



April 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a lovely term and has felt particularly joyful in the recent warm and sunny stretch of weather, but as always, it has been a very busy one! You will see this in the following pages and I really hope you enjoy looking through all of the photos within the newsletter which demonstrate the range of activities that your child experiences whilst at Brookfields. Thank you for your continued support of the school this term through attending 'Stay and Plays', the course we have run with external professionals and through attending Annual Reviews and Pupil Progress evenings, whether in person or virtually. We value this collaboration enormously.

It has been lovely to see so many pupils proud of their achievements this past term and many have come to show me their work which is a part of my job that I love! I also felt hugely proud of the work of pupils that I went to see when it was exhibited at a Pangbourne Art Fair recently. For me the pride came from our inclusion on an equal footing with other schools within the community and I was delighted to see that several of our pupils won prizes for their work demonstrating as much talent as the other exhibitors within the exhibition. I am extremely grateful to The Rotary Club who gave our pupils this opportunity and who continue to be such amazing supporters of the school.

I have been excited to see the development of the Print Workshop within school as part of the pupils' Enterprise curriculum offer, which also showcases our pupils' artistic talents which are many. Pupils are looking ahead to the final celebrations of our 50th year and have been designing prints to go onto a variety of products to celebrate that. I am really looking forward to seeing the final products and hope they will become available to the wider community to purchase within the Summer Term.

Three new pupils joined us in January and have now completed their first full term successfully with us which has been wonderful to see. They have settled extremely well. We are now over our planned admission numbers and we have already filled any spaces that will become available as our year Fourteens leave us in the summer, such is the demand for places in SEND settings as you will have seen from the press. We are working within the Trust to open 2 new free schools to support access to an appropriate education for children across Berkshire who desperately need places in a specialist setting and will keep you updated as this develops.

Continued on Page 2

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to some much valued staff this term. Steve Pawlett, a member of our site team, has retired and is off to the coast and Gabi Wheeler, Jess Henry and Lauren Allen are leaving/have left us for changes in their careers after many years at Brookfields. We wish them much success in their future ventures. Charlotte Wilshire is also leaving us. Charlotte has worn many hats including the Clerk to the Governors, the school Fundraiser, Secretary to the PTA and has been a huge part of organising our fayres and fetes since she came on board. Charlotte is retiring and I wish her a long and very happy retirement. I know that she will not be a stranger to the school and I am very grateful for everything she has done often in the background to help bring funds and support from the wider community into the school. All staff leaving will be very much missed. We have however been very lucky to have several of our agency staff become full time members of the Brookfields community, they are all a welcome addition to the team and I hope that we will be able to encourage a few more of our agency staff to do the same - we are working on it!

Over the break, I'm pleased to say that Ash Sayer, our Senior Family Support Worker, will be returning following her placement within Children's Services. Ash will re-join Wendy Rosser and details about their availability over the break can be found at the end of this newsletter. We are also welcoming Rebecca Watson to further enhance the Team. Rebecca will take on the role of Attendance and Safeguarding Lead across the school to support our aim to further improve pupil safety in every way.

Just a quick reminder about the use of mobile phones. **Mobile phones should not be used in school by pupils.** We expect pupils to give their mobile phones to either the Office on arrival at school, or to their class teacher to be locked away, or in 6th Form to be kept within their lockers. Parents/Carers of any pupils unable to fulfil this expectation will be contacted and the pupil will not be allowed to bring their phone into school going forwards if they cannot co-operate with this expectation. If exceptions to this rule are requested, Parents/Carers will need to come into school to meet with me and their child about this. This is to ensure pupil safety and importantly, time at school free of the pressures of being contactable through social media. There has been much in the media about the impact on our young people's mental health when being exposed to this continual pressure and I thank you for your cooperation and support in enforcing this expectation.

