

July 2024

Headteacher's Update

Once again, as we come to the end of a school term, I'm left to reflect on just how much the staff and students manage to pack into what is a relatively short period of time however, long, it seems whilst we are in it. Before launching into my final reflections I just want to thank everybody; pupils, parents/carers, staff; whether site, office, support staff or teachers, and the whole of the school community, for being the amazing community that makes Brookfields the school it is.

With only a short while to go, staff are making final preparations for the Talent Show, Leavers Assembly and the last Cross Strand and Curriculum Activity Days that bring pupils together across the school and that are packed into the last few weeks of the term. Unfortunately, we have not been blessed with the weather as the year has come to an end, but the pupils have still been able to access a broad range of activities, donned their wellies and set about all challenges with a smile!

This has continued to be a challenging year in many ways. We have been very sad to lose two pupils from the school through illness this year. Beth Selwood in February this year and most recently Matthew Dew. Matthew had been a pupil at Brookfields since he was three years old and this would have been his last year at Brookfields so there will be an additional poignancy for all who knew him at the Leavers Assembly this year.



To everyone who knew Matthew he was a determined cheeky character and brought a smile to everyone who knew him despite his challenges. He is very much missed.

Other challenges that we have had this year have included the delays to us forming the Ascendancy Partnership Trust with Addington and Manor Green schools due to the financial position of the local authority. As you may have seen in the local news, the local authority are clawing back some of local schools carry forwards, regarding them as a surplus rather than as earmarked for investment which means that the due diligence between the schools needs to be re-visited. However, this is a delay rather than a cancellation and we are looking forward to when we will be able to join with our partners schools to work together to achieve best outcomes for all young people with SEND across Berkshire.

So what does the Clawback mean for Brookfields?

Our funds regarded as a 'surplus' by the local authority were earmarked and necessary for much needed improvements to the school buildings. Importantly an upgrade to our pool which is a vital part of the school resource and offer. The plant room and roof both need urgent upgrades to help us avoid the many closures that have happened over the past 2 years. The survey has been completed and we are awaiting the report. Though we are celebrating our 50th year next year, a Condition Survey of our site has also revealed the damage time has done, and to make this good was also a priority for us. Recruitment was the other earmarked priority. Some of our accumulated funds come because we have not been able to recruit all the staff our pupils need and deserve. As many of you are aware we have had to close classes on several occasions since COVID. This has been due in part to the increasing complexity of pupil needs following the period of enforced isolation and, as is the case in all schools, particularly those with SEND, we have struggled to meet the staffing ratios required. Without wishing to be political, this requires a sustained uplift to the funding provided for pupils rather than investment of a carry forward to make a long term and sustainable impact. However, we had allocated some of these funds to do so. Refurbishment of our toilets following an agreed accessibility project were also priorities and waiting for this to happen since 2019 has impacted enormously on our planned for Capital Projects. We are taking legal advice and challenging the decision of the local authority to obtain what our pupils need for an equitable education with their mainstream peers. We will keep you informed when we know more.

On a happier note, the subsiding building is now in use and new classes will be moving into them to use in full in the new academic year.

Some changes...

In line with the government guidance on the use of social media and mobile phones in schools we will be re-enforcing rule that pupils will be required to leave their mobile phone at the main reception once they come onto the school site. This is for their protection and the protection of others. Exceptions to this rule will only be permitted after conversations between myself and parents/carers. A reminder too that our Year 14's will only be allowed off-site at lunchtime without supervision if they uphold our behavioural expectations during the school day. Parental/carer permission will also be required in the same way it is now.

Save the dates!

Tuesday 15th October for Primary pupils and Tuesday 22nd October for Secondary students are the planned dates for our initial Parent/Carer meetings of the year. These meetings are an opportunity to hear about the initiatives that we are bringing into school over the course of the next year but also to meet with the class team and other parents and carers of the pupils who will be in your child's class. Individual appointments with class teachers are not available during these evenings. There will also be the 'What's Next?' Information Event going ahead on 22nd October in our school hall where families will be able to come and look at the opportunities that will be available to students once they leave Brookfields. This is an invaluable opportunity to find out more so I would urge all Year 9 parents and carers to pop the date in their diaries now! We look forward to seeing as many other parents and carers at the relevant evening as is possible. More information about both evenings will follow in September.

Time to say Goodbye.....

I'm sorry to have to say goodbye to quite a long list of people this year and they are as follows... Firstly, to Tricia McAfee and Mel Kemp who are both retiring. Tricia started at Brookfields as a Teacher and then went on to specialise in Autism and became our Specialist Teacher for pupils

with Autism. Tricia has decided to retire in order to go travelling in a camper van she has her eye on! We wish her well!

Mel I hear also has plans to travel. Mel has led our Brookfeast Kitchen making tasty lunches for staff and visitors to buy while preparing pupils to work in a professional kitchen as part of their work experience. Mel has also been an LSA and has worked in most areas of the school over her many years at Brookfields. You will be very much missed Mel. Good Luck in all you go on to do.

Melissa Phelps is also leaving us to re-locate at the end of this month. Melissa has been an amazing addition to the school teaching team and will be much missed, but we wish her well on her new venture. Good Luck Melissa!

