

Newsletter



July 2022

Head Teacher's Update

Dear Families and Friends,

It always astounds me how quickly an academic year flies past....and this year is no different. As I reflect on what was happening this time last year, I recall that we were still facing the many challenges and uncertainties that COVID was throwing our way. However, although COVID is still very much part of our daily lives and the number of cases is increasing both locally and nationally, I am pleased to say that the number of positive cases we have at school at the moment are far fewer than we had this time last year, although they have recently been creeping up.



After the last two years of the restrictions imposed to keep everyone as safe as possible from COVID, we started 2022 with our journey towards opening up the school. It has been lovely to see life slowly return to Brookfields School and become more like it used to be pre-pandemic. This term we have had events such as our Leavers Prom and Sports Days (despite the very unpredictable weather for the Primary Sports Day), and pupils have been able to take part in educational opportunities away from the school including a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Rather than having virtual meetings we have hosted more parents, families, and guests on site. Every term is a busy term, and the Summer Term is no exception. I hope that you will get a flavour of some of the many activities and achievements that have happened at Brookfields over the last term.

As a school, we continue to receive an ever-increasing number of referrals from Local Authorities for places at Brookfields. Very sadly, we do not have the capacity to offer a place to all these young people and to be able to support their families. We have 218 places allocated to us and have been oversubscribed for a number of years now. This year we have had 241 pupils on role and next year we will have 242 pupils on role. We have been able to offer a place to 22 young people and their families from September 2022 and we look forward to welcoming them all to Brookfields. To help reduce the pressure on places and capacity, I have spoken with the council leads and suggested that if councils collaborate and work in partnership, we might be able to improve our capacity and offer more places to young people. Sadly, due to the way that councils work, nothing has come of these discussions. However, having had recent discussions with West Berkshire Local Authority, I am optimistic that a practical solution can be found so we can begin to meet the demand for places.

The end of a school year is filled with some sadness as we say goodbye to people. This year, the students leaving Brookfields will be going on to a range of different destinations such as FE colleges or Supported Internships, or they will be accessing community resources, or will be relocating. We wish all of them and their families the very best of luck and remind them, that we will always be here should they need us in any way.

Continued on Page 2

Time to say Goodbye.....

We also have to say goodbye to staff. We will be saying goodbye to Bronwen Cooke who will be going to continue her teaching career at a school on the South coast. Joanna Fullicks, our Qualified Teacher for the Visually Impaired (QTVI) will be joining The Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service as their QTVI. We wish both Bronwen and Jo well and I am sure that they will continue to be the amazing teachers they have been here. Sam Raw, who is our whole school Literacy and Communication Lead, will be joining the team at 'The Castle @Theale'. This is a new West Berkshire school for young people with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and Autism. This is a very exciting opportunity for Sam as she will be able to share her wealth of experience and knowledge to develop the school and its approach.

We will also be saying goodbye to Sarah Strudley who has been at Brookfields for 19 years. Sarah has had many roles at school and is currently one of our Assistant Head Teachers. During her time at Brookfields, Sarah has successfully led and implemented several important whole school projects which have included core curriculum subjects, promotion of health and wellbeing, championing pupil voice and our Specialist Inclusion Support Service to name but a few. Sarah has been instrumental in ensuring that our vulnerable young people have had a coordinated and joined up approach, working in partnership with social care and other professionals. Sarah has been rigorous to ensure that 'no pupil is left behind'! Sarah will be continuing her career as Vice Principal (Curriculum) at Mary Hare School near Newbury. We wish Sarah the very best of luck in her new role and I know she will continue to have the positive impact at Mary Hare that she has had at Brookfields.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Laura McGiveron, Jo Scott, Rachel Nelson and Tanya Campbell who have been part of our amazing team of Teaching Assistants (TAs). We could not do what we are able to without our incredible team of support staff. It is not an easy job at all, but it is a pivotal role in ensuring that all pupils are able to access the curriculum. Our TAs not only support pupils' learning, but also provide care and support – our support staff are a cut above the rest! Thank you to all our support staff for your incredible work and we wish Laura, Jo, Rachel and Tanya the very best for the future.

Although we will not be saying goodbye per se to Anna Beaumont, Tor Carter and Sophie Brown, we will be wishing them luck as they go on maternity leave! Everyone is looking forward to hearing their news at some point in the near future.

As well as colleagues leaving us to start new jobs, go to university or have babies, we have two members of staff who will be retiring at the end of this academic year.

Alison Hallowell started her teaching career in 1983, having graduated from the same college I trained at. Alison started working at Brookfields in 1986 but has had breaks to raise her family. Alison is an outstanding teacher who is compassionate and dedicated to giving the very best to her pupils and their families. Alison is a very keen gardener and keeps bees so some of her time will be looking after her hive - the honey Alison's bees produce is wonderful!

