement Strand**

I am thrilled to share some exciting updates from the classes within the Engagement Strand. Since being in post as interim Strand Lead I have witnessed moments of creativity and exploration as our pupils delved into the realms of 'Let's Make a Mess' and 'Moon Zoom'.

While engaging with the 'Moon Zoom' topic pupils have taken a journey through space consisting of hands-on activities and immersive learning experiences. Beyond their topic-based sessions, pupils have been making progress towards their independence and communication skills, aligning with the targets on their personalised learning plans.

Thank you for all your ongoing support towards the Engagement Strand and school community, sending Easter Greetings to you and looking forward to seeing the pupils back in school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

***Emily Burfitt – Interim Engagement Strand Lead***



**Pink Class** have enjoyed the Spring term exploring the topics 'Let's Make a Mess' and 'Moon Zoom'. For 'Let's Make a Mess' the class looked at different colours and which colours they could create which linked to their story of 'One World Many Colours'. As a class we enjoyed going to Forest School to search for different coloured items and pupils developed their sorting and colouring skills. Coloured bubble art was a big hit in our class – all the pupils loved it! For 'Moon Zoom' pupils have enjoyed exploring space, looking at the moon and stars and creating rockets with themselves as the astronauts. The pupils have loved the 'Whatever Next' story – dressing up and pretending to go on their own journey to the moon, which we have completed in PE. All the pupils have continued to develop their communication, confidence and independence throughout the curriculum. Pink class love a good foot spa!

Pink Class have also enjoyed celebrating World Book Day and Red Nose Day this term.



We hope you can spend time with your families and friends over the Easter holidays and look forward to seeing the pupils back for the Summer Term.

**Emma and the Pink Class team** 😊

**Sky Class** have had a lovely term looking at their topic 'Let's Create.' Pupils worked hard to create artwork inspired by famous artists. Sky Class displayed their work as part of the 'Enquiry Art Gallery' including pupils' descriptions and comments about their art followed by a tour of the gallery from the Sky Class artists themselves!

Sky Class then went on to think about space and spacesuits as part of their 'Moon Zoom' topic. Pupils engaged in science experiments to discover what materials they felt were best to create a good space suit.



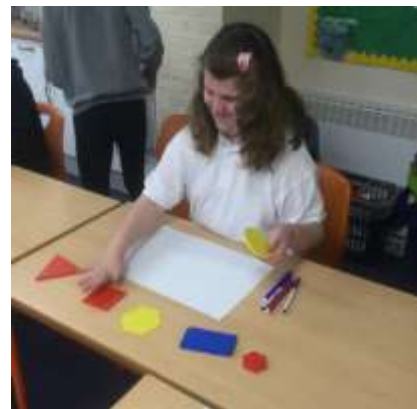
Well done to all pupils for another brilliant term! We are looking forward to continuing the hard work in the Summer term!

**Emily and the Sky Class Team**



## Fletcher Class

We have enjoyed a vibrant and creative term in Fletcher class. Our topic 'Let's Create' promoted opportunities to learn about a range of artists and art movements. Pupils enjoyed the story of 'The Crayon Man' and through topic, music, maths and art, investigated colour, shape, pattern, art medium, artistic styles and expression. We engaged in and explored art, learning about famous artists ranging from Pablo Picasso to Stephen Wiltshire. We celebrated the diversity of art, culminating in a wonderful Enquiry strand art exhibition where pupils were able to showcase their talents. Fletcher enjoyed showing visitors around our exhibition, with tickets sold on the door, a guided tour available, and art critics to hand as well as having our very own Picasso painting live for visitors to enjoy.



The second half of this term has been all about space. We had fun using Wallace and Gromit and 'The Grand Day Out' as our learning hook to investigate whether the moon really is made of cheese. Pupils made a rocket, investigated the moon's surface through practical investigations and scientific fair tests. We have developed new characters for Wallace and Gromit to meet and written stories about adventures to the moon.

In recent weeks, we have read 'Hidden Figures' and 'How to be an Astronaut' to enrich our curriculum. These inspiring books have supported us in understanding how NASA launched men into space and how gender and racial barriers were overcome, allowing for





space missions to succeed. We have found out about Neil Armstrong, designed our own moon buggies and designed unique planets. We have gone space crazy! In other aspects of the curriculum, we have explored healthy lifestyles in PSHE, learnt about keeping safe online in e-safety, and honed our trampolining skills with Matt in PE as well as continuing visits to the local shops to support practical money handling skills and independence in the community. We have also celebrated what pupils enjoy doing outside of school through pupil-led presentations to share hobbies and interests, linking this to our Way to Work programme.