Ella Gillanders also leaves to start on her teaching career undertaking an Initial Teacher Training course at Kennel Lane School. They are very lucky to have her!

Several of our teaching support staff are leaving to go on to different ventures and I wish each and every one of them all of the very best. They are Hollie Ashton and Holly Parkes, Bryn Williams, Lucy Richards, Lauren Forrest, Scarlet Norton-Bilsby and Sam Allwood. They have made an invaluable contribution to the school while here and I want to thank them for this on behalf of pupils and families alike.

However, I am also delighted to welcome the following permanent staff into the school from September, Helen Spokes, Leo Pereira and Gaby Wheeler.

We also have Faustin Adu-Agyemang, Lauren Segal, and Vern Ambris joining us as teachers for the foreseeable future.

Additionally, we are looking forward to the return of our staff who have gone or are going on Maternity Leave this year. Katie McAlees, Kirsty Simmonds and Caroline Greenstreet will all be returning over the course of the next year, but we are saying 'Good Luck' and 'Hope to see you back soon!' to Sophie Webb, Rhian Jeffreys and Emily Burfitt who will be starting their Maternity Leave. We look forward to hearing your updates when appropriate!

I do want to thank too, our amazing Agency staff, many of whom have been with us all year, some who are remaining with us in September which is great. We look forward to welcoming all staff, new and old, back for the year ahead.

With very best wishes to all for a wonderful Summer Break. I look forward to welcoming back all pupils (except for our Leavers of course who I will celebrate at the Leavers Assembly), in September!

Finally, I just wish to thank everybody once again before passing you over to peruse the contents of our Newsletter! Enjoy!

Kind regards,



Catherine Bernie
Headteacher



Primary

Indigo Class have been thinking about their topic 'The Great Outdoors' this term. The children have spent much time outside, particularly on their 'Daily Mile' walk when they have been looking at the natural world in the sunshine. Some pupils brought nature treasures like sticks and flowers back to the classroom to enjoy!

Some favourite activities this term have been Forest School, Outdoor Splash, and Messy Play. The pupils have loved painting with water using brushes and sponges. They have also liked exploring different foods in cooking, experimenting with summer recipes involving fruits.

This term the class had a trip out to Thames Valley Adventure Playground. Everyone was brilliant at getting on and off the bus, and a good time was had by all! The day was spent climbing, sliding, building and exploring.



Indigo class had a wonderful time at Sports Day, enjoying many activities with friends and family! We hope everybody has a fantastic summer.

Laura-Jayne Burnett and the Indigo Class Team.

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 topic 'Weather' and 'The World Around Us'. In our topic 'Weather' we explored and engaged with texts such as 'Weather Girls' and 'Worm Weather'. The children experienced a range of activities from creating weather artwork, to exploring the medium paint in the different elements in creation and getting very wet exploring water in various different ways from outside water play to measuring and pouring in splash. Exploring and creating rainbows in imagination and moving around like the whirling wind or tumbling thunder in sensory circuits. In our topic 'The World Around Us' we have explored '10



Little Bugs' and '10 Little Ladybugs'. The children were able to explore nature creating pictures using leaves and flowers and even planting tomatoes and various other vegetables in the garden patch. Lots of counting of various bugs in cognition and matching and pairing based on colour and size.



It was lovely to see all the children access the variety of different activities on sports day, supported by some students from Denefield School it really was an active and fun day for all the pupils, some children even joining the rest of the school for some races in the afternoon.



The pupils were also so excited to go on some trips this term. One to Thames Valley Adventure Playground where the children were able to explore independently sharing the space with other schools and exploring the huge range of outside and inside sensory play equipment. It was a fun and thrilling experience, with all children making a successful transition on the minibus! Some children were also able to visit Outlook Discovery Centre and explore all the science exploratory activities and explore the small adventure playground. It was a fun and exciting experience that left some of the children rather sleepy. Some of our children have been accessing the community going to the local shop and park and transitioning back to school learning all about road safety and choosing items in a shop. Some children have continued to go climbing and have even

reached the top of the wall! A couple of children in Green Class were also able to go paddle boarding, they enjoyed being on the water and had lovely weather for their morning out.





Well done to all the pupils on what has been an extremely busy and exciting term. I hope that you all have a great summer break and I look forward to seeing you all back after the holidays ready for your new classes on Wednesday 4th September 2024.

Tamsin Banfield Lead for Primary Explorers and all the Explorers staff team.

Over the past term POP's (**Pink, Orange, Purple Classes**) topic has been to look at 'The Great Outdoors'. The classes have all focused on exploring 'The Gruffalo' story in various ways with our pupils. The pupils have experienced various activities related to 'The Great Outdoors' and 'The Gruffalo' – singing the Gruffalo song, exploring in Forest School, den building, Gruffalo sensory, and water play outside just to name a few.

The POP classes have also had many highlights over the Summer Term!! As a POP bubble we have thoroughly enjoyed our immersive theatre sessions, call and response story, sing and sign and a visit from the bubble man. The visit from the bubble man was a big hit – all the pupils (and staff) were amazed with how big some of the bubbles were!! Another big highlight for all the classes was Sports Day! All the pupils engaged and transitioned well and enjoyed the activities put on.

We hope you all have a lovely Summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming your child back in September.

