



December 2024

Headteacher's Update

What a busy term! We always plan to pace ourselves when we start a new school year but when it's your 50th Anniversary, it's inevitable that many celebrations will follow! We were therefore delighted to see so many families and past and present members of our school community come together to launch those celebrations. We plan on having open days linked to decades over the course of the Spring and Summer Terms and more information on those will follow. It was also lovely to welcome so many parents/carers to our 'Winter Wander' at the start of this week. We completely underestimated the number of parents/carers who would be interested in attending but were delighted to welcome so many of you. It is really important to us that you see how we operate on a daily basis, warts and all! Transparency in all areas is key and we believe helps build a common understanding across our community of what school looks like on a daily basis. What I hope that you **all** experienced was a very warm welcome, a sense of how much staff care and are prepared to do and give to help your child succeed, and the pride we feel when we see your children developing and growing in confidence as they progress through the school, whatever their starting point. When you look through the rest of this newsletter you will see the breadth of experiences available which together with staff expertise and commitment, help support the development of well-rounded young people ready to try out and experience the world of work and/or their community outside of Brookfields School.



We have become aware of several pupils who have Air-tags sent into school in their bags. We know this is for tracking travel to and from school and completely understand why you might wish to do this. However, you **must** alert us if this is the case, as we will then store your child's bag in the school office away from curious little fingers. The batteries within the Air-tags are designed to be easy to replace and that presents a potential hazard for our technologically curious pupils. Thank-you.

Thankyous! I would like to say a big thank you to parents and carers who have supported our efforts to keep as many staff as possible in school through keeping pupils' home when they are not well enough to be in school. I really do appreciate how difficult this can be if you are working or if your child insists that it's a school day and they need to go to school, but it has helped to

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reduce the spread of the seasonal coughs and colds for which we are very grateful, though we have certainly still had our fair share!

In September, we unfortunately had two teachers brand new to Brookfields leave shortly after joining the school, and we have been on a recruitment drive ever since. Sarah Marriott, teacher of Columbus Class is also moving on to pastures new and undertaking a very different challenge in Mainstream!

I am delighted however to say that we have three more Agency Teachers joining us in January in Denita Todd, Felicia Allin and Cheryl Otty, who will be teaching Yellow, Orange and Columbus classes respectively. I am incredibly grateful to the support staff teams and teachers in the Exploration Strand and the staff teams in Palmer and Columbus classes, who have all, along with some fabulous Agency Staff, ensured that the classes have remained open to pupils during what has been a very challenging time for all. THANK YOU!

We are also delighted to welcome Chloe James in a different capacity. Chloe has been here for two terms as an assistant but is a qualified teacher and will lead Indigo class as our new pupils join us. We also warmly welcome Cherkish Young, Razia Abid, Aishwarya Venkateswaran and Ruchi Goyal all of whom are transferring from Agency Staff to become permanent staff with us. We hope that this is the start of a long and happy relationship!

In January we sadly say Goodbye to Amy Parks-Anderson, LSA in Sharman class. Amy has been with us for many years now and leaves us to go into Nursing. I am grateful to Amy and the Sharman team who have been instrumental in maintaining the class when their teacher moved at half term to work with the Local Authority. Heather Beeney, our Teacher of the Deaf and Art Teacher, is reducing her days next term, but will still be here be running our Enterprise Print Studio 2 days a week-we wish all staff moving on all the very best-Thank-you all for all you've brought to the school and Good Luck in your new challenge ahead!

I want to take this opportunity to thank **all** staff at Brookfields; site, office, support staff, teachers, SLT and agency staff too, all of whom individually and collectively been incredible in what have been difficult circumstances this term. I know the new year will bring new opportunities as well as new challenges for us to face and I am looking forward to tackling them together. Thankyou!

It has been said that we cannot necessarily equip our children with all the knowledge to prepare for their next steps as we do not know the world for which we are preparing them, (I am definitely the pupil not the teacher when it comes to all things AI for example!) but what we can and must do is equip them with the skills and give them experiences they need to prepare for and access their futures and we aim to do all three at Brookfields. I hope that this is as evident to you as it is to me from the pictures on the following pages. Enjoy taking a look!