The opportunity to go off-site into town to Waterstones book shop with White class, using public transport, was a memorable experience we all enjoyed.



Most recently, pupils from Fletcher class also took part in the Brookfields School swimming gala, competing against other SEN schools showing great sportsmanship. We are enormously proud of all that our pupils have achieved this term. We are all looking forward to the Easter holidays and hope that everyone has a lovely Easter break!

***The Fletcher Team – Helen, Vicki, Louise, Wendy, Moi, Ruhena and Jess 😊***



**Sutton Class** have had a busy Spring term since returning to school after the Christmas holiday. Our topic this term has been 'Let's Make a Mess,' this has allowed the pupils to be creative and to explore space a little further. To support understanding of this topic, the pupils have been exploring two key texts 'Colours Colours Everywhere' written by Julia Donaldson and 'Goldilocks in Space' written by Peter Bentley.



Sutton Class started the topic by exploring and experimenting with different colours, shapes and textures and looking at what could be created with these. Pupils learnt about different artists and famous pieces of artwork and even had a go at creating their own.



Pupils really enjoyed the freedom of being creative and expressive with their work.

The class have since moved on to learning about space, exploring the different planets within our solar system and researching famous astronauts.



Highlights for the class this term have included weekly swimming sessions as well as visiting the supermarket, increasing their independence and safety skills within the local community and in and around water. Pupils also really enjoyed visiting Waterstones bookstore in Reading and using the public bus to travel there to celebrate World Book Day. It was a brilliant opportunity for each pupil to exchange their free book token for a book of their choice.

Sutton Class have also been working hard within their phonic lessons and have been developing both their reading and comprehension skills.

We hope everyone has a fantastic break and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school after the Easter holidays when we will begin exploring our new topic 'The Great Outdoors.'



***The Sutton Staff Team - Courtney, Sara, Katrina and Louise***



**Sulham Class** have had a fantastic Spring term exploring the topics 'Let's Make a Mess' and 'Moon Zoom'. Throughout our topics pupils have made a lot of mess, but most importantly have cleared up after themselves! Pupils have been exploring measurements during numeracy sessions by making their own paint, playdough and gloop. The class have been particularly engaged in their new space topic and the book 'How to Catch a Star' exploring the differences between space and home and jumping to different planets in our space themed PE lessons. Pupils have loved accessing the community, developing their confidence and independence around road safety, communication in the community and handling money. Weekly trips to the shops have been a highlight of the term, as well as the class trip to Waterstones to celebrate World Book Day! Cooking (and tasting!) is also a favoured lesson by all pupils, it has been great to witness them developing important life skills, such as their independence, communication and self-resourcing whilst also having fun and trying new foods!



We hope you all enjoy the Easter holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back in the Summer term.

**Melissa and the Sulham class team** 😊

**Winslet Class** have really liked being outdoors this term. The pupils have been riding bikes and scooters, have had fun on the swings, played football and have enjoyed local walks. All these activities have helped them to work on their turn-taking and interaction skills as well as benefiting their physical health.

Winslet Class have also enjoyed getting out into the community on trips to the local shops and park. The class had an exciting trip into Reading town centre to celebrate World Book Day. The bus trip into town was a highlight as was the opportunity to choose a book using their book tokens.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter!



We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

***Anna and all the Winslet staff team.***



### **Livingstone Class.**

Our topic has been 'Let's Create' and students in Livingstone Class have relished the chance to make a mess! The mess was not only engaging and fun but provided the perfect opportunity to develop life skills based around cleaning. Students have also enjoyed a story based around experiencing the different colours, smells, tastes and textures you would find at a market.



Students have also enjoyed accessing active activities for example trips into the local community, the climbing wall and the trampoline, activities we look forward to building on as we begin the summer term.





We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

***Jane and the Livingstone staff team.***

**Sharman Class** has been enjoying their Spring term and their 'Making a Mess' theme! The class has been working hard in lessons including Sensology, Tac Pac and Interactive Story, as well as sensory exploration and developing their fine and gross motor skills. This term the class has been having fun exploring the land of Discovia in their weekly Immersive Theatre sessions. The pupils have enjoyed World Book Day and Red Nose Day activities, including a school disco!



