Brookfields
Specialist SEN School

Newsletter

January 2025

EXPLORATION STRAND

What an amazing busy first term we have had in Exploration, we welcomed fifteen new pupils in September, and it has been wonderful to see them all settle into their classes this term. We have all been busy learning all about exploring our topic Sense it.

Last term we have explored and engaged with texts such as 'We're going on a bear hunt' and '5 senses'. The children were able experienced a range of opportunities to explore their senses in the sensory motor room smelling things from chocolate to turmeric. Looking at their reflections and listening to vibrations from different musical instruments. The pupils also enjoyed going on an immersive adventure in sensory bear hunt stories. Creating artwork based on their elements of the story using different tools to make marks from brushes to sponges to spaghetti.

In our second term we looked at books such as 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Birthday'. The children had tea parties in the imagination room and explored making tea and foam cupcakes. They also enjoyed pouring and emptying in our cognition activities as well as lots of counting opportunities.

Lots of our pupils have enjoyed our messy play and exploratory food sessions from dry cereal to wet cornflour, jelly and dry pasta and using various tools to make marks within it. Exploring sensology and TACPAC sessions in order to build our acceptance of different textures. We have loved Sing and Sign this term and had the chance to learn some new songs all about autumn and winter. We had lots of fun celebrating Divali; making salt dough lamps and Rangoli patterns with paint dabblers. We also enjoyed dressing up for our Halloween disco and practicing celebrations as a group.

The pupils have also been visiting our Forest School looking at the changes of the season from the falling leaves to the changes of the weather. They have been progressing on their 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.

Some of our highlights of the term include the climbing adventures at Adventure Dolphin, our children faced the daunting heights persevering and being brave. It was good to welcome in our families for not just one but two Stay and Play sessions where the children explored Autumn and Christmas/winter activities.

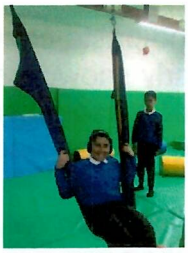
We ended this spectacular term in style with a party. Some of pupils even got invited to a party hosted by Highdown school who fundraised to our pupils; it was such and amazing experience for the pupils full of songs, laughter and even a special appearance from the big man himself.... Santa!!

Happy Christmas from all of us in Exploration, we hope that you had a good break and it has been good to welcome everyone back.

The Exploration Strand Team

WHITE CLASS

We have had a positive and happy Autumn term in White Class. Our topics 'Sense It' and 'Food Glorious Food' have provided cross-curricular learning opportunities. Our story 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' was a hit with pupils, immersing themselves in this funny story and learning about positive hygiene and washing routines. Through the story 'All the Nonsense in my Teeth' pupils familiarised themselves with brushing their own teeth and the importance of good oral hygiene. Our science experiment with eggs as teeth captivated pupils as they were able to see first-hand the effect of a range of fizzy and soft drinks and how these affect our teeth.



In the second half term, our focus changed towards the texts 'The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch' and 'The Magic Porridge Pot' where pupils brought the story to life through picnic planning, role play and making our own lighthouses. We also had fun making porridge and following simple instructions.
Other highlights of the term include a range of fun and explorative cooking and tasting sessions, where pupils have been able to bake a range of goodies and create healthy snacks. Pupils have demonstrated a brilliant ability to access a range of learning environments, many of which are new to them. These include: Forest School, Art, Drama and on-site Swimming. Supporting safe transitions has been a significant part of our focus this term and pupils have risen to the challenge.

It has been a pleasure to observe pupils adapt to their new environments and build sustainable relationships with peers and staff. Pupils have done exceptionally well at meeting classroom expectations and making White Class a happy and stimulating place to be.
The whole team wishes to extend their praise for all the pupils for their achievements this term and supporting pupils who are new to Brookfields in settling into our school community. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at the recent 'Winter Wander' and we are grateful for your ongoing support. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break!
The White Class Team – Tom, Matt, Abbie, Joana, Hannah and Razia.

ENGLEFIELD CLASS

This term, students have taken part in a cross-curricular, IT based research project. They were required to research, plan, budget, and present their proposals for a class trip to Toby Carvery.

Their IT skills were developed through navigating the internet to locate key information such as the venue's location, contact details, menus, and prices.

Students demonstrated the ability to copy and paste content into PowerPoint, creating presentations that clearly showcased their findings. They also learned how to write a formal letter to request a table, with a focus on structure, formality, sentence accuracy, grammar, and punctuation.