Kezia Braham, Emma Gager, Nancy Slater and the POP Staff Team.



Winslet Class pupils have enjoyed taking their learning outdoors this term. They've taken part in activities such as water play, bike riding, football training, local walks and of course Sports Day.

Winslet Class were really excited to go on trips this term to a Paddle-boarding centre, Spoons Cafe and the local park.



The pupils are increasingly confident in new environments when alongside familiar adults and have had lots of fun exploring new environments!

We hope you all have a wonderful Summer.

Anna and the Winslet Class Team

Fletcher Class It has been another happy and creative term in Fletcher class. We have so much to celebrate! Our topic 'The Great Outdoors' has provided scope to explore extreme weather in distinct parts of the world. Our learning hook, 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs' promoted investigation into bizarre weather with opportunity to broadcast our own weather forecasts and write newspaper articles based on the book. We have developed our outside learning through reading 'Amazing Tales of the World's Greatest Adventurers' with a focus on identifying the qualities needed to become a great explorer, making cross-curricular links to geography, history, DT and maths. Pupils have learnt about Amelia Earhart, Christopher Columbus and Matthew Henson as part of this journey.



Fletcher class have had fun making planes and rafts to promote creativity and problem-solving skills. There has been so much to find out and explore!



Fletcher Class were fortunate to be invited to participate in a project called 'Look, Draw, Build' at Reading Station. The project encouraged pupils to connect with architecture and the public space. We visited Reading and Didcot station as part of this initiative with follow-up workshops in school. It was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to work with visiting architects and engineers to build their own models of stations. It was an inspiring project, and we received some lovely feedback too.



Highlights for Key Stage 3 pupils have also included tennis at Purley Tennis Club, a fun day of paddleboarding and cricket coaching. Our Way to Work presentations have showcased pupils' hobbies and interests. We are also delighted to have taken part in an inter-school cricket competition and swimming gala. Pupils enjoyed a visit to MERL (the Museum of English Rural Life) and most recently, a celebratory end of term trip to Beale Park. There have been many opportunities for pupils to engage with the local community this term.



Fletcher Class students at Andrew Simpson watersports Centre.



Fletcher Class enjoying their end of year school trip to Beale Park.



We are so proud of all our pupils. They have been a delight to teach, and we wish them well as they move on in September 2024. We would like to wish all parents, carers and pupils a wonderful summer break!

The Fletcher Team – Helen, Vicki, Louise, Wendy, Shannon, Jess, Moi, Ruhena and Kish.

Engagement Strand

As my time as interim Engagement Strand lead comes to an end, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible term we've had. Our pupils have explored the topics of 'Weather' and 'The World Around Us' through creativity, storytelling, and real-life experiences. They have learned new skills and applied these and their prior knowledge with enthusiasm and dedication. While engaging in their topic-based learning pupils have continued to go from strength to strength making progress against the targets on their personalised learning plans.

It has been a pleasure to witness their growth, progress and achievements since February 2024 and I wish all our pupils and their families/carers a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to seeing their continued progress upon my return.

With very best wishes,

Emily Burfitt, Interim Engagement Strand Lead

Sutton Class have had a very exciting summer term since returning to school after the half term break. Our topic this term has been 'The Great Outdoors', this has enabled us to explore and better understand the weather and the world around us/that we live in. To support our understanding of this topic, we have been exploring 2 key texts; 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs' and 'Superworm'. The use of these texts has ensured that we have had many writing opportunities that have enabled us to develop our vocabulary and sentence types by exploring a variety of weather reports, newspaper articles as well descriptive writing activities using the Colourful Semantics programme.



Highlights for the entire class this term have been trips within the community, these have included paddle boarding, a visit to Beale Park and trips to a local café. Pupils have been working hard on developing their money skills and awareness. The pupils have then been transferring their skills

within the local community during our weekly shopping trips to the supermarket. Pupils have been working incredibly hard within their phonics sessions and in a recent phonic assessment, all pupils have demonstrated and shown progress which is a fantastic achievement for all. We have been working with all pupils on developing both their confidence and their independence using practical tasks, group activities and problem-solving opportunities. We have seen all pupils thrive and achieve so much this year.

Pupils have had a brilliant year in Sutton Class, we will wish them the best of luck in their new classes. We know they are going to have a fantastic year with their new teachers.

Have a brilliant summer break and we look forward to seeing the pupils return to school on 4th September 2024.

Courtney Linton and the Sutton Class team.

Mapledurham Class. This term has been exceptionally busy in Mapledurham Class. As part of our 'World Around Us' topic, the pupils embarked on a sensory journey around the world through sensory sessions using resonance boards, Tac Pac and massage. They thoroughly enjoyed our outdoor music sessions, biking and the climbing wall. Additionally, they had a wonderful time participating in Swimming, Rebound Therapy, Cooking and Immersive Theatre lessons. The pupils in Mapledurham also had the opportunity for regular community outings, enhancing their learning experiences and social interactions. The class visited Tesco to purchase ingredients for their cooking lessons and made weekly trips to the local Cotswold Park where they relished the outdoor gym and swings. Moreover, the pupils worked hard on developing their daily living skills and increasing their communication skills.



Well done to all pupils and thank you for your support this year.