We continue to have a focus this year on improving our environment. The school buildings are showing their age and need significant work to make sure that they can serve their purpose effectively for another 50 years and more. I am grateful to the Business Support and Site Teams who, along with our partners within the Trust are working relentlessly to make sure Brookfields is a safer place for pupils and staff to be. All staff have been incredibly adaptive to the changes in expectations and practice and I am grateful for their flexibility and support. Together we will make Brookfields Beautiful.

All that is left for me to do is to wish you all a wonderful Easter break. I hope that the sunshine continues over the break and that you all manage to get a rest as well as time to enjoy the inevitable mounds of chocolate! I look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back on Wednesday 23rd April. It's a short half term and we have a lot to pack in!

With very best wishes,

Catherine

Catherine Bernie
Headteacher



Primary Exploration Strand

We have had such a busy term in Exploration! We welcomed some new pupils in January and it has been wonderful to see them settle into their classes. The pupils this term have been learning all about 'Planet Earth'. Last term the pupils explored and engaged with texts such as 'Tap the Magic Tree' and 'Plant the Tiny Seed'. The pupils have experienced a range of activities from using cups and containers to measure amounts of soil and water, to planting in tiny pots, using our hands and various tools to add the seeds. Some pupils engaged in sensory play of various seeds and flowers in sealed bags. The pupils also created pictures using soil as paint and have created their own Zen gardens in imagination. This term the pupils have been engaging with the texts 'Rainbow Fish' and 'Go Pirate Go', with lots of water play and dressing up as pirates. Our pupils have been exploring shapes that a pirate ship may have such as circles and rectangles.



As well as under the sea animal artwork and music, the children have continued exploring using their hands and feet this term. They have been exploring water, splashing in the trays, spraying the plants to make them grow and making the waves of the sea.

Pupils have enjoyed our exploring food sessions and cooking where we have experimented with different ways to use our utensils to make marks on the fruit and vegetables, looking at the different shapes, smells and textures. Some pupils have even been practicing these skills to make sandwiches, decorate pancakes and biscuits and make Eton Mess. Many of the children liked the jam and the strawberries. They also celebrated Pancake Day, experimenting with toppings such as honey, Biscoff and fruits.



The Exploration classes also had fun this term celebrating Chinese New Year; Year of the Snake by making some sweet rice crispy snakes, some paper snakes and listening to some songs of celebration.

Classes have been visiting our Forest School to observe the spring session, plants growing and the pond thawing, as well as meeting some of the new residents of the pond - the frogs. Some of our pupils were very brave and looked at the frogs closely and helped them get back in the water.



Some of our pupils have continued to go to weekly climbing at Adventure Dolphin Centre and have been successful in facing the heights of the climbing wall and the transition off site, as well as practicing turn taking.



One highlight of the term has been our Mental Health Week where we were lucky enough to have several amazing experiences planned for our pupils. All the Exploration pupils saw 'The Bubble Man' and wondered at the amazing sizes and amount of bubbles he could create. It was so much fun popping the big bubbles.



The petting zoo visited for the day with a variety of animals including a pony, a donkey, goats and guinea pigs. The children were able to gently stroke them. The whole day was an amazing experience for our pupils.

Well done to all pupils on what has been such a busy term.



We hope you have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Wednesday 23rd April.

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

Maths Update

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

In the Exploration Strand, through their Explore Time sessions, the story 'Plant the Tiny Seed' was used in the first half of the term as a starting point to experience filling and emptying containers using soil, cotton wool or paper and then planting carrot seeds using specific language such as "empty" and "full", "too much" and "not enough" .



In the Engagement Strand, some pupils have been counting and matching objects to numbers 5, 10 and 20. In other classes, pupils have learned about direction and movement including terms such as "clockwise", "anticlockwise" or "angle of turn".



In the Enrichment Strand, some pupils have been working on the development of their cognition skills through the Waldon approach, when through exploration and use of objects in their environment, pupils develop fundamental movement abilities leading to them being able to organise and understand the world around them.

The Enquiry Strand have focused on developing their mathematical knowledge such as in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, developing fluency and then applying their skills in real life in the community.