**Scott Class** have had an educational and fun packed Spring term. All students have really enjoyed the topics of 'Let's Create' and 'Moon Zoom.' The pupils had an in-depth look at the artist Banksy, reviewing his artwork and then creating their own Banksy inspired art. In 'Moon Zoom' the class looked at two different books, 'Hidden Figures' and 'How to be an Astronaut'. The students investigated the career of an astronaut, researching and role-playing what an astronaut would have to do. The pupils were particularly interested in how astronauts manage to go to the toilet in space – if you ask them I am sure they would love to share this with you! Year 10 students have had a weekly visit to the Apple Store in Reading where they have taken part in a workshop to show them how to use a range of applications.





Scott class also enjoyed visiting Waterstones book shop in Reading where they each chose a book in exchange for their World Book Day token.

We look forward to seeing the students back at school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April and we hope you have a good Easter break.

***Jess and the Scott Class Team.***

**Henson Class** have been busy this term developing their life skills by accessing their local community and working on their road safety skills. Henson Class enjoy being out in the community and all pupils have been amazing, and I am proud of how well they have done. Henson class have continued to work on their social skills helping them learn to develop important relationships which will support them when transitioning into their next steps in life.



As a group we have been focusing on self-occupancy skills whilst doing the things we love, this can be hard for our pupils, but they have done a great Job!

***Naomi and the Henson Class Team.***



## Pathway to Employment

Since January 34 students have had work-based placements at ten different venues totalling 494 hours between them. This term students have had placements at Laithwaites, Ikea, Butterfly Café, Little Robins (Forest School), Flint House dining room, Flint House polytunnel, Berkshire Maestros, Newbury Community Furniture project, Visa and Make SENSE Theatre.

Learning from Employers first-hand about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace is invaluable. It allows the students to start to build on their employability, self-confidence and their communication skills. This provides them with a meaningful insight into the types of jobs that are available.

### Employee of the Month



January

**Lewis**

Lewis has shown real enthusiasm for his placement at The Furniture Project in Newbury, learning how to repair and reassemble furniture. He has enjoyed learning these skills and has asked for the placement to be extended so that he can continue to develop and expand his knowledge. His manager at the project is very impressed with Lewis and commented that he was keen to learn, communicates brilliantly and is a real pleasure to work with.

Written down by: January 2024



### Employee of the Month



February

**Oscar**

Oscar has shown real enthusiasm for his placement at Flint House waiting staff, developing his customer service and problem-solving skills. He has increased staff sales, colleagues and customers, and picked up the table quickly and has a real ability to work well in a team, adding to his own skills.

Written down by: February 2024



### Employee of the Month



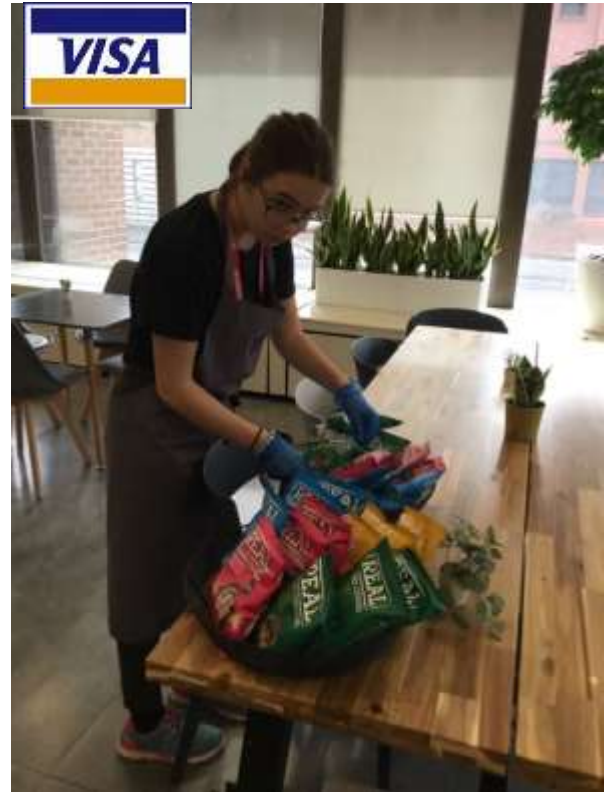
March

**Jack**

Jack is always very well organized and makes sure he arrives on time, making the most of his time at the placement at Little Robins. He is always ready to help out and try new things. He has improved his English, who would love to have him back with his placement until the summer term, representing that he is a superstar and very impressive in all of his work.

Written down by: March 2024





### Employer Encounters

This term students have had encounters with employers both at school and at the employers work places.

**HSS Tool Hire** – Students had a tour of HSS Tool Hire and took part in a live Q&A session.

The students received careers information from members of the HSS Tool Hire project team who explained how the site works. The visit to **HSS Tool Hire** was part of Open Doors Week 2024, which is an initiative organised by Build UK to allow young people to visit sites and workplaces.