The project culminated in an off-site visit to Toby Carvery, where students interacted politely with staff and members of the public, applying their prepared learning in a real-world context and celebrating their academic achievements.

Students visited Johnsons Linens in Reading to explore the facilities and processes involved at the plant. They observed how dirty linens are received, sorted, washed in large industrial machines, dried, steamed and folded, gaining a clear understanding of the full cycle of operations. The group also learned about the logistical systems that enable Johnsons Linens to supply and service hotels across the south.

Staff were very friendly and informative, encouraging students to engage, ask questions and participate. Students were able to try folding bathrobes that will be sent out to hotels in the region, which added a practical, hands-on element to the visit.

The Englefield Class Team

SULHAM CLASS

Sulham have had a brilliant first term, settling back into school life whilst also making some fantastic progress. All of the pupils are always so well engaged within their learning both in class and when offsite. It has been great to come together as a whole class and begin building new friendships. Pupils explored their senses through learning about their DNA as well as through food from around the world.
A real highlight this term has been our weekly visits to Pangbourne house (Brookfields Life Skills Centre) to engage in a range of activities – including gardening and cleaning tasks. Pupils have had the opportunity to engage within a range of cross curricular activities which have enabled us to explore our overall topic in a fun and exciting way.
Thank you for your ongoing support
Courtneay and the Sulham class team

The Sulham Class Team

MAPLEDURHAM CLASS

This term, Mapledurham Class have had an absolutely fantastic time learning together! Our topic, Food, Glorious Food, has brought so much excitement into the classroom, especially as we dived into the fun-filled story The Great Chocoplot. The learners have really thrown themselves into everything—from spotting logos and exploring advertising to using brilliant adjectives in their writing. We've also loved getting stuck into lots of cooking and creative topic activities, giving everyone the chance to try new skills, tastes, and ideas in a hands-on way.

Alongside all this, we've been introducing some important PSHE and RSE themes, such as self-esteem and the first steps in learning about puberty. The learners have shown amazing engagement, asking thoughtful questions and showing real confidence as they explore these new topics. We're so proud of their enthusiasm, positivity, and hard work throughout the term. Mapledurham Class have truly shone, and we can't wait to see what fun and learning next term will bring!

The Mapledurham Class Team

MacARTHUR & SCOTT CLASS

This term Scott and MacArthur Classes have embraced the new Sixth Form Structure, settling well into their updated routines and increased independence. Moving between lessons, shared sessions and work-related learning opportunities has become a regular part of the week, and pupils have adapted confidently.

Alongside this, pupils have been engaging in our TASC work on healthy lifestyles, learning about nutrition, personal care and exercise, and making positive choices that support their wellbeing. Pupils have enjoyed practical activities linked to this learning and have shown growing maturity in discussions.

Some pupils have continued to work towards Entry Level Certificate skills in Maths and Literacy, including financial literacy and comprehension work linked to our class text. All pupils have shown perseverance and pride in their achievements, building important study and life skills.

On Fridays, Duke of Edinburgh days have been a real highlight, with pupils developing skills in chosen interest areas such map reading, volunteering and chosen interest areas such as first aid or driving theory. These sessions have supported teamwork, resilience and confidence.

Across the term, pupils have shown increasing responsibility, organisation and readiness for their next steps in adulthood. We are very proud of how well they have engaged with the new Sixth Form offer and the positive start they have made this year.

The MacArthur & Scott Team

ORANGE and PURPLE CLASS

All the students in Orange and Purple classes have settled in well this past term and build some lovely relationships with peers and adults working in class.

This past term our topic has been 'Sense It!' where we have been exploring lots of different textures and food items in our weekly sensology and messy play sessions. Our book this term has been Olivers Milkshake which we have enjoyed exploring in our sensory story session.

We have also had the opportunity to access Forest School, swimming and make sense sessions which have been very popular amongst Orange and Purple class students.

The past couple of weeks we have all enjoyed lots of festive activities, a particular highlight has been the Winter Wander where we shared our Christmas tac pac activity and music sessions with the parents. We hope you enjoyed engaging with the arts and craft activities in the lead up to Christmas. We hope you all had a lovely break.