Older pupils have also been able to use Maths within their Careers and Employability opportunities. This has included using a calculator to work out the change in the Butterfly Café and at Flint House restaurant, learning how to set up a place setting by counting and positioning cutlery, serviettes and glasses on each table and then methodically repeating the task around the dining room.



Well done to all pupils this term.

We are looking forward to continuing the hard work in the Summer term!

Have a lovely Easter Break!

Sara Avenell, Deputy Head



Palmer Class have had a fantastic Spring term. The pupils have really enjoyed their topic, 'Going on a Treasure Hunt'. They have taken part in a story where they experienced many of the elements of a treasure hunt including water to simulate the sea and feeling and exploring sand to look for hidden treasure. Palmer Class have also explored stories through the use of strategies such as colourful semantics.



The pupils have also continued to enjoy having regular access to Explore Art and Make SENSE Theatre sessions, working on their communication and exploring different textures and activities. Life Skills and Self-help Skills sessions have continued to be an integral part to our timetable and the pupils have enjoyed daily opportunities to practise these. The class have also enjoyed their Cooking sessions.

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

Jane, Kirsty, Kish, Aoife and Kim



Columbus Class have had a very positive and happy term participating in a variety of fun and exciting activities. Our topic has been Planet Earth. This provided us with the opportunity to learn about various land features such as mountains, deserts, forests, lakes and rivers. The story we focused on was 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett which introduced us to animals living in the forest and the delicate balance of taking care of our environment. Our second story 'Greta and the Giants' by Zoe Tucker and Zoe Persico taught us the impact of one person, Greta Thunberg, a Swedish activist, wanting to save the forests. We have also focussed on the oceans. We identified creatures in rock pools and in the deep sea.



Our weekly visits to the Ridgeline Trust have taught us many gardening skills such as planting seeds and repotting seedlings. We were able to prepare a tasty snack using the watercress we had planted. We tidied the gardens, weeding and pruning, learnt how compost is prepared and we helped to lay pathways with wood chips.





After some wet and muddy visits, we had the opportunity to experience the daffodils in full bloom on a warm and sunny day showing us the arrival of Spring and an awareness of the change of seasons. Students responded well to these community visits.



Highlights of the term have also included weekly PE; strengthening our bodies and improving our coordination as well as building our team spirit in competitive ball games.



Our community visits to do our shopping at the local Tesco or Co-Op have developed our awareness of safety in the community and enriched our experience of using our shopping list, choosing and paying for our items.

We are all looking forward to the holidays and wish everyone a happy Easter break!

Cheryl and the Columbus Staff Team





Livingstone Class has been busy exploring the topic 'Planet Earth' through a range of exciting and engaging activities. Pupils took part in Tac Pac, Sensory Story and Sensology lessons, where they explored a variety of resources and experienced different smells and tastes. These sessions played a vital role in supporting their learning and enhancing their communication skills through different methods.



Their physical development was supported by weekly swimming and Rebound Therapy sessions.



Additionally, they had access to Pangbourne House, where they had the wonderful opportunity to apply their independent living skills in a real-life setting. Activities such as gardening, cleaning, washing up and preparing simple meals like sandwiches and pizzas helped them develop essential life skills.



Livingstone Class also enjoyed community outings, including trips to the park and the local shop to purchase ingredients for their cooking and Sensology lessons. These experiences provided valuable opportunities to practice road safety, follow a visual shopping list and engage with the local community.

It has been a fantastic term and we are so proud of the progress each pupil has made.

Well done, Livingstone Class! We look forward to another exciting term ahead.

Ola and the Livingstone Class Team

Coleman Class have had another busy and fun packed Spring term. The students have all really enjoyed the topic of 'Our Planet'. The pupils have explored a range of different texts including poetry and fiction. They shared their own preferences about different poetry and even wrote their own poems about Planet Earth.

One of the highlights for this term has been taking part in weekly dance lessons with Annalise. This has given students the chance to express themselves creatively and to also learn some new dance routines.