**Thales** – Two of our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students presented at a working lunch meeting in the Thales office in London. Thales wanted to hear from young people about how they can support neuro diversity in the workplace and how they can make recruitment more accessible.



**GWR** - Several students were invited to attend a Careers Workshop and tour of Reading railway station; they had an opportunity to meet the different station staff including a dispatcher and the station manager.

**Mock interviews at VISA** - students had an opportunity to take part in some mock interviews to help them to develop their job skills.



**Meeting the professionals** – students had a successful working lunch talking to employees about their different job roles at Visa.





**Careers Advisor Visits** – this term we have been delighted to welcome Romana Taylor (a local experienced Careers Advisor) into Brookfields School to offer impartial careers advice to our young people.

It just remains for us to thank you for your on-going support. Thank you for continuing to support our Market Garden Enterprise Project.

We look forward to working with the students again next year.

If you would like any further information or have any new ideas on how we could work together, we would love to hear from you.

[jgrant@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:jgrant@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

or

[lbellman@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:lbellman@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

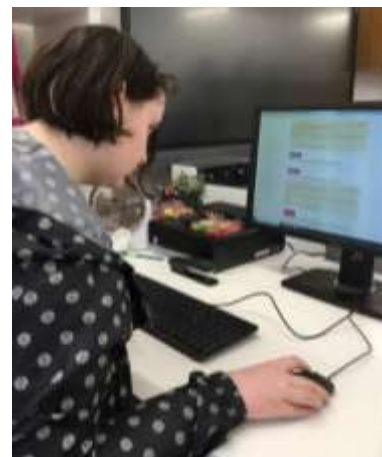
**Julie Grant and Lucy Bellman, Careers Team**





## Independent Travel Training

Brookfields students have been out and about learning how to travel safely and independently using public transport. This term, our students have been learning how to plan their journey using technology. They have been able to look at the bus app both on their phones and on the computer, identify the bus route that they will take, and understand the bus timetables to plan their journey. Students have completed excellent work in seeking out safe places and people to ask for help, for example, customer service staff in a busy shopping centre. Students have also worked hard on practicing navigation using maps, verbal directions and being able to communicate their exact locations. This term we have another 2 students who have successfully been able to prepare for, plan and complete independent travel.



## Brookfields and The Willink = Brillink!

Some of our secondary students have been enjoying social afternoons with students from The Willink School. Brookfields and Willink (collectively known as "Brillink") meet with each other every fortnight and take part in different social activities. As well as meeting new people and forming new friendships, this has been a fantastic way for our students to practice communication skills with their peers. This term students have enjoyed "getting to know you" games, quizzes, cake decorating, a curling tournament and even a lunch trip to McDonalds. They are looking forward to seeing their new friends again next term for more fun and games.



**Cathy Gingell Preparation for Adulthood /  
Travel Training Specialist**

## Youth Club

The students who attend the Brookfields Youth Club have had another great term together. The Spring term ended with the students doing a scavenger hunt. They were rewarded with an Easter egg to take home with them.



*"We always have a tuckshop that sells tasty goodies!!"*

*Youth Club is a safe place for teenagers to play Xbox One, Wii, PlayStation, Xbox 360, Pool, or use an iPad, watch TV or do Arts and Crafts activities.*

*Youth Club is also a suitable place for Brookfields students to chill out together and socialise with their friends.*

**We have some spaces available.**

**If your son/daughter would like to come to Youth Club for a free trial visit please contact Darren or Kerrie.**

**[kbyers@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:kbyers@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)**

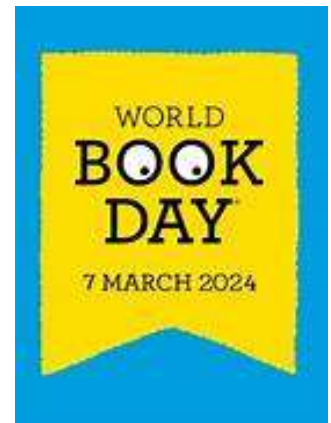
The evenings are getting lighter, and we are looking forward to spending more time outside next term. We hope you have a lovely Easter.

***From Kerrie and Darren, the Youth Club Leaders.***



## Literacy and Communication News

This term Brookfields School celebrated World Book Day with events running over the first two weeks of March. As part of our celebration, we wanted classes from across the school involved in sharing a story. 'Make SENSE Theatre' worked with some pupils to run space themed story telling sessions. Lots of engagement and laughter was seen and heard during these sessions. I was able to join Mapledurham Class for their session who went on a sensory journey in space.