We would like to wish all parents, carers and pupils a wonderful summer break!

Ola Tarczynska and the Mapledurham Class Team.

Sulham Class have had a busy term exploring our topics 'Weather' and 'The Great Outdoors'. In Literacy we have been exploring our key texts 'Superworm' and 'The Minibeast Bop'. During Maths and Cognition, we have been researching the great outdoors and categorising different items we've found according to colour, size, shape and number. We have been engaging in PSHE sessions all about our environment, our community and different cultures, as well as a big focus on personal hygiene!



Our topic sessions have focussed on different weather, what we can do/wear in each season, searching for different minibeasts when out and about, and planting our own cress seeds.



Trips out into the community are always a highlight – particularly visiting Pangbourne House this term! Pupils have been able to transfer life skills that they had been practicing in the classroom to a different setting. They were all able to work together to set out plates and cups for snack, make drinks, wash and dry up, make the beds, Hoover the floor, clean the tables, make beans/ cheese on toast, and most importantly enjoy some time offsite with their peers.

Another highlight was our trip to the Andrew Simpson Centre to take part in paddleboarding! All pupils appeared to thoroughly enjoy this experience.

Thank you, Sulham Class, for such a fantastic year! We hope you all enjoy the summer holidays and wish you all every success in your new classes in September.

Melissa and the Sulham class team.



Sharman Class have been enjoying their summer term! With the weather getting warmer, the class has been accessing more time outside on the field and enjoying more water play. The pupils have enjoyed Sports Day and really enjoyed participating as a class in the Sensory Run! The class continues to work hard on both their physical and sensory development and continues to enjoy their weekly swimming and Immersive Theatre sessions!



Have a wonderful summer!

Sarah Niglio and the Sharman Class team.

Henson Class have been out and about this term for “The Great Outdoors” topic. The highlight has been a trip to the lake for some of the students to try Paddleboarding and a trip to Pangbourne Meadows. It’s been great to see the pupils interacting positively with each other and the class staff team. Some of the pupils from Henson Class will be leaving Brookfields. I’d like to wish our leavers the best of luck in their future destinations. You’ll be greatly missed but not forgotten! Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support of everything we do at Brookfields. Hoping you and your families have a wonderful summer break.

Tor Parnell and the Henson Class Team.

Scott Class have had another busy and fun packed term. Students have all enjoyed the topic of ‘The Great Outdoors’. The pupils have explored the text ‘Race to the Frozen North’ learning all about Matthew Henson’s adventure. The class compared his exploration of discovering the North Pole with also looking at explorers who first discovered the South Pole. Year 9 pupils 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. They were all proud of their presentations that they were able to produce. Some highlights of the term have been weekly Wheelchair Rugby and then weekly tennis sessions at Purley Tennis Club. The pupils made fantastic progress in both sessions and showed great sportsman ship. Scott Class ended a fantastic year together with a trip to the Andrew Simpson Water sports Centre to take part in paddle boarding.



The pupils had the opportunity to go on the group, duo and single boards. They all amazed us with their bravery and encouraging communication with each other.



Tennis sessions at Purley Tennis Club



We hope you all have a fulfilled and relaxing Summer,
Jess Lewis and the Scott Team.

MacArthur Class have had a busy summer term! The students have made the most of the topic 'The Great Outdoors' by planning and going on journeys into the community and had the opportunity to try paddle boarding.



Some of our students had the success of completing either the whole or sections of the Duke of Edinburgh Award! MacArthur Class have also worked hard planning their Prom. Part of this included organising Enterprise projects, including a 'Splat the Teacher' day – which turned into 'Splat the Student!'

The class are ready for a well-earned rest over the summer.

Rhian and the MacArthur Class Team.

Livingstone Class have enjoyed exploring this terms topic 'The Great Outdoors' accessing a range of community activities, exploring kite flying and exploring and making sculpture with natural materials. Sports day was also a highlight partaking, watching and enjoying the music and celebratory atmosphere on the field.



We wish you a fantastic summer.
Jane McKay and the Livingstone Team.

Pathway to Employment

This term (since April 2024) 47 students have had work-based placements at 11 different venues totalling 957 hours between them. This term students have had placements with Team Karting, The Butterfly Café, Little Robins (Forest School), Flint House dining room, Flint House polytunnel, Berkshire Music Trust, Brookfields Art department, Tesco, Newbury Community Furniture Project, Visa and Make SENSE Theatre Company.

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



Jonah and Tommy have both successfully completed a year long supported internship programme with Ways into work whilst in their final year at school. Jonah's placement has been at Dinton Pastures with the estate team and Tommys placement at Addington school with the site team. Both have been invited for interviews for job roles starting in September 2024.

Good Luck to you both!

Student Employee of the Month Awards

Employee of the Month



April

April
This month's Employee of the Month is a student who has been working hard to help our customers and staff. They have been very helpful and friendly, and have been a great asset to our team. Well done!



Employee of the Month



May

May
This month's Employee of the Month is a student who has been working hard to help our customers and staff. They have been very helpful and friendly, and have been a great asset to our team. Well done!



Employee of the Month



June

June
This month's Employee of the Month is a student who has been working hard to help our customers and staff. They have been very helpful and friendly, and have been a great asset to our team. Well done!