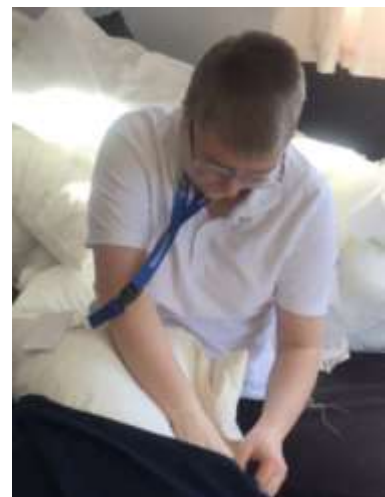


Coleman Class pupils have continued to have a range of work experience opportunities offered to them, including The Furniture Project, working in the poly tunnel at Flint House and working on the Butterfly Café on the school site.

All pupils love the experiences of trying out different vocations to help them think about jobs they would like when they leave school and to give them skills that can be applied in different situations.



Coleman Class also visited Pangbourne House as part of National Careers Week and now have a weekly session where they go there to practice a range of life skills including gardening, making beds, ironing and washing up.



We hope you all have a fulfilled and relaxing Easter.

Jess and The Coleman Team

Work Experience

Since January 2025 this term, 74 students have had work-based placements at 15 different venues totalling over 954 hours of work experience between them.

This term we have had placements at Butterfly Café, IKEA, Flint House dining room, Flint House polytunnel, Berkshire Music Trust, Berkshire Vision, Thames Hospice Superstore, IVM garage, Ridgeline Horticulture, Little Robins, Brookfields Market Garden, Newbury Community Furniture Project and Laithwaites, as well as new placements at Marks & Spencer and in our Brookfields Early Years department.

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 2025

Employee of the Month



January

Jack
 Jack has shown real enthusiasm for his placement at The Thomas Hooper Foundation, working hard to sort and shelve up books for resale. He has received glowing praise from staff and users for the attention he has afforded to the books on the shelves in the store and his knowledge. His mentor in the sector is very impressed with his work and knowledge. For work ethics and professional spirit. [View profile](#)

Employee of the Month



February

Tom
 Tom has shown real enthusiasm for his placement at the Thomas Hooper Foundation, working hard to sort and shelve up books for resale. He has received glowing praise from staff and users for the attention he has afforded to the books on the shelves in the store and his knowledge. His mentor in the sector is very impressed with his work and knowledge. For work ethics and professional spirit. [View profile](#)

Employee of the Month



March

Lyla
 Lyla has shown real enthusiasm for her placement at the Thomas Hooper Foundation, working hard to sort and shelve up books for resale. She has received glowing praise from staff and users for the attention she has afforded to the books on the shelves in the store and her knowledge. Her mentor in the sector is very impressed with her work and knowledge. For work ethics and professional spirit. [View profile](#)

Congratulations to these students!

Brookfields Market Garden Plant Sales

This year the students have been upcycling large tins from our school kitchen to make wonderful outdoor planters. The tins have been washed and painted, drainage holes put in and planted up by the students at Flint House as part of the Brookfields Market Garden Enterprise. All proceeds go back into the enterprise project.

Thank you to those of you who have supported this idea.





Newbury College Visit

We feel it is important for students to be informed about future college options as it helps them to access information about transition and preparation for adulthood. Early knowledge about college can boost the student's confidence, help prepare them for further education, employment, independent living and participation in society.

This term some students visited Newbury College.



Employer Encounters

DWP

This term we have been lucky to have Shabana from the Department for Work and Pensions (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 The Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

Potato Challenge

The Newbury and District Agricultural Society invited Brookfields to take part in their Annual Potato Challenge for 2025. The seed potatoes were chitted in school and then a group of our primary pupils attended the 'Planting Day' at Newbury Showground. The pupils will return there in June for a 'Harvesting Day' where they will be able to learn more about the humble potato and have the opportunity to taste different potato products and do some cooking with potatoes.



SEND Alumni

We are creating a Wall of Fame for our past pupils. We would love to celebrate their achievements and successes and hear about their journey after leaving school. We would like to inspire our current students by sharing stories and talking about exciting opportunities, so they can envision their own futures after Brookfields.