We created our own World Book Day bookshop in school to give pupils the opportunity to use their book tokens and experience exchanging payment (their token) for an item. The bookshop session started with a World Book Day themed 'Sing and Sign' and we had brilliant class participation during the 'Gruffalo' song.



Five classes visited 'Waterstones' bookshop in Reading for a storytelling session and opportunity to use their World Book Day tokens. The classes experienced using the local bus service to travel into town. The staff at 'Waterstones' gave students the opportunity to vote for the book they wanted to hear and supported them to purchase their World Book Day book at the till.



During our World Book Day celebrations, we also promoted 'Sharing a Story'. Each day we shared a story telling video with classes. Bertie from Winslet Class recorded one of his favourite books 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson. Bertie was great at creating voices for the characters as he read the story.

Last term we asked classes for ideas of books they would like to see in the school library. We had requests for Harry Potter, history, football, science, gaming and graphic novels. Over the last couple of weeks our new books have started to arrive and classes have been enjoying reading and listening to new stories together.

During 'Sing and Sign' sessions pupils have continued to enjoy their favourite songs and have added new ones. Sky Class and White Class have been learning Charlie Puth's 'One Call Away'. The key signs the children have learnt during the song are "save", "call", "friend" and a favourite sign "Superman". Pupils have also been learning new space themed songs to go alongside this terms space topic, 'Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer' and 'In a Rocket'.

Happy reading!

**Clare Hook, Curriculum Centre Manager**

## Maths News

It has been another busy term with maths happening all around us! Many classes have been looking at measurements. These include time, to work out when important events in the day will be happening; distance, how far is it and how long will it take to get there; capacity, how much will it hold, is it empty or full; and using money.

Students have had real-life experiences in the Butterfly Café Van that visits school – they have been following the schedule for when it will come, sequencing tasks to serve customers, handling money and of course practising those customer service skills! Other students have been practising money skills and transactions in the local shops and within class Snack Cafés.



Some classes have been exploring time.

Sequencing events, estimating how long it takes to brush your hair, get to school and so on. Some pupils have been learning to tell the time using analogue clocks and learning to tell when it will be playtime, lunchtime, home-time and when other notable events will be happening!

Other students have been combining distance and time measurements and using technology to plan a journey by bus.



Cooking is always an effective way to apply measuring skills. We have been treated to pancakes, butterfly cakes, Easter chick biscuits and much more.

Cooking fitted in well with our “Let’s Make a Mess” topic this term! Fletcher Class followed a recipe, carefully measuring all the ingredients, not to make cake, but to make their own paint!



Many students have been exploring patterns, sequencing, sorting and naming shapes in the classroom and in the environment. There are regular shapes and patterns everywhere when you look! There have been regular Waldon activities going on too. These activities support early numeracy skills through sorting and sequencing.



Of course, there are always lots of opportunities for counting, adding and subtracting, doubling and halving, sharing, using every-day maths language and problem solving. There were even maths skills needed in our Red Nose Day challenges!



The pupils are looking forward to more Maths opportunities next term outside in the sunshine!

**Gilly and Jack - The Maths Team.**

## PE News

### Football

*#Letgirlsplay 2024*



On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 we joined hundreds of schools in “The Biggest Ever Football Session” where the aim was to get as many girls as possible across the country to play football on the same day. *#Letgirlsplay* has been set up by England Football and the FA to get girls more involved in football. Women’s football is a growing sport with more role models becoming accessible for the girls. Many of the girls at Brookfields embraced the challenge and joined in to have fun playing football. They all really enjoyed taking part and even asked if they could play football every Friday!! It is great to see the girls continue to engage in sport throughout the school, as it is our hope for all pupils to leave school with a love of sport to promote a healthy lifelong participation in physical activity.

### Swimming

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March Brookfields School hosted an inter-school swimming gala with pupils from Manor Green School and The Avenue School. The gala was planned, organised and led by our ‘Sports Leadership’ students who were an absolute credit to the school. The gala ran very smoothly as the leaders and participants were all fantastic!



Brookfields won, closely followed by Manor Green with The Avenue in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Thank you to the staff from the other schools who brought their pupils over to participate in the gala. The atmosphere was amazing! The swimmers demonstrated excellent sportsmanship as well as front and back crawl! The Raft Race was the most competitive activity where the Sports Leaders were cheering the teams on to the ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ theme tune!



Congratulations to the winning team!