Finally, I want to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, a safe and peaceful holiday and a very Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing staff and pupils back on Monday 6th January 2025.
Catherine

Catherine Bernie
Headteacher



Exploration Strand

What an amazing busy first term we have had in Exploration! We welcomed twelve new pupils in September 2024, and it has been wonderful to see them settle into their classes. The children have been busy learning all about 'Me, Myself and I' and 'Old and New' in our Topic Stories.

Last term the pupils explored and engaged with texts such as 'From Head to Toe' and 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'. The children experienced a range of activities from creating artwork based on their faces to using a variety of materials such as playdough, crayons and wool. They explored different textures. Some pupils even experienced painting with their hands and feet getting very messy in the process! In our second term Exploration classes looked at books such as 'Squash and a Squeeze' and 'Cows in the Kitchen'. The children had tea parties in the imagination room and squeezed animals into the doll house. They enjoyed pouring and emptying in our cognition activities as well as having counting opportunities using water play with ducks.



Pupils have enjoyed our messy play and exploratory food sessions.

They have explored everything from dry cereal to wet cornflour using various tools to make marks within it. The children have made faces using different vegetables and fruits, practicing chopping and using utensils to create the features. They pupils have loved 'Sing and Sign' this term and even had the chance to learn some new songs about Autumn, Winter and scarecrows.



The Exploration classes also had fun celebrating Diwali making salt dough lamps and Rangoli patterns with paint dabblers.



Pupils enjoyed dressing up for their Halloween Disco and practicing celebrations as a group.



Classes have also been visiting our Forest School to observe the changing seasons. They have seen the falling Autumn leaves and the colder Winter weather making the pond frost over. They have had successful transitions around school to various activities such as Swimming and Dance as well as Forest School. It's great to see the progress they have made across the term.





One highlight of the term has been the weekly climbing activity session at Adventure Dolphin in Pangbourne where children faced the daunting heights by persevering and being brave.



Another highlight was welcoming our families in for not one but two 'Stay and Play' sessions this term where the children explored Autumn and Christmas/Winter activities with their families. Thank you for joining us! Finally, we ended this spectacular term in style with a party! Pupils were invited to a party hosted by a group of students at Highdown School in Caversham. It was such an amazing experience for the pupils; full of songs, laughter and even a special appearance from the big man himself.... Santa!!

Happy Christmas from all of us in the Exploration Strand. We hope you have a good break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back again on Monday 6th January 2025.

Tamsin Banfield, Exploration Strand Lead



Orange Class This term our topic has been stories, 'The Gingerbread Man' has led us nicely into a range of Christmas activities including making Christmas tree ornaments and printing wrapping paper all with a Gingerbread Man theme. Students have loved the story and embraced the interactive elements, especially being gobbled up by the very hungry fox and the wet splashing river.



Other highlights this term have included Dance with Annalise, building anticipation with stop and go and the new Key Stage 2 swings which have provided hours of fun and great learning opportunities for transition and following a timetable.

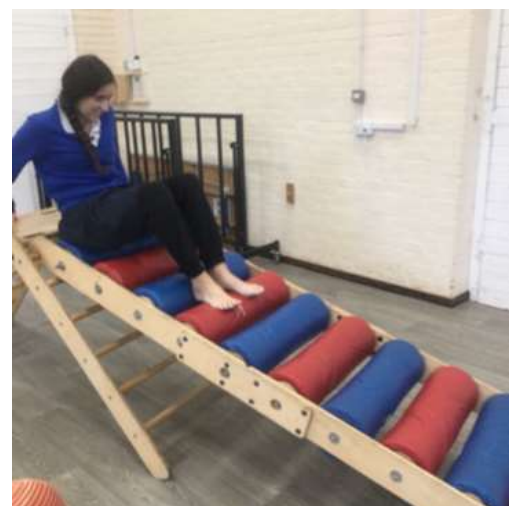


We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.
Jane McKay and Orange Class team.