**BROOKFIELDS
WALL OF FAME**

Calling all former students. We would love to celebrate your achievements and successes and hear about your journey after leaving school. We would like to inspire our current students, by sharing your stories, talking about the exciting opportunities after Brookfields.

We could come and talk to you and take your picture to create a mini biography to display at school. Or you could send in a picture of yourself and tell us what you have been up to. Please get in contact details below.

Careers Team Julie & Lucy

Brookfields School Phone: 0118 942 1382
Ridge Rd, Thursteadge
RG31 8SW careers@brookfields-school.co.uk
www.brookfields-school.co.uk

National Careers Week 2025

During National Careers Week students visited Pangbourne House, our Independent Life Skills Centre based at Pangbourne Primary School. Some of the life skills practiced included ironing, making a bed, washing up, hoovering, gardening and cooking.





A great time was had by all including a well-earned rest!!

It just remains for us to thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you all again next term.

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



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

Julie Grant and Lucy Bellman, Careers Team

Independent Travel Training

It's been a busy and exciting term for our young people embarking on their travel training journeys. This term we have been working with 12 students getting out and about in the community, learning how to travel safely and confidently using public transport. The students have enjoyed trips not only by bus but also by using the train where they learnt about how to be safe in the train station, purchase a train ticket, wait safely on the platform and board the train safely. During each travel training session, students practice road and personal safety, navigation, planning a journey, problem solving and communication. Students are also able to develop their functional skills in real life situations and engage in purposeful and meaningful experiences. All of the skills they learn through travel training will help them to become more independent and to open up more opportunities going forward.

I am delighted to say that during this term, 2 of our students have begun travelling to and from school independently and this is a real achievement for them.



If you would like more information about independent travel training at Brookfields, please get in touch at cgingell@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Happy Easter!

Cathy Gingell - Preparation for Adulthood / Travel Training

Swimming and Water Safety

In the school swimming pool this term we have been working hard on an important water safety skill. All pupils have been practicing their floating on their back. In an emergency you should float, breathe and relax so our pupils have been practicing lying back, putting their hair in the water, looking up and relaxing. It has been fantastic to see everyone working so hard and the progress that has been made in achieving this life saving skill.



Always follow the
WATER SAFETY CODE

In an emergency:

FLOAT

if you fall in, float, breathe and relax



Entering cold water makes you gasp, breathe fast and panic, **float for 60 seconds** or until this feeling passes.

Tread water and signal for help by putting one hand in the air and shouting **HELP!** loudly.



Scan the QR code to find out more.

Well done to all pupils for another brilliant term! We are looking forward to more swimming lessons in the Summer term!

Sarah Vine, Swimming Instructor.



Governing Board Update

The Governing Board was pleased that Brookfields School joined The Ascendancy Partnership Trust (APT) on 1st March 2025. This was the culmination of 2 years of work by the school and the board. Governors are very grateful to everyone in the school team who has been involved in the process as it has generated a significant amount of work. We are looking forward to working with The APT.

The following policies were approved during the spring term: Charging and Remissions, Governors' Allowances, RSE, Health & Safety, Teacher's Performance and Capability and Staff Behaviour and Grievance. These policies will be available on the school website.

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 You can see the names of all governors on the website: www.brookfieldsschool.org/about/governance

The Board is also recruiting for a new Clerk to Governors. The process is underway but the current clerk will be covering the role to ensure consistency for the governing board.

The Governing Board would like to thank the whole staff team for everything they do to support the fantastic work of the school. We would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone in the school community a Happy Easter and a good break.



Engage, Empower and Inspire

**BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL IS
LOOKING FOR GOVERNORS**

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

Brookfields
Specialist SEN School

Step into Special Education

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

The Governing Board is responsible for:

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

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

If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk 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

Fundraising News

Rotary Club of Pangbourne.