### Off-site Swimming

Groups of students from our Secondary Department have attended weekly swimming sessions this term at The Meadway Pool to develop their swimming and lifesaving skills. The students have enjoyed going to go to a larger pool to take part in a leisure activity they love. These sessions have also given them the opportunity to act appropriately in a public place which they have all demonstrated well.



### On-site Swimming

There has been fantastic swimming from the pupils who swim onsite on a weekly basis. It has been wonderful to see their progress throughout the Spring Term.

Here are some highlights:

Jayden is working hard at getting his legs up and kicking with floating aids with support from adults he feels safe with. Jayden is becoming much better at kicking his feet in the pool.



Eva's and Max's confidence has grown each week. They are now able to sit independently on the float. It is lovely to see them beginning to feel comfortable in the pool and enjoying the water.

Connor is now using a fin for support in the water. His use of this has reduced over time. It won't be long until he is moving around the pool unaided.



The on-site school climbing wall has been up and running this term and it has been fantastic that so many pupils have had a go! Rishab has made excellent progress; he is now able to climb up the wall and can transition back to class when asked. He enjoys being on the wall listening and responding to instructions of where to place his feet and hands from familiar adults. Students from The Exploration Strand have had a go too! They have all been amazing at putting their harnesses on to ensure they are safe on the wall. Girls from our 6<sup>th</sup> Form have also been using the climbing wall during their lunch break! We are always encouraging students to be active and this is a motivating activity for pupils at Brookfields School. Hopefully more pupils will be able to access the climbing wall next term!



A group of pupils from The Exploration Strand have been accessing offsite climbing at The Adventure Dolphin Centre. It's been good to hear about the progress they have made! This is something we hope to offer to as many pupils as possible at an early age as it gives them a positive experience to help them build a good foundation as they move up the school.



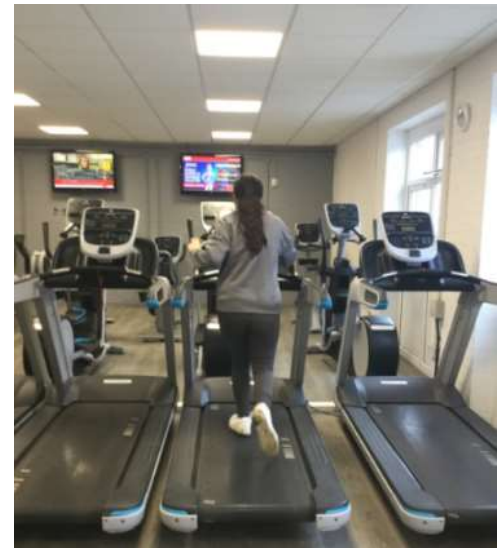
## Parkour

Students are participating in weekly off-site "Parkour" sessions led by an instructor where they can access a foam pit, climbing, jumping, a long tumble track and much more! The pupils love the sessions and continue to request to go. There is even a rotation in place on Tuesdays, as so many pupils want to go they are taking it in turns!



Many of our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students have accessed the gym at The Cotswold Sports Centre this term. The students have enjoyed going and said that they would like to continue to participate in their own time which is great news! Our aim is for all pupils to have an activity they enjoy and can access in the community by the time they finish school. I have sent information to those families who have students who have said they are interested but if you would like any further details about local gyms please don't hesitate to ask.





Students have been participating in weekly fitness lessons this term and have been working extremely hard throughout these sessions, getting hot and sweaty!! I have been trying to make these lessons as fun as possible, with activities such as Boxercise and Bingo which the students thoroughly enjoyed! The students are beginning to learn how exercise makes their bodies feel, what the benefits of exercise are and how important it is for their well-being. Students are also learning about which muscles are being worked during different activities.



Keep up the excellent work!

***Tor Carter, Head of PE, Matt Rosier, PE Teacher and Karen Withers, Swimming Instructor***

# COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief was a great success this year! The students made the most of 'dressing red to toe' with some brilliantly bright outfits. The students were able to explore a variety of activities in their classes and outside too between the showers! The day culminated in a Disco in Brook House Hall for our Secondary students with DJ Mark. This was the highlight of the day for many of our students and staff!

To top it all off, we raised £125.70p!

Thank you to everyone who donated money, dressed up and joined in with the day.

## Governing Board Update

It has been a busy term for the Governing Board as we have been working very closely with the school team on the proposal for Brookfields School to join the Ascendancy Partnership Trust. At the Full Governing Board meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 governors voted unanimously for Brookfields School to join the Trust. We are confident that this will bring benefit to the whole school community.

We were delighted to welcome Lesley Reed to the Governing Board as a co-opted governor. Lesley has extensive experience in project and programme management, business consultancy, assurance and governance. Lesley will be a great asset to the board.