White Class It has been a very positive Autumn term in White Class. Seeing pupils from a variety of classes come together and form some amazing new friendships has been a joy to watch over the last few months. Throughout the first half term our learning was orientated around the topic 'Me, Myself and I'. Pupils were able to create their own personal profiles giving their new peers and staff a greater idea of who they are and what makes them happy. We have had a large focus on ensuring our pupils feel safe and valued at school making White Class a place they feel comfortable and secure in.



More recently, we have focussed on the topic 'Stories' engaging in creating our own characters and exploring a range of emotions which linked well with our PSHE focus. Throughout the term we have been fortunate enough to have access to a range of enrichment opportunities. The pupils have responded brilliantly to out of class environments to support in optimising their educational outcomes. Highlights have been Forest School, Explore Art, Make SENSE Drama as well as the class favourite, SWIMMING! Additionally, pupils have enjoyed weekly cooking and snack café sessions in class which we know the pupils have loved.





White Class are excited to end the term with our off-site trip to the pantomime to watch Cinderella! The pupils will be attending with lots of friends from across the school and everyone should have a great time together.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support throughout the term and we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The White Class Team - Megan, Tom, Stacey, Ruhena and Catarina.



Palmer Class have enjoyed lots of sensory activities this term, especially since we have been thinking about Winter. Our hot chocolate sensory exploration tray has been a big hit! Alongside this the pupils have enjoyed their regular Rebound sessions and Swimming lessons as Palmer Class pupils love to be on the move. Make SENSE Theatre sessions are also a favourite activity for the pupils. The class have enjoyed engaging with the members of the Make SENSE team. The children are looking forward to their final week of term with opportunities to explore many seasonal activities relating to Christmas.



Happy Christmas from all of us! We look forward to seeing pupils back at school on Monday 6th January 2025.

Kirsty Simmonds / Jane McKay and the Palmer Staff Team.

Coleman Class have had an educational and fun packed Autumn term. Some of the highlights have been community visits to local shops, to work on functional Maths and communication skills and weekly cooking sessions to help develop independence kitchen skills and following of instructions. Many pupils have also taken part in work experience opportunities including placements at The Furniture Project in Newbury, IKEA, Ridgeline and working on the Butterfly Cafe at Brookfields. The pupils have come together from many different previous classes and a big focus for this term has been developing positive relationships with each other. We have facilitated this by weekly board and card games sessions as well as weekly PE lessons where the focus has been on team games. The pupils have made fantastic progress with their communication with each other as well as working as a team and really getting to know each other individually.





Coleman Class have ended the term with a trip to see 'The Snow Queen' at the Reading Rep Theatre. Thank you for all your support this term. We look forward to seeing all the students back at school on Monday 6th January 2025. Happy Christmas!

Jess Lewis, Class Teacher and the Coleman Staff

 /ReadingLocalOffer



Information, support and services for Reading's children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families



 0118 937 3777 (option 2)

 localoffer@reading.gov.uk

www.readingsendlocaloffer.org

Livingstone Class.

During the Autumn Term, Livingstone Class embarked on an exciting sensory journey with the story "Alice's Journey Through Fairy Tales." Pupils joined Alice in exploring beloved tales such as 'Snow White', 'The Little Mermaid' and 'Hansel and Gretel'. Sensory-based lessons, including Tac Pac, Sensology, Massage and Immersive Theatre were incorporated to enhance their learning experience. Weekly swimming and Rebound Therapy sessions supported both physical and sensory development.

The class celebrated seasonal events, such as Halloween, Diwali and Christmas, through creative activities. A focus this term was building life skills, with pupils learning to make sandwiches and shortbread and practicing household tasks such as wiping tables, sweeping and washing dishes - activities that fostered independence and confidence.

Weekly Park visits also offered opportunities for practicing road safety and engaging with the community. To conclude the term, the class enjoyed a delightful trip to the Thames Valley Adventure Playground in Taplow. Pupils had opportunities to explore the indoor and outdoor play areas, sensory room and music room. It was a wonderful way to celebrate their achievements this term.

Livingstone Class is ready for new adventures and challenges in the upcoming Spring Term and we look forward to another exciting term ahead!