We were delighted to have been asked by the Rotary Club of Pangbourne to exhibit some pupil artwork at their recent art exhibition. The event was well attended and visitors were very complimentary about the artworks. Rotary are very kindly donating half the proceeds of the event to Brookfields School with the other half going to a fantastic charity in Newbury called Bridge For Young People which supports care givers.



Dragon Boat racing 14th June 2025

Rotary are running their annual Dragon Boat race at the Pangbourne village fete on Saturday 14th June 2025. Brookfields are planning on entering a combined staff and parent crew so do get in touch if you would like to participate. There is a fee of £34 per person which covers the hire of the boat and safety equipment. It is a great day out so do get in touch if you would like to be involved in the Brookfields team.

We are very grateful to Rotary for all the support they give to Brookfields. Rotary are always looking for new members so do get in touch if you would like to find out more: membership@pangbourn Rotary.org.uk



Pangbourne Meadows
on
Saturday 14 June 2025

The Rotary Club of Pangbourne CIO



**TIME TO FEED UP
YOUR DRAGON...!!**

Charity Dragon Boat Racing

A Day's Competitive Fun to Raise Funds for
West Berkshire Homeless 30%, Purley Park Trust 30% and the Rotary Charity Fund 40%

ALSO YOUR Own Selected Charity or Cause!

Over £240,000 net raised by the Dragon Boats for charities since 2001.

The Rotary Club of Pangbourne CIO is once again offering Charity Dragon Boat Racing at the Pangbourne Summer Fete in conjunction with Henley Dragons Dragon Boat Club.

Your crew will consist of 17 people. In each race, led by their drummer beating out the rhythm for paddling, 16 people paddle a dragon boat (a large decorative canoe) along a course of about 250 metres, racing against other teams. There is a qualified helmsman who steers.

We supply all the equipment, boats, paddles, buoyancy jackets.

- Location: Beautiful Pangbourne Meadows on the Thames just downstream from the toll bridge. Ideal for picnicking and spectator viewing.
- Part of Pangbourne Summer Fete.
- Time: Between 09.00 hrs with the finals finishing about 17.00 hrs.
- Knockout competition based on best times. Every crew is guaranteed three races.
- Dragonhead Prizes and Certificates.
- Crews can raise monies for their own nominated causes through sponsorship.
- A maximum of 18 teams compete. No one aged less than 12 can be a crew member.

Entry Donation per crew: £595 For early payment by 10 May only £565 per crew!

First Come, First Served !!

Are you the Best Crew ...?!

Contact: Tony Eldridge
toneld55@gmail.com



JOIN US AND HELP DELIVER THESE EVENTS?

We are looking for people to volunteer and help us raise funds for many charities through these well known local annual events

This is a fun time activity, socialising and working in a team

Contact: membership@pangbournrotary.org.uk

In addition to these events our members marshal firework events, help at the Reading Food Bank and support many local charities



Woodcote 10K Race



Santa's Sleigh



Dragon Boats Races



Art & Craft Exhibition

Tesco

Our communication boards that the Tesco blue token scheme funded have arrived safely and will soon be installed in 4 of our playgrounds. Here are a couple of examples:



Sponsored events

Two parents are very generously taking part in sponsored events to raise funds for the school.

Group cycle marathon Saturday 12th April 2025

Ashley Thorne has organised a fantastic indoor cycle marathon at Nuffield Health on Saturday 12th April.

The fundraising link can be found at:

[Fundraiser by Ashley Thorne : Group Cycle Marathon For Autism Awareness Month](#)

The event is open to both members and non-members and the details are below. Do feel free to contact Ashley if you would like to take part.

Charity Group Cycle Marathon, Are you up for the challenge?!

- 7 Classes
- 7 Hours
- 4 Fun
- 4 Charity

Join the Nuffield Health team in helping raising money through the love of Group Cycle. With seven, 1 hour classes run by various members of our fitness team not only is it for a good cause but also promote good health through exercise. This Class will be open to Members and Non-Members and everyone that participates will also receive a free one day guest pass. All we ask to participate is if you could donate to the cause via the charity bucket which will be there on the day or through the GoFundMe page (link above)

(Non members must book via email to Ashley.thorne@nuffieldhealth.com)

The Cause:

Our Personal Trainer Ashley Thorne, the organiser of this event, is raising money for the Brookfields School Association. Brookfields School is a one of the Special Needs schools based in West Berkshire.