Sadly, Keith Shaw, parent governor had to step down from his position due to work commitments. We would like to thank Keith for his service to the Governing Board.

The following policies were approved during the spring term: RSE, Low Level Concerns, Financial Management, Health and Safety, Staff Discipline, Staff Conduct and Staff Capability. These policies will be available on the school website.

The Governing Board continues to be incredibly grateful for the hard work of the whole staff team under challenging circumstances.

We would like to wish the whole school community a Happy Easter break.

Engage, Empower and Inspire



Brookfields  
Specialist SEN School

### BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR GOVERNORS

Join our team, and make a  
difference to the school and  
local community

#### Step into Special Education

Have you ever thought of becoming a school governor? It's a great opportunity to support your local community and learn new skills.

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Being a governor is a rewarding role and it provides excellent experience of operating at board level. Full training is given.

If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact [cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk) for more information or an informal discussion.



The school is committed to safeguarding children and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We are committed to securing genuine equality of opportunity in all aspects of our activities as an employer and education provider.

[www.brookfieldsschool.org](http://www.brookfieldsschool.org)



## Fundraising News

We are happy to let you know that Tesco have once again accepted an application from us to take part in their Stronger Starts blue token scheme. This time we are fundraising to add communication boards to four of our playgrounds. You can vote for Brookfields in the following Tesco stores:



- Newbury Superstore, London Road, RG14 2BP
- Newbury Express, Northbrook Street, RG14 1DJ
- Thatcham Express, Northfields Road, RG18 3EU

We will be in the above stores from the start of April to the end of June 2024 so do please pick up a blue token and vote for Brookfields. Thank you!

## Reading Half Marathon

One of our brave parents, Julius Pinto, is running in the Reading Half Marathon to raise money for Brookfields. Any sponsorship would be greatly appreciated and would help Julius as he pounds the streets of Reading on Sunday 14th April 2024. Please see below the link for Julius's GoFundMe page.



[https://www.gofundme.com/f/julius-half-marathon-for-brookfields-sen-school?utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=customer](https://www.gofundme.com/f/julius-half-marathon-for-brookfields-sen-school?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer)

## Reading Joggers



We are continuing our collaboration with Reading Joggers and are so grateful for all their support. We hope to welcome a team of volunteers into the school in April to help with the renovation of the Early Years allotment. The Joggers have already raised a significant amount of money for the school and once the final amount is confirmed we will let you know how their generous donation will benefit the school. If you would like to find out more about Reading Joggers, full details are on their website. It's a very friendly club that welcomes all runners from beginners to ultra marathon participants.

Full details are on their website: <https://www.readingjoggers.org/>

## Easyfundraising

We continue to benefit from easyfundraising. It works in the same way as Amazon Smile but covers 100s of retailers (including Amazon), so it is a fantastic way to raise money just by doing your shopping.



It's easy to set up, you just need to register with easyfundraising and nominate Brookfields PTA as your charity and we will earn commission when you shop with a substantial number of retailers including Amazon, M&S, John Lewis, Argos, Just Eat and eBay. If you follow the link below you can register for the scheme and nominate the PTA. There is no charge for this and you just need to shop as usual but go to the retailers via the easyfundraising website or app.  
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account/>

## Matched Funding

Lots of businesses offer to support their employees by offering matched funding when employees contribute to charities or help at fundraising events. Below is a small selection of some of the companies that do this. Do please ask your HR department if it is something your company offers as it is a fantastic way to raise money for the school. As you can see from a couple of the activities above, it's a terrific way to raise funds for the school. Thank you for your support.

### Some of the companies offering matched funding



## Brookfields Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Following the success of the quiz night and Christmas bazaar we have been having a bit of a break. Our next big event will be the PTA BBQ. We are just finalising a date and will let you know as soon as it is confirmed.

In the meantime, if you have any ideas for events that could raise money for the school we are always happy to hear from you. You can email the PTA direct on [brookfieldspta@gmail.com](mailto:brookfieldspta@gmail.com)

If you have any suggestions for fundraising opportunities please contact our fundraiser Charlotte Wilshire. [cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

**Thank you for your support.**



### Vacancies we are currently advertising for in our SEN School - Brookfields School – Specialist SEN School

Brookfields School is actively recruiting highly motivated and person centred individuals to become Teaching Assistants. Apply today! Full training and induction given, no previous experience required. Brookfields are pleased to offer a recently enhanced salary paid across 12 months. (Working hours term time only).