Employee of the Month



July

July
This month's Employee of the Month is a student who has been working hard to help our customers and staff. They have been very helpful and friendly, and have been a great asset to our team. Well done!



Competitions

Brookfields Market Garden enterprise recently entered the Dorothy Morley Conservation award highlighting how we look at conservation and sustainability. The students talked to a panel of trustees about how we conserve water, use natural materials, sell our produce in sustainable packaging and planting flowers to attract the pollinators to encourage a thriving wildlife habitat. We can 2nd and won £500 towards our next project of learning how to reduce waste by learning how to make our own compost.

Well done Jack, Sara and Harvey for presenting!





We also entered the Agricultural Challenge for SEN hosted by The Newbury District Agricultural Society. The students entered several categories including a weather themed collage and a recycled garden display. They grew potatoes in the potato challenge and entered homemade chutney. It was a fun day enjoyed by all and Brookfields came overall 2nd winning yet another £175 to go towards next years projects.

Well done everyone!



Employer Encounters

This term we have been lucky to have a representative from The Department for Work and Pensions come into school to deliver workshops on Interview Techniques and CVs to secondary pupils.

Students also visited the Apple store in Reading to learn how to use Apple apps to produce a guide book on locations around the world. They each made a presentation.

The Power House Games,

13 students took part in this multi-team event playing adapted games and sports. All the activities are especially designed to be accessible and fun for everyone. There are a range of sports including sitting volleyball, new age kurling, visually impaired football, and boccia.



Some secondary students also visited the **Williams Experience Centre** in Grove, Oxfordshire. The students had a guided tour of the Heritage Museum learning about the evolution of F1 sports cars and took part in interactive experiments. They were then invited to the Esports Simulator Lounge where they experienced the thrill of virtual racing sat behind the wheel of the simulator, which the students seemed to enjoy!



Visa June 2024

Visa staff used some of their volunteering hours to do some maintenance work at our allotment site. Tasks included lopping the willow trees, building a fence, constructing further pathways, strimming and some serious digging! Their support is invaluable as it helps us to continue to improve accessibility for the students. The students were then able to plant their homegrown pumpkin plants into the beds. Thank you to the volunteers.



Market Corner Shop opened

Brookfields Market Garden students have worked hard to design,organise and create a garden area by our vehicle turning circle, planting flowers and herbs to attract the pollinators to encourage wildlife in different areas of the school.The majority of the plants were grown from seed which has been a huge success. Please feel free to come and sit in this area when you collect your child from school or when you are on the school site. The shop will sell seasonal fresh produce and plants the students have grown at school.The students are also working on designing some new eco friendly compostable packaging so we can move away from plastic pots.



Enterprise Advisor

A very warm hello to everyone at an amazing school, to parents, students and staff alike.



“My name is Pete Gaylor and I’ve been working closely with Julie and Lucy for the last year, as a volunteer “Enterprise Advisor”. The role is intended to help the students prepare for the world of work, by helping the school align its vision to that which helps the students get ready for life after school. At every contact with the school and its people I have been impressed with the drive and dedication, from my very first meeting, in how passionate the school is, to ensure that the young people get the best possible transition from education into employment, in whatever shape that may be.

The students that I have met at Brookfields and brought into work for discussions on what more business can do, have provided an inspiration that everyone involved with the school should be immensely proud of. We all want to do more and look to everyone’s support to make our vision come to life.”

It just remains for us to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with parents/carers and students again next year. If you would like any further information on either Work Experience, Brookfields Market Garden, the careers programme, or have any new ideas on how we could work together, we would love to hear from you. Please contact:-

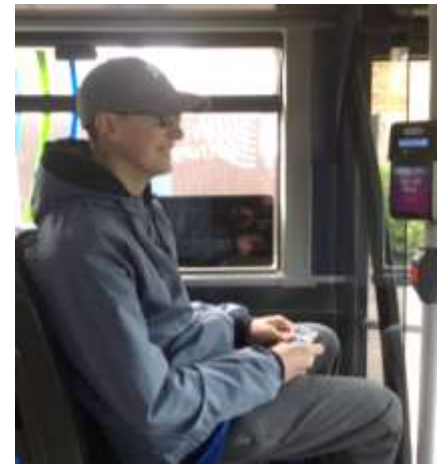
jgrant@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk or lbellman@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Julie Grant and Lucy Bellman, Careers Team

Independent Travel Training

This term our students have been out and about in the local community practicing their independent travel skills. Travel Training provides our young people with the opportunity to learn and practice the skills required to enable them to travel safely, confidently and as independently as possible. On their travels, students have been practicing road and personal safety, using public transport, navigation and following directions, communication and problem solving. One group have also been travelling to the local supermarket on public transport to practice their money skills by following a shopping list and buying items within a budget.

I am delighted that 3 more of our students have now become confident enough to make local journeys independently, travelling to and from home and within the local community. As always, it is fantastic to see their confidence growing and how happy the students are with their increased independence.