This school holds a special place in Ashley's heart as his Non-Verbal son Fraser goes to this very school and, in Ashley's words, has helped his son improve in his communication and helps him live a better quality of life.

Classes:

Each Group Cycle Class will be an hour long with various instructors. Classes are open to all levels of fitness and there will be an intro at the start for anyone needing help setting up the bikes.

The classes will be at the following times:

- 10:00 – 11:00
- 11:15 – 12:15
- 12:30 – 13:30
- 13:45 – 14:45
- 15:00 – 16:00
- 16:15 – 17:15
- 17.30 – 18:30

Tough Mudder

Having completed the Reading half marathon in the past, our parent governor Stuart Matthews is now taking to the fields of Henley to complete the very challenging London West Tough Mudder event on 10th and 11th May. If you would like to support Stuart and team in their fundraising challenge, you can find the details of the fundraising page below.

[Stuart Matthews is fundraising for Brookfields School Association](#)

We would like to wish Ashley and Stuart the very best of luck with their challenges. We are very grateful for your support for Brookfields.

Brookfields Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

ASDA cash pot for schools

Thank you to everyone who registered for the above recently. I am delighted to confirm that we raised £201.66 as a result of the campaign. We are just determining how to spend the money but think it will be used for some outdoor activity.



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 and you just need to shop as usual but go to the retailers via the easyfundraising website or app.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account/>

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent appeal for new members. We are planning a PTA meeting after the Easter holidays.

You can email the PTA direct on brookfieldspta@gmail.com

Thank you for your support.



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

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

brookfieldsschool.org

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

COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief was a great success this year! The students made the most of 'wear something red' with some brilliantly bright outfits. The students were able to explore a variety of activities in their classes and outside too in the sunshine!

To top it all off, we raised £127!

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



**PARENT CARER WELL-BEING CONFERENCE AT
SELECT CAR LEASING STADIUM, READING,
RG2 OFL, MONDAY 9TH JUNE, 9.30 AM - 2.30 PM**

Join other parent carers of children and young people with additional needs for a day of information and a bit of pampering!

10 am Session on what trauma is, how it affects adults and children, the impact of coping with a traumatised child and sense of loss that may be experienced when child is diagnosed. Sarah Marx - Beacon House

11.10 am Where to get support for yourself/child if your are suffering from trauma - Maryam Makki - Local Offer

Free lunch

12.45 pm Guided Meditation - Samantha Grant

1.20 pm Empowerment exercise

To book: fran@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk or text 07516 185380

Free car parking, on bus route, refreshments provided, free to attend



Support for Families

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

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



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

Reading Families Forum

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

Phone: 0751 618 5380

email: fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com



Wokingham

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

Oxfordshire

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

Advice for Families during the Easter holiday

Ash Sayer and Wendy Rosser, Family Support Workers, are on call for advice and support during some of the holiday from Monday to Friday between 10am – 4pm.

Please feel you can contact them 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

Ash Sayer

0751 624 1989

Wendy Rosser

0746 965 0696

Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Emergency at home during the holiday

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

Out of hours Duty Social Worker 01344 351999

Reminders to parents and carers

Uniform

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



Secondary Jumper

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

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



The uniform jumper for all Primary pupils is royal blue.

6th Formers their own smart but casual clothes.

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



Primary Jumper

School Meals

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

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

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

The cost of a school meal from Year 3 to Year 14 if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals will increase from April 2025 to **£3.22** per day and payments must continue to be made in advance online.



Thank you for your support.

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

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

Staying Connected by text and email.



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

Thank you.

Summer Term Dates 2025

<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

Public Holidays	
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

Brookfields staff look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on
Wednesday 23rd April after their safe and enjoyable break.