We wish you a very Merry Christmas, a lovely holiday and a happy new year!
Ola Tarcynska and the Livingstone Team.

Henson Class. It has been a positive term; **Henson Class** students have all settled in well. This term pupils have been focusing on building positive relationships with their peers and staff by taking part in weekly social activities. The class have enjoyed developing important life skills. The students have enjoyed going on offsite trips and have engaged well with their set tasks. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm to learn and how proud they are of their achievements!

Merry Christmas!

From Henson Class Team.

Sharman Class has had a busy and fun Autumn Term! The class has been exploring their favourite things through interactive stories and waking up their senses in our Autumn Sensology lessons. Additionally, the pupils have been really enjoying their weekly Immersive Theatre sessions where they get to play the role of stars in the play. As the Christmas holiday approaches, the class has begun engaging in all things festive!

A very merry Christmas from **The Sharman Team.**

Columbus Class Columbus students have been working very hard during their swimming lessons this term.



The students in Columbus Class have had lots of fun getting messy, learning new skills and taking turns in a range of activities during their Explore Art lessons.



Some students have been on work experience placements, watering the plants at Laithwaites, helping out and cleaning in the restaurant at IKEA and doing the gardening at Flint House.



We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Vicky Harris and the Columbus Staff Team

Pathway to Employment

Work Experience

Since September 2024, 38 students have had work-based placements at 11 different venues totalling over 600 hours between them. This term we have had placements at Butterfly Café, IKEA, Flint House dining room, Flint House polytunnel, Berkshire Music Trust, Brookfields Market Garden, Newbury Community Furniture Project and Laithwaites as well as new placements at Englefield Tea rooms, Elixir Beauty salon and The Ridgeline Trust (who help people access the benefits of horticultural therapy in their beautiful, accessible garden). 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 and communication skills and self-confidence. This provides them with a meaningful insight into the types of jobs that are available.





Employee of the Month Awards

The following students have shown real enthusiasm during their placements and have been awarded 'Employee of the Month' certificates by our Pathway to Employment team.



Christmas Sales

This year we attended Christmas Fairs at Laithwaites, Visa and Brookfields selling Bulb Lasagne planters, succulents, wreaths and chutneys made by the students in the Brookfields Market Garden Enterprise.



Newbury College Expo

Students attended an interactive Careers Fair at Newbury College this term having the opportunity to engage with professionals and question up to 75 local employers and Pathway Employers who are actively recruiting young people in the area.

Employee Encounters

This term we have had encounters with employers both here at school and at the employers' workplaces including:-

Apple Store

Students also visited the Apple Store to learn how to use Apple apps to produce a guidebook on locations around the world. They each made a presentation.



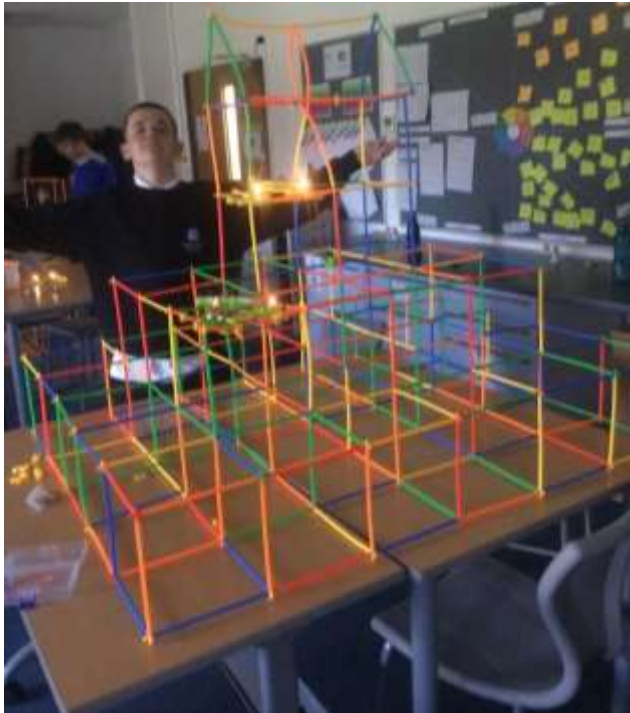
WILLIAMS **RACING**

Some secondary students 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, sitting behind the wheel of the simulators, which the students seemed to really enjoy!