[brookfieldsschool.org](http://brookfieldsschool.org)

<https://brookfieldsschool.org/vacancies/>



## Support for Families

The Local Offer sets out provision which is available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), aged 0 to 25, including education, health and social care services.

**West Berkshire** - <https://directory.westberks.gov.uk>



**Reading** - <http://www.reading.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer>

### **Reading Families Forum**

Website: <http://www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk/>

Phone: 0751 618 5380

[fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com](mailto:fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com)



email:

### **Wokingham**

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-families-and-young-people/send-local-offer>

### **Oxfordshire**

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/oxfordshire-send-local-offer>

## Advice for Families during the Easter holiday

Ashley Sayer, Senior Family Support Worker, and Wendy Rosser, Family Support Worker, are on call for advice and support during some of the holiday from Monday to Friday between 10 - 4.

Please feel you can contact Ashley or Wendy to discuss problems during the holiday.

However, if your child is displaying seriously challenging behaviours and someone is at risk, you must contact the police. You can call 999 in an emergency or dial 101. On that number you will talk to the police directly. They will discuss with you the best course of action.

### **Advice and support from Brookfields staff**

#### **Family Support Workers**

Ashley Sayer

0751 624 1989

Wendy Rosser

0746 965 0696

Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

### **Emergency at home during the holiday**

Call 999 if someone is at risk. Call the police on 101 for their help.

Out of hours Duty Social Worker 01344 351999

## Reminders to parents and carers

### Uniform

To mark the change from Primary to Secondary, pupils wear a black jumper when they join Year 7.



Secondary Jumper

This can be purchased through Price and Buckland and can also be purchased, reasonably priced, at large supermarkets.

Secondary pupils can wear either a black school jumper with the school logo on, or a plain black one. Please be advised that this must be a jumper or sweatshirt, hoodies are not part of the school uniform.



The uniform jumper for all Primary pupils is royal blue.

6<sup>th</sup> Formers their own smart but casual clothes.

To order Brookfields School uniform with the school logo: - <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/brookfields>



Primary Jumper

### School Meals

'Dolce Schools Catering' continue to supply school dinners for Brookfields School <https://www.dolce.co.uk/parents/>

For your child to have school meals you need a **SchoolGrid** account.

If your child is in Key stage 1 (Reception, Year 1, Year 2) they will receive a Universal **FREE** meal each day. This will automatically be set up on your SchoolGrid account as free. If your child is already eligible for Free School Meals this will also be set up on your account.

The cost of a school meal from Year 3 to Year 14 if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals will increase from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to **£2.96** per day and payments must continue to be made in advance online.



Thank you for your support.

**Dolce** <https://www.dolce.co.uk/parents/> If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Dolce Customer Care on 01942 707709 or by email to [customercare@dolce.co.uk](mailto:customercare@dolce.co.uk)

**SchoolGrid** is the Software provider used by Dolce. If you experience any technical issues with access to SchoolGrid please contact 01506 300310 or email [support@schoolgrid.co.uk](mailto:support@schoolgrid.co.uk)

### Staying Connected by text and email.



Please make sure the mobile number and email address we hold for you are **always up to date**. You can check and change these details by sending an email to: - [office@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

Thank you.





Brookfields staff look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** after their safe and enjoyable break.

**Brookfields School Remaining Term Dates**  
**for this school year 2023-2024**

<i>Holiday</i>	28/03/24 – 12/04/24	
Term 5	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	<b>29 days</b>
<i>Holiday</i>	27/05/24 – 31/05/24	
Term 6	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024 – Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b>38 days</b>

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May - Early May Bank Holiday.

# **NEXT YEAR Brookfields School Term Dates and Inset Days 2024 / 2025**

Term 1	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	<b>37 days</b>
<i>Holiday</i>	25/10/24 – 1/11/24	
Term 2	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	<b>34 days</b>
<i>Holiday</i>	20/12/24 – 3/01/25	
Term 3	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	<b>30 days</b>
<i>Holiday</i>	17/02/25 – 21/02/25	
Term 4	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	<b>30 days</b>
<i>Holiday</i>	7/04/25 – 22/04/25	
Term 5	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025 – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	<b>22 days</b>
<i>Holiday</i>	27/05/25 – 30/05/25	
Term 6	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025 – Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025	<b>37 days</b>
Total		<b>190 days total</b>

<b>Public Holidays</b>	
25 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Christmas Day
26 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Boxing Day
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	New Year's Day
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Good Friday
21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Easter Monday
5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	May Day Bank Holiday
26 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Spring Bank Holiday

## **Staff Inset Days**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024  
 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024  
 Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