The Orange and Purple Class Team

FLETCHER CLASS

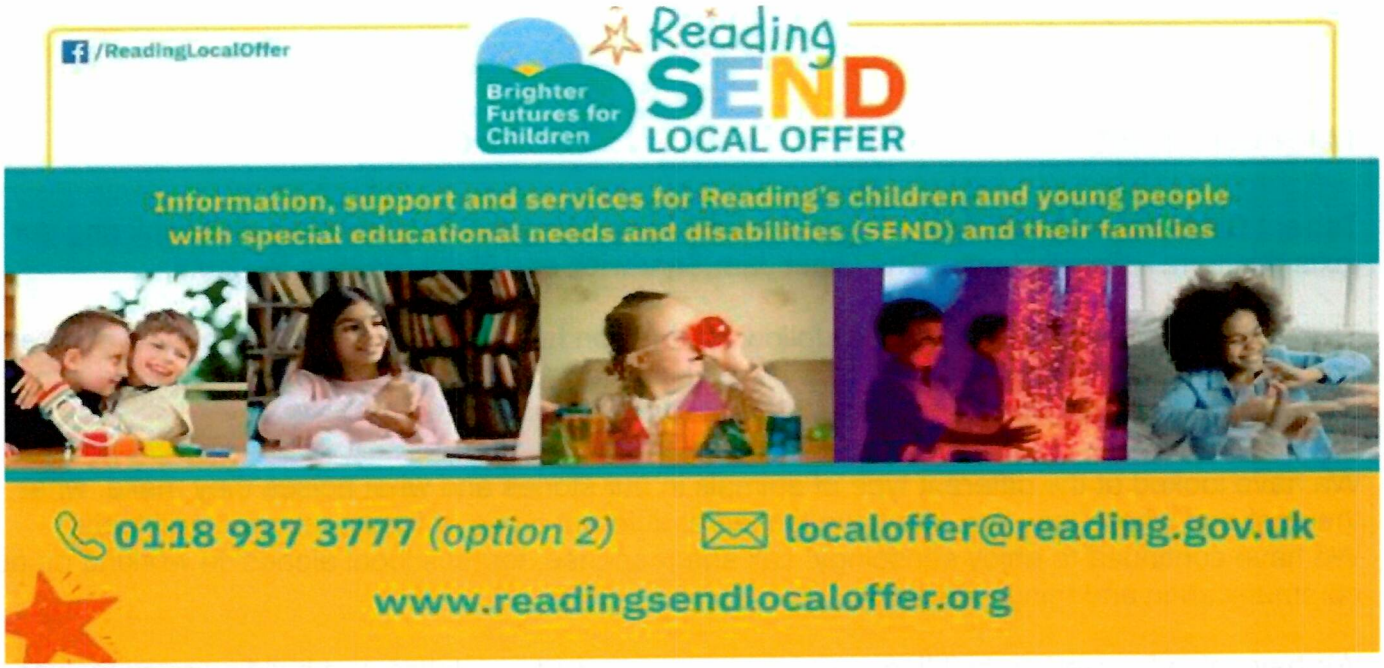
This year, Fletcher Class has made fantastic progress in exploring the Big Idea: using their senses to explore a range of different food and drink in order to choose a preferred food from a selection, including healthy choices. Pupils have enjoyed engaging in sensory experiences, tasting and smelling a variety of foods, and making thoughtful choices about what they like, while learning about healthy eating as part of PSHE.

In Literacy, pupils have worked creatively to build colourful semantic sentences inspired by recipe book images. This has helped them develop vocabulary and sentence structure in a fun, meaningful way. In Maths, the focus has been on money, where pupils have practised identifying coins and understanding their value, building important life skills for independence.

PE sessions have included sensory circuits and team games, supporting physical development, coordination, and teamwork. In RSE, pupils have explored different religions, learning about diversity and respect for others.

Overall, Fletcher Class has shown curiosity, enthusiasm, and growing confidence across all areas of learning. Well done to everyone for a successful year!

The Fletcher Class Team



SUTTON CLASS

We have had a great first term in Sutton Class this year and enjoyed building relationships between peers and staff. One of our stories has been 'Tricky Chopsticks'.

As part of our learning with this we have been learning about how to build resilience, trying to use chopsticks and trying different foods as part of our 'Tasting Thursdays'. These tasting sessions each week have provided lots of opportunities to explore different textures, foods and try new things.

In our Careers and Life Skills sessions, we have been learning to follow simple instructions to practise our skills and work on building our independence. This includes jobs like hoovering, washing up and folding clothes.