Speakers for Schools

Willmott Dixon delivered some workshops looking at job opportunities focussing on the hobbies and interests of young people. The students enjoyed a practical straws and connectors activity.



The students then visited the working site, meeting various trades' people and having the opportunity to ask them many interesting questions



Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

We have been lucky to have a representative from the DWP come into school to deliver various workshops. The students have looked at skills and qualities, career pathways, supported internships, job websites, employer expectations, different types of interviews, budgeting/payslips and CVs.

Watermill Theatre

'Create a Space' is a course designed to help young people develop transferrable skills, grow their confidence to develop communication skills, teamwork and learn how to show up as the best version of themselves. This is achieved with a series of practical drama-based workshops



Visa staff used some of their volunteering hours to do some maintenance work at our allotment site. Tasks included building a fence,



constructing further pathways and some serious weeding and digging! Their support is invaluable as it helps us to continue to improve accessibility for our students. Thank you to the Visa volunteers!



The Museum of English Rural Life

The students had an opportunity to enrich their learning by experiencing a farming workshop in a welcoming and engaging museum setting looking at the unique collections.

It just remains for us to thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you all again next year. If you would like any further information or have any innovative ideas on how we could work together, we would love to hear from you.

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

Julie Grant and Lucy Bellman, Pathway to Employment Team

Independent Travel Training

I'm happy to say that despite some windy and rainy weather this term, we have still been able to get out and about travel training with our students. All the students who take part in travel training are learning how to keep themselves safe by practicing both road and personal safety off site. Students have also been learning how to navigate and follow directions as well as communicate their locations using descriptive language.



We've had some amazing success stories so far, with students travelling from a bit further afield, who are now able to travel to and from school independently on public transport. Others have worked hard to build up their confidence so that they are also able to travel independently.

I am looking forward to next term to see more students spreading their travel wings! In the meantime, I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas. For more information about Brookfields School Travel Training, please contact

cgingell@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Cathy Gingell, Preparation for Adulthood / Travel Training Specialist

Youth Club

The Youth Club at Brookfields School is a safe place for your child to play Xbox One, Wii, PlayStation, Xbox 360 or use an iPad, watch TV or do Arts and Crafts activities. We have a pool table and when it gets warmer, we go outside. Occasionally we will use the school swimming pool as well. Youth Club is also a great place for the older Brookfields students to just hang out with their friends. We always have a tuckshop for the students to buy goodies!

We are looking for more students to join the Youth Club next term.

Thursdays from 7pm – 9pm for age 14 to 19.

For further details please email
office@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From Kerrie and Darren.



Christmas Bazaar December 2024

Thank you to all pupils, parents and staff for helping and supporting this event.

We made just under an AMAZING £2, 500!



Maths News

This term pupils from across the school have had opportunities to engage in Cognition and Maths opportunities through the Topic of 'Stories'.

In the Exploration Strand, through their Explore Time session, the stories 'A Squash and A Squeeze' and "Cows in the Kitchen" have been used as starting points to enable the pupils to investigate size, comparing "big" and "small" and explore different shapes and colours. Pupils have also had to find animals hidden around the classroom.



In the Engagement Strand, pupils have been exploring stories which involve counting such as 'Kipper's Toy Box' and 'The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf' to recognise and order numbers. Building on the sequence of events in their everyday lives, pupils have also been learning about the language of sequence (for example "first" and "next" "then") which can then be applied in other lessons such as Literacy.



In the Enrichment Strand, pupils have been developing their cognition skills including intentional enquiry, anticipation and understanding of cause and effect. The Waldon approach has been one element within this, where pupils develop understanding of the world through organisation of movement in time and space.



The Enquiry Strand have focused on applying their Maths skills in real life contexts and developing problem solving skills. For example, in White Class pupils have used money as part of their 'Snack Cafe' in order to practice skills of using coins up to the value of 50 pence which they could then use in the community.