If you would like any information about independent travel training, please contact me at cgingell@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Cathy Gingell, SSTA Independent Travel Training / Preparation for Adulthood

Brookfields and Willnk = Brillink



This term, our student social group have enjoyed more fun and games with their friends from The Willink School. The link with The Willink School is one that we have been involved with for many years, and it has been a fantastic way for our students to practice their communication and social skills with mainstream students of a similar age. For our final meet of the year, we all took a trip to Wellington

Country Park where we enjoyed a fabulous picnic lunch followed by spending time with the animals. The students were



hoping for nice weather and their wishes came true as it was a perfect day with lots of smiles and happy faces all round! I must say a huge thank you to Welly Park who made us very welcome and allowed us free entry for the afternoon.

Our students have had great fun getting to know their new Willink friends. At the start of the year there were many shy students, but as the weeks have progressed it has been amazing to see their social confidence grow and the interaction with their peers! We are looking forward to doing it all again next year.



Happy Summer everyone!

Cathy Gingell

Maths News

This term, the pupils have engaged in exploring and learning new mathematical concepts within our topic of 'The Great Outdoors'. We have therefore not only been learning maths inside the classroom but also in our outdoor spaces and the wider community.

Within the Exploration Strand, many of the learners have been continuing to learn maths through the Waldon approach, which focuses on early cognitive skills. Maths and cognition have also been an important part of Explore Time, where pupils completed maths and cognition activities based on the stories '10 Little Bugs', '10 Little Ladybirds', 'Worm Weather' and 'The Weather Girls'.



Within the Engagement Strand, some classes made use of the good weather we had to learn about capacity. They created rain gauges to learn the concepts of full, half full, empty, enough, not enough and too much! Other classes learnt about recognising different coins and notes to help them work out total amounts of money to support the pupils calculate how much they spent in the shop.



Within the Enrichment Strand, much of the maths learning has continued to be through practicing their fine-motor and cognition skills through the Waldon approach. Pupils have been making particularly good progress with their abilities to problem solve.



Finally, within the Enquiry Strand, Fletcher class have been exploring maths through the topic 'The Great Outdoors' and have been recreating elements of expeditions. They have practiced their problem-solving skills re-creating a drawing of a sled from the North Pole. They used meter rules and trundle wheels to measure precisely.



Jack Sharpe, Head of Numeracy.

Literacy and News from The Library

This term has been full of storytelling. Pink, Orange and Purple class have been taking part in weekly 'Call and Response' storytelling sessions. Each week the classes have been learning a new chapter of the story. The storyteller will say a line of the story and the class will respond with the next line. Each week we have noticed the anticipation building as the class learn the story and know what is coming next.



Over the term we have learnt two stories first 'Cyril the Cloud' and then 'Three Little Pigs'. Purple class have created a pig family and their houses built from straw, sticks and bricks. In September we are planning to tell the story of 'The Princess and the Pea'.



The library has been full of energy on a Thursday morning this term with our immersive storytelling. Classes have been travelling around the world to experience festivals in Brazil, India, China and the UK. As the pictures show we journeyed in our imaginary balloon (parachute) around the world. Brazil was popular with the lively festival music, another popular experience during the story was the popping hand cream to represent fireworks in the UK.

In September we are planning a sensory journey experiencing some classic fairy tales as part of our 'Stories Old and New' topic.

We have been learning lots of new songs in 'Sing and Sign' with a summer theme. 'Mr Golden Sun' has been the top choice across the school with the loudest singing coming from Green class who have created their own ending for the song. Sky and White class have been learning the signs for 'What a Wonderful World'. They have done amazingly well and managed to learn the words and signs for the whole song with a few people joining me at the front to showcase it to the rest of the class.

Clare Hook, Curriculum Resource Manager



Youth Club News

Our Youth Club is a wonderful place for students to have some chill out time; to play pool or use the Xbox One, Wii, PlayStation3, Xbox 360, iPads, or to watch TV, enjoy Arts and Crafts, or to just hang out with friends. There is also a tuckshop that sells tasty goodies!



Fun times in the pool



This term we have enjoyed making the most of the lighter evenings spending more time outside. Students had a great time practicing their golf skills out on the field with a lesson from Darren! The students ended their last session with chips from the local shop which went down really well!

Our Youth Club is held at Brookfields School on Thursday evenings from 7pm – 9pm.

If your son/daughter is age 13+ and would like to come along for a trial visit to Youth Club next term please contact either Kerrie or Darren as we have spaces available.

We hope you have a lovely Summer break.

From Kerrie and Darren, Youth Club Leaders.

kbyers@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

dcunliffe@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

PROM

Students had a wonderful evening at their end of year Prom on 12th July 2024. The red carpet was rolled out for our students to celebrate in style with their friends. The 6th Form Corridor and Hall were transformed into a dazzling prom venue as students and staff celebrated the end of term dancing the night away after enjoying a delicious buffet and a glass of punch.



Thank you to our PTA for providing the funding for Berkshire Fountains to provide a photobooth. The students loved the instant photos! Thank you to Resource Building Services Ltd for kindly donating the balloons and decorations; Dave's Ices for arriving on our school field for everyone to have an ice-cream and DJ Dave from 'Cougar Disco' for playing some cool music.

Finally, a huge thank you to Kerrie and other members of our staff team for organising and providing such a fantastic evening.

A great time was had by all ... good luck to all our leavers!