The Sutton Class Team

TARRANT CLASS

Tarrant Class have settled well into the Autumn Term. We have loved looking and exploring our texts this term – Smelly Louie, The Giant Jam Sandwich and Nabil Steals a Penguin.

Through the stories we have learnt to follow routines on how to wash our hands, bodies and keep ourselves and our belongings clean, we have also followed instructions on how to make a jam sandwiches and then make choices as to what to put in our sandwiches.

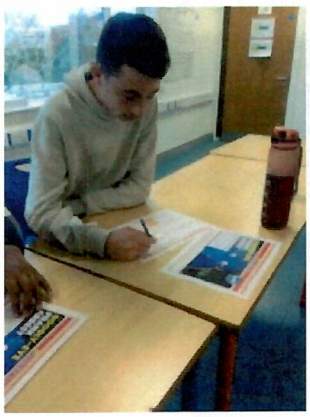
We have looked at the different type of animals in our stories and what noises they make, what they eat and where they live. We have looked at different types of foods, textures and taste.
We have continued to enjoy sensology, call and response, forest school alongside working on our communication and things we enjoy.

We have also focused on building our communication, self-regulating and building relationships with peers and staff.

We hope you had a lovely holiday period.

The Tarrant Class Team

COLEMAN CLASS



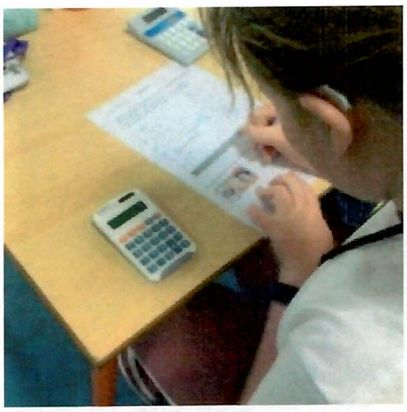
Coleman class has had an educational and fun packed Autumn term. Some of the highlights have been community visits to local shops, to work on functional maths and communication skills and weekly cooking sessions to help develop independent kitchen skills and following visual and verbal instructions.

Many pupils have also taken part in work experience opportunities including The Furniture Project in Newbury, Ikea and working in the restaurant at Flint House. Coleman welcomed some new pupils to the class this term so another 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, including hockey and cricket. The pupils have made fantastic progress with their targets this term, they have all worked incredibly hard and should be proud of themselves.

We hope everyone had a happy and healthy Christmas holidays.

The Coleman Class Team



COLUMBUS CLASS

We've had a wonderfully happy and positive term in Columbus Class, settling in with new friends and teachers.
Our topic this term was "Food, Glorious Food", and it certainly lived up to its name!

We loved exploring two delightful stories: Chocolate Cake and Tricky Chopsticks. To bring our learning to life, we combined storytelling with cooking - making a delicious chocolate cake in a mug. We also tried our hand at using chopsticks, which proved to be a fun (and sometimes tricky!) challenge.

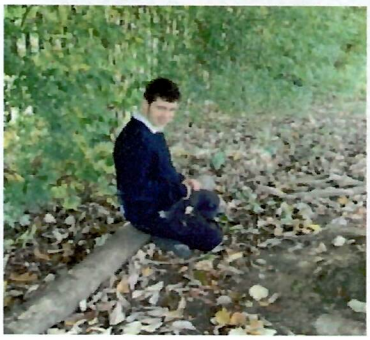
Each week we looked forward to our visits to Forest School, where we enjoyed a pretend bonfire, sang campfire songs, and warmed up with biscuits and hot chocolate. We became nature explorers, searching under logs for slugs, snails, and earthworms, and we had great fun building shelters from long sticks to hide away in.

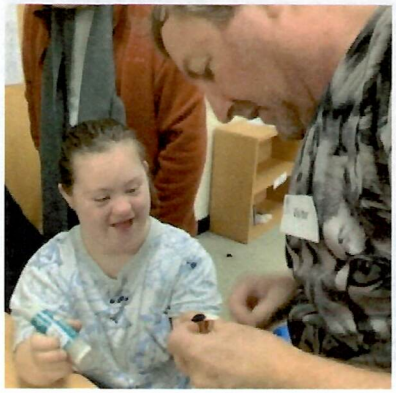
Other highlights included our weekly PE sessions, where we strengthened our bodies, improved coordination, and built team spirit through competitive ball games.