Older pupils have also been able to use Maths within their Careers and Employability opportunities. This has included measuring to ensure onion sets are planted at the right depth and distance from each other in the Market Garden and filling the sugar bowls with equal amounts at Flint House restaurant.



We are looking forward to pupils developing their Maths skills further in the Spring Term.
Sara Avenell, Deputy Headteacher

Literacy and Communication News

This term has been all about stories. The pupils have been exploring stories old and new across all the Strands. In the library we have been able to add some new books to our collection inspired by student requests and interests. White Class have been enjoying books which explore places around the world.

Orange, Purple, Sky and Tarrant Classes have been joining in with 'Gingerbread Man' call and response sessions. Classes have been really engaged in the story and have enjoyed sensory elements including 'a wet splashing river' and 'a very hungry fox'. Orange Class pupils have been busy since reading the story creating a Gingerbread Man artwork and Purple Class have created Gingerbread men decorations.



Students from Henson Class and Columbus Class have been bringing lots of energy to 'Sing and Sign' sessions this term. The group have been amazing at picking up the signs and sharing them with other students and staff around school. Most recently we have been learning some Christmas songs to 'Sing and Sign' including 'Christmas Pudding', 'Jingle Bells' and 'I wish it could be Christmas every day'.

Explorers Strand 'Sing and Sign' has followed the theme of their topic book 'Cows in the Kitchen' and pupils have been learning the signs for farm animals. Our most popular song across the Explorers Strand is still 'Sleeping Bunnies' with lots of enthusiastic hopping from many of the children.

What a great first term! We hope all parents, carers and pupils have a lovely Christmas break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January 2025.

Clare Hook, Curriculum Centre Manager



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/>

The Brookfields School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA has had a very busy term. We were delighted that so many of you were able to attend the launch of the school's 50th birthday year in September. We were blessed with fantastic weather and the range of food and entertainment was well received by everyone. We are very grateful to Visa for their donation to support the event and to The Rotary Club of Pangbourne for running a raffle and tombola.



**50th Anniversary
1974 - 2024**



We recently hosted our annual Christmas Bazaar (held on Saturday 7th December 2024) and despite the terrible weather we had a great turnout, and the event went very well.

We were thrilled to have made a profit of just under **£2,500**.

This is a terrific result for the school and the money will be spent on projects to support the pupils.



Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and donated items for refreshments or the tombolas. We are also grateful to all our volunteers before, during and after the event.

We could not do it without your support.

THANK YOU!

Thank you also for the generous sponsorship by local businesses:



Brookfields School Association

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VERY GENEROUS SPONSORS WHO DONATED AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL



Reading



THE
CUNNING
MAN
Burghfield



Brookfields School Association

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VERY GENEROUS SPONSORS WHO DONATED AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL



Caversham



Napier Road



Fox & Hounds



Reading



Tilehurst



Brookfields School Association

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VERY GENEROUS SPONSORS WHO DONATED AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL



Theale





We are also very grateful to

Berkshire Facilities Management

who provide cleaning services to the school, for their fantastic donation of 3 magnificent Christmas trees and stands. They are in all 3 school halls for the pupils to enjoy.



The PTA hope to plan an event for the summer. If you would like to be involved, do please contact us. We are always grateful for your support.

If you have any ideas for events that could raise money for the school, we are always happy to hear from you. If you would like to find out more about the PTA and the work we do, please contact us.

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

Thank you for your support.

Brookfields PTA



Governor Update

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. The work is still ongoing and governors are continuing to support the process to ensure a smooth transition to the Trust. We hope to be a fully signed up partner come February 2025 but will keep you informed as things progress further.

The following policies were approved during the Autumn Term: Child Protection and Safeguarding, Whistleblowing, Attendance, Early Career Teachers, Admissions, Data Protection, Low Level Concerns. These policies will be available on the school website.

The Governing Board underwent several changes in the autumn term. Christine McLean was elected as Chair of Governors and Lesley Reed as Vice-Chair.