Sports Days June 2024

It was lovely to see so many parents, carers and other family members supporting pupils at our Sports Days this term. It was also amazing to have 2 days of dry weather so that both days could go ahead as planned! The Primary Sports Day and The Secondary Sports Day both went well this year! Thank you to everyone who attended. All pupils engaged well with the activities that were set up around the school.

Denefield School students and Brookfields Student Sports Leaders helped to set up and run the activities which was great! A huge THANK YOU to the Denefield PE GCSE students for helping. They were excellent role models.

The 'Sensory Run' was a huge success too with pupils being engaged in the different activities placed around the track. One of the pupils managed to complete two laps in his walker and ran to the finish line! Well done to all Primary and Secondary pupils!



PE News

Many pupils across the school have had the opportunity to attend paddleboarding sessions at the Andrew Simpson Centre in Theale this term which they have all thoroughly enjoyed! You will see several photos of different class groups participating in paddleboarding included in this Newsletter. The pupils worked on their resilience to either get into the water or get onto the boards and some have even managed to stand up. Well done to all pupils who took part!

I am pleased to report that we have appointed a new Swimming Instructor this term, Sarah Vine, who has started taking sessions in our school swimming pool. Sarah is keen to develop pupils' skills and abilities in the pool when they attend their weekly swimming sessions. Pupils have enjoyed being able to swim again in our school pool after having a short break whilst we recruited a new instructor.

We would like to wish all parents, carers and pupils a wonderful summer break!

Tor Carter, Head of PE and Matt Rosier PE Co-ordinator.

Fundraising Update

Reading Half Marathon.

You may remember that one of our brave parents, Julius Pinto, was due to run in the Reading Half Marathon to raise money for Brookfields. Jules raised an incredible £1,250 because of his efforts. We will use this money within the primary school. Thank you Jules for your support and thank you to everyone who sponsored Jules.



Reading Joggers.

We completed our yearlong collaboration with Reading Joggers and are so grateful for all their support, both practical and financial. The team raised a staggering total of just over £3,300. We plan to spend this incredible donation on sports and play equipment for the school.

In addition to raising money, a team from the Joggers gave up a Saturday afternoon to transform the early years allotment area. As you can see, the difference was huge, and the area is now ready for new beds and a potting shed. We are grateful for their support, especially as it was a very rare hot day!



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/>



We were delighted to welcome a team of volunteers from the Tesco Distribution Centre in Reading who came in the Easter holidays to help us with the sensory garden. As you can, it was a fantastic transformation.



Before



After

As well as donating their time, the team donated a huge number of plants to bring some much-needed colour to the area. We are very grateful for all the hard work of the volunteers.



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's a great 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 huge 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, 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/>

Thank you for your support. If you have any suggestions for fundraising opportunities please contact our fundraiser Charlotte Wilshire. cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

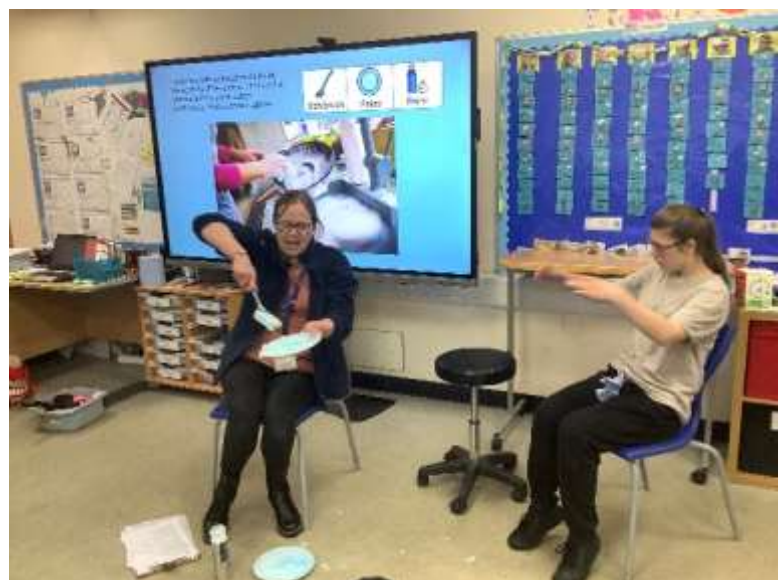
Charlotte Wilshire, Fund Raiser

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) News

Thank you for continuing to support the Brookfields Parent Teacher Association (PTA) this year. The PTA was delighted to pay for the school to receive a visit from Michael, 'The Bubbleman'.



The event was a huge success. We are delighted that Michael will be also attending the school's 50th birthday PTA event to provide more 'bubbly' entertainment for everyone.



The PTA has been working very closely with the school to plan the school's 50th anniversary celebration event on **Saturday 14th September 2024 from 12pm to 3pm**. Thank you to everyone

who replied to the survey regarding entertainments and helping at the event. We are finalising the entertainment and will be using your feedback as much as possible. We have already confirmed an animal petting zoo, Bubbleman, a pizza van, a coffee van and (subject to operational constraints) a fire engine. In the meantime, if you have any further ideas for the event do please let us know. Thank you for supporting the PTA. We are always looking for more parent volunteers to join the PTA so do get in touch if you're able to offer your support.