Our community visits to Tesco and the Co-op gave us valuable opportunities to practice safety awareness, follow our shopping lists, and experience choosing and paying for items. Our Winter Wander was a great success, where we taught our parents to make festive decorations.

It has been a term full of learning, laughter, and adventure. We hope you had a joyous and peaceful festive season.

The Columbus Class Team





PALMER CLASS

Palmer Class has had an exciting and busy term, filled with celebrations and hands-on learning! We explored the festival of Diwali, creating bright rangoli patterns and learning about the story of Rama and Sita.

Halloween brought spooky crafts, while Bonfire Night inspired sparkling art and work around staying safe. As Christmas approached, we enjoyed festive activities, songs, and crafts to end the term on a joyful note. Alongside our celebrations, we investigated our topic "Sense It!", using all our senses to explore the world around us through our texts "Something Smells" and "The Giant Jam Sandwich", outdoor learning, and creative exploration.

It's been a wonderful term of discovery and celebration!

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Rhian, Jane, Kish, Kim, Sophie and Jessie.

The Palmer Class Team

WINSLET CLASS

This term in Winslet Class we focused on achieving the pupils' targets through work based on the senses. The pupils enjoyed exploring their senses through classroom-based activities, including Art and Craft as well as through exploring the rest of the school environment and the local area. Highlights of the term were preparing for Halloween and Bonfire Night, and shopping for class parties, which all enjoyed thoroughly.

The Winslet Class Team

SHARMAN CLASS

Sharman Class has had a very busy Autumn term, taking part in a wide range of sensory activities.

Pupils particularly enjoyed our 'Sense It' theme, including Sensory Stories, Sensology and Tac Pac sessions. They also took part in weekly Immersive Theatre, Horticulture and Music sessions — with music providing wonderful opportunities to work on their communication targets.

All pupils absolutely loved their weekly Swimming and Rebound Therapy sessions, where they followed their physiotherapy programmes and some of them worked on their MOVE targets. Throughout each day, pupils practised their physical skills using standing frames, walkers, trikes and other equipment tailored to their needs.

It has been a fantastic term full of hard work on IEP targets and impressive progress from all pupils.

This term, pupils also enjoyed taking part in a range of celebrations and themed activities, including Diwali and Halloween. Our classroom was decorated for the occasions, and pupils explored themed resources such as Diwali food tasting, Diwali and Halloween Tac Pac, pumpkin exploration and Halloween cooking.

To finish the term, we enjoyed Christmas activities including Christmas Tac Pac, Sensology, biscuit making and making Christmas tree decorations.

It has been a wonderful Autumn term, and we are excited to see what the new term will bring! We hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

The Sharman Class Team

PINK CLASS

In Pink Class we are part of the Enrichment strand. Our pupils have been exploring through trying out, doing and practicing skills. A big focus for us is communication and we are using communication boards to support us through our play and learning, requesting, seeking and accepting support and expressing 'more' or 'finished'. This is working so well to help all of us engage more meaningfully with each other. We have been exploring though sensory experiences and thoroughly enjoying the glue, glitter, music and dance this half term. We also practice our skills using resources such as Waldon which is our 'learning to learn' Maths skills program.

We all engage according to our abilities in our dance and swimming sessions although sadly the pool has been out of action recently.

Sensory experiences involving fabric and music are also popular in class and communication is key, running through all we do, requesting, commenting and checking how our young people want to engage throughout the day.

Exploring outdoors, we are so lucky to have exciting playgrounds and Forest School. Communicating 'I want more' and 'it's my turn' using the wheelbarrow! Your children and building up their interests and skills for the future are at the heart of all we do, we are so thankful we get to share this with you.

We hope you had a happy, safe and restful holiday.

The Pink Class Team

SKY CLASS

It has been a very positive Autumn term in Sky Class. Throughout the first half term our learning was orientated around the topic 'Me, Myself and I'.

Pupils were able to express to 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 Sky Class a place they feel comfortable and secure in.

We have also loved weekly cooking lessons, using a variety of methods to create tasty snacks and lots of messy play!

The Sky Class Team

LIVINGSTONE CLASS

Livingstone Class had a wonderfully busy start to the year. We've loved taking part in our offsite horticultural therapy sessions and accessing the local community with visits in and around Reading, and beyond.