The Governing Board were very sorry to say goodbye to Megan Brown (Staff Governor), Tom McAuslin (Co-opted Governor) and Maddie Burr (Co-opted Governor). We are very grateful to Megan, Tom and Maddie for all their hard work. They all made a fantastic contribution to the team and we will miss them.

We have also had several additions to the Board. We are delighted to welcome Alireza Sedaraty as a Co-opted Governor, Stuart Matthews as Parent Governor, Tom Canham as Staff Governor and Maurice George, whom many of you will know from when he worked at the school, as a Co-opted Governor. We are always looking for new governors, especially those who represent business or the community, so if you know anyone who is interested in the role, please contact Charlotte, as Clerk to the Governing Board, at: cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

The Governing Board would like to thank the whole staff team for all their hard work this term. We appreciate your incredible dedication and commitment to Brookfields School. We would like to wish you all a wonderful festive season and all the very best for the New Year.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone in the Brookfields School community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

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 cwlshire@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

Charity Days

Thank you for supporting our Children in Need Day on 17th November 2024. Many thanks to those of you who kindly donated money, baked or sent in items for our Cake Sale. The total raised for the charity was an amazing **£509**.



Save the
Children

Thank you for also supporting our Christmas Jumper Day on 17th December. The school raised £66 for The Save the Children Charity.

THANK YOU for all your donations.

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>

Support for Families during the holiday

Wendy Rosser, Family Support Worker, is on call for advice and support during some of the holiday. Please feel you can contact Wendy to discuss concerns. **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 Worker

Wendy Rosser
0746 965 0696

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

RFF Reading Families' Forum and WBPCF West Berkshire Parent Carer Forum

These forums are for you: the parent/carer of a child with an additional or special need and or disability, to voice your opinion on what you would like for your child.

WBPCF will help you to find the service or support you need.

- We are part of the voluntary sector and supported by the Local Authority and the Department of Education, so have a valid voice, and one that is listened to.
- Will keep you up to date with SEND information, and how we can change things for the better!



*A voice for families of children
and young people with special
educational needs and/or disabilities*



The forums aim to support parents/carers to participate and have a voice in how services for disabled and special needs children are shaped and delivered locally. But together, we can make changes. Contact us now, we value your call. We are here for you and your family.

West Berkshire:-

Phone: 0730 555 1082

Email: [Info@West Berks PCF](mailto:Info@WestBerksPCF) or contact our Chair at dawnwbpcf@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westberksparentcarerforum

Website: <https://www.wbpcf.org.uk/>

Reading:-

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

Phone: 0751 618 5380

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

Reminders to parents and carers



Uniform

Primary Jumper Secondary Jumper

Uniform can be purchased through Price and Buckland and can also be bought reasonably priced, at large supermarkets and from other online retailers.



To order Brookfields School uniform with the school logo: -

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/brookfields>

- 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.
- Primary pupils' uniform is a royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan.
- 6th Formers can wear their own smart but casual clothes.

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 entitled to Free School Meals, continues to be **£2.96** per day and **payments must be made in advance online**. Thank you.



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

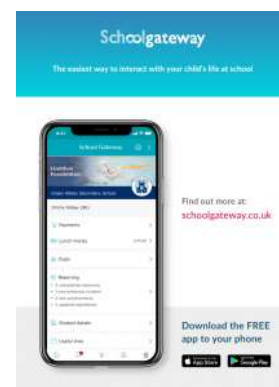
here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

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.

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>



Brookfields School Term Dates January 2025 – July 2025

Term 3	Monday 6 th January 2025 – Friday 14 th February 2025	30 days
<i>Holiday</i>	17/02/25 – 21/02/25	
Term 4	Monday 24 th February 2025 – Friday 4 th April 2025	30 days
<i>Holiday</i>	7/04/25 – 22/04/25	
Term 5	Wednesday 23 rd April 2025 – Friday 23 rd May 2025	22 days
<i>Holiday</i>	27/05/25 – 30/05/25	
Term 6	Monday 2 nd June 2025 – Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	37 days
	Total for academic year 2024 - 2025	190 days

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

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 6th January 2025





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