You can email the PTA direct on brookfieldspta@gmail.com or contact Charlotte Wilshire: cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

**BROOKFIELDS
IS
CELEBRATING
ITS 50TH
BIRTHDAY!**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SATURDAY
14
SEPTEMBER
12PM TO
3PM**

Governor News

The Governing Board has continued to work very closely with the school team on the proposal for Brookfields School to join the Ascendancy Partnership Trust. Although there is a temporary delay due to the West Berkshire Council Delivering Better Value project, the Governing Board remains committed to the project and will be working with both the school and the Trust to join as soon as possible.

The following policies were approved during the summer term: SEND, EYFS, Children Looked After, Equality, Careers Guidance, Behaviour, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions, School



Uniform, Data Protection, Teacher's Pay and Premises Management. These policies will be available on the school website.

The Governing Board will be very sad to say goodbye to Sam Jacob, Chair of Governors, who will be stepping down from his role in September 2024. Sam has been a governor for 9 years and has made a huge contribution to the work of the school. He has served as Chair of Governors, Vice-Chair of Governors and Chair of the Finance Committee. We would like to thank Sam for his dedication and commitment to the role. The good news is that this is not a total goodbye as Sam has joined the Ascendancy Partnership Trust as a Trustee so he will still retain his connection to the school. We would like to wish Sam the very best of luck in his new role.

The Governing Board would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the whole school team for its incredible work during a challenging year. We never cease to be amazed at the incredible dedication and commitment of the staff team and wish everyone a relaxing summer holiday.

If you have any questions about the governing board, please do not hesitate to contact:-

Charlotte Wilshire, Clerk to the Governors. cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

The Governing Board of Brookfields School

Support for Families during the holiday

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

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 786543

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>

**ASD Family Help
Liason Workers**

Are you a parent of a child with SEN and need some one to one advice, information or support?
Do you need help to check your DLA/PIP claim?
Chat to our Liason Workers!

Online meetings via Teams or
in person at Costa, Newbury, RG14 2BP

Appointments available
to meet up or chat online

Tuesdays from 10.30am
to 1.30pm

To book visit our booking
page:
[www.tinyurl.com/ASDFH
Bookings](http://www.tinyurl.com/ASDFHBookings)

For any queries email
Tracy@asdfamilyhelp.org

- A safe and confidential space to talk.
- Get access to helpful referrals & resources.
- Find information about benefits and other help you may be entitled to.
- Let us help you review your DLA/PIP forms.

**Reach out.
Find Support**

NEW Multi-Sports sessions are starting fortnightly in Newbury for children/young people with additional needs aged 5 to 18 years. Sessions will be for 1 hour after school at £4 per child per session. We are finalising the venue/day and time. If you would like to read more information about that club, you can do so here:

<https://asdfamilyhelp.org/index.php/events/multi-sports/>

If you might be interested in a space for your child from September, please join the waiting list here: www.tinyurl.com/ASDFHMultiSports

NEW Teen Club sessions are going to be starting in Newbury once a month. For an idea about what Teen Club will be like, you can read about our Wokingham Teen Club here: www.tinyurl.com/teen-club

If you think your young person might be interested in signing up, please join the waiting list here: www.tinyurl.com/ASDFHTeenClub

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

Reading
SEND
LOCAL OFFER

Issue 35, June 2024

A newsletter for families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Reading

The Summer Issue

Inside

- B&B news
- What's on in Reading & SEND short breaks
- Family support
- Preparation for adulthood
- Counselling for young people
- And much more...

www.readingsendlocaloffer.org

Family Information Service/SEND Local Offer Brighter Futures for Children

Reading Borough Council
0118 937 3777 (opt 2)
www.readingfis.org

Wokingham Borough Council

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

[SEND Local Offer \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-families-and-young-people/send-local-offer)

Oxfordshire County Council

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

Reminders to parents and carers

Uniform

If your child is moving on to Secondary please note that 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 and online.

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 will not be allowed as part of the school uniform.



The uniform jumper for all Primary pupils is blue.

6th Formers continue to be able to wear 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 from September 2024

'Dolce Schools Catering' will 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 hot 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 will continue to be **£2.73** per day and **payments must be made online**.



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

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

Keeping in Touch 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

You can also download the *School Gateway App*

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information we have, so please make sure the mobile number and email address we hold for you are correct.

Brookfields School Term Dates and Inset Days 2024 / 2025

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

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

Staff Inset Days

Monday 2nd September 2024
 Tuesday 3rd September 2024
 Friday 25th October 2024



**We are looking forward to pupils
 returning to school after the
 summer break on
 Wednesday 4th September 2024**



Pop-in and Play Picnic at Brookfields playground



*Wednesdays during the holiday
31 July, 7 August, 14 August, 21 August
11.30 am-1.30pm*

We understand summer holidays can be long and sometimes a break from the home or a chance to meet with friends and other families would be welcome so come and join us in the safe and familiar place of our KS2 playground area. All family members welcome, no need to book just pop along if you are free.

- Pack your own picnic or snacks (nut free please)
- Parents will be responsible for their own children at all times
- A first aider may not be available, please bring your own first aid supplies
- In the event of a wet day sadly we will need to cancel so fingers crossed for dry weather

Hope to see you but if we don't have a safe and happy summer holiday.