Our *SENSE IT* topic has been a real highlight, with each pupil engaging in their own unique way through interactive stories, TACPAC, sensology and a range of sensory experiences. More recently, we enjoyed a Christmas trip to Beale Park. Back at school, our festive sessions have been full of Christmas crafts, stories and sensory activities, which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed.

We send our warmest season's greetings to you all and look forward to even more fun and learning in January.

Thanks
Emily, Anna and The Livingstone Class Team

PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

Work Experience

Since September 2025, 37 students have had work-based placements at 12 different venues totalling over 610 hours between them.

This term we have had placements at Butterfly Café, IKEA, Early Years, Stoneham Grove care home, Flint House dining room, Flint House polytunnel, Brookfields Market Garden, Newbury Community Furniture Project, Laithwaite's, Thames superstore, Englefield Tea rooms and The Ridgeline Trust (who help people access the benefits of horticultural therapy in their beautiful, accessible garden).

The students are learning from employers first-hand about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. 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.

Brookfields Market Garden Sales

Following on from our successful Autumn sale, Brookfields Market Garden Enterprise established a Christmas sale selling spider plants, bulb lasagne planters, winter planters, painted wooden boxes, and homemade chutneys made from the ingredients they have grown in the Brookfields Market Garden Enterprise.

Further Education and Employer Encounters

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

Newbury College Careers fair

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.

Visit from Reading College

We had a Spotlight on Reading college session to share information about future destinations.

They learnt about the Tier 3 course and what it entails and what the expectations are. All the pupils listened well and asked questions throughout, showing great engagement and left with a better understanding and awareness of all future pathways available to them.

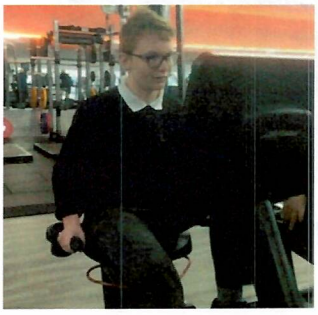
Apple Store

Some students visited the Apple Store to learn how to use the Apple apps.

Careers in the Arts

Watermill Theatre and The Corn Exchange offered workshops focusing on careers in the Creative Arts. They looked at marketing and advertising in areas such as art, drama, design and communication.

Loddon Valley Leisure Centre



The students were invited to an interactive workplace visit at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre. It was a opportunity to learn about the power of wellbeing, teamwork, and real-world workplace experience. The students received a guided behind the scenes tour, exploring the inner workings of a modern leisure centre – from the front desk to fitness studios and everything in between.

Johnsons Linen

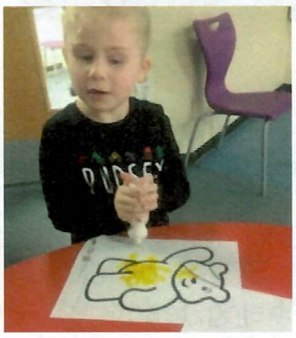
The students visited Johnsons Linen Factory and took part in a tour of the premises, which gave him a behind-the-scenes look at the company's key operations, including linen processing and the importance of health and safety in the workplace. The students were then asked to complete a real work task, learning how to fold and pack a clean bathrobe ready for transportation. The session ended with students asking the staff about their roles. The visit offered a valuable opportunity for the students to explore real-world employment pathways.

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

PSHE

We've had a successful term so far linked to PSHE. This has included raising money for Children in Need, a day full of fun activities and spotty outfits! We've also celebrated 'Christmas Jumper Day', which raises money for the charity Save the Children. This coincided with our Christmas Dinner, culminating in a very festive day!



Term dates

Spring Term 2026

- STARTS: Monday 5 January
- HALF TERM: Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February (inclusive)
- BACK TO SCHOOL: Monday 23 February
- ENDS: Friday 27 March - Finish 1pm

Summer Term 2026

- STARTS: Monday 13 April
- BANK HOLIDAY: Monday 4 May
- HALF TERM: Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May (inclusive)
- BACK TO SCHOOL: Monday 1 June
- ENDS: Tuesday 21 July - Finish 1pm

Public Holidays	
25th December 2025	Christmas Day
26th December 2025	Boxing Day
1st January 2026	New Year's Day
3rd April 2026	Good Friday
6th April 2026	Easter Monday
4th May 2026	May Day Bank Holiday
25th May 2026	Spring Bank Holiday

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.

RDD 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!

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
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

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 **£3.22** 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

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