Liz Wainwright will also be retiring. Liz qualified as a teacher in 1982 having completed her PGCE in English and Drama. Liz has taught primarily in local secondary schools and after which she taught in a primary school just before joining Brookfields School in 2010. Liz is renowned for her baking skills and has been teaching pupils to cook and bake as part of the BTEC course since 2017. Liz is an empathic teacher and the pupils warm to her caring, humorous nature as well as her clarity of boundaries. Like Alison, Liz has been an outstanding teacher too. We will certainly miss her wonderful cakes and bakes but wish her well on her next adventure!

We will also be saying thank you and goodbye to one of our longstanding governors, Dr Tom Loucas who will be stepping down after 5 years. Tom is Associate Professor in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences at the University of Reading and has brought with

Continued from page 2

him his enquiring mind, deep knowledge and interest as well as his experience. Over the last 5 years, Tom has given Brookfields dedication, support, challenge and encouragement. Working in partnership with governors and school staff, Tom has helped steer and navigate our community through some challenging and difficult times, but equally has celebrated our achievements. Thank you Tom for all you have done, we will miss you.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to convey my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our excellent Senior Leadership Team and the entire staff body for their continuing passion, dedication, creativity, and flexibility over the last year to ensure that pupils and their families are supported and cared for as best we can. I also want to thank our families for continuing to support us despite the difficulties they may have to face.

As you will know, after 35 years of teaching, I will be retiring at the end of this academic year. To make such a decision to retire from a career that I am passionate about was very hard, but it was the right one for me to have made. After 22 years at Brookfields School, it is now time to hand over the reins to Catherine Bernie. I wish Catherine and her new team the very best and I am confident that under her direction and leadership, Brookfields School will continue to thrive and challenge the status quo to ensure that our pupils and their families can achieve the very best life outcomes possible.

Being part of Brookfields School and helping to mould it into the amazing school that it is today has been an honour and a privilege. Without the help and belief of our pupils, their families, our excellent staff team, the governors, as well as our partners and West Berkshire Local Authority, I could not have accomplished this. I will miss our Brookfields family very much, but I leave with so many wonderful memories.

I would like to thank you all for the good wishes, the shared memories as well as the kind gifts. I feel humbled and honoured to have met and worked with so many amazing young people and their families whilst I have been at Brookfields.

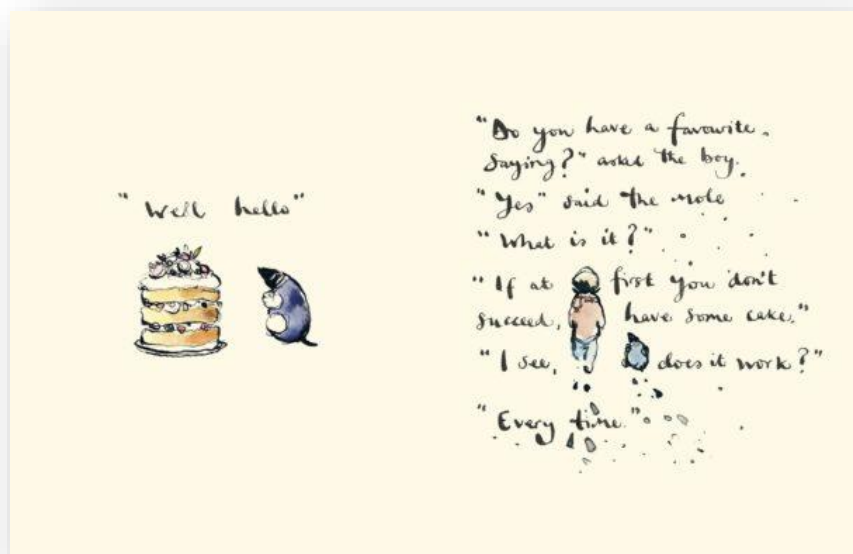
Go well.

#Togetherwearestronger

Kind regards,



Brandon Mills
Head Teacher



Primary Explorers

The wheels on the bus go round and round in Explorers this term, we have been exploring far and wide and have enjoyed exciting adventures to different lands. We have been very fortunate to enjoy trips to Bucklebury Farm, Beale Park, Camp Mohawk, Thames Valley Adventure Park and Adventure Dolphin. The pupils rode on a tractor across farmlands amongst the deer, looked at wild animals from a train, canoed along the Thames and played and explored under beautiful big woodland trees, we can't wait to board the bus again for some more adventures next year.



In May, we were pleased to welcome families to our first Stay and Play session this year. The pupils were so excited to play with their families at school and we look forward to hosting regular sessions going forward.

In June, we enjoyed a fabulous Sports Day where pupils had the opportunity to try out different activities. Circus Skills and the Sensory Obstacle Course were a big hit, with Archery being the firm favourite for Green Class. It was a pity the rain washed out the races on the field, but the children enjoyed actions to 'Rolling Meatballs and Penguins' in a very lively hall.

We are so proud of our pupils' progress, despite it being a very disruptive year, the pupils have come such a long way since September 2021. The development in their communication, independence and emotional skills has been amazing to witness. We have finished off the term keeping cool with lots of water play activities and getting the pupils ready for next year with transition sessions across the school. Some of our pupils will be moving up to the Adventurers Department and so far they have enjoyed visiting the Key Stage 2 playground, making new friends and exploring different play activities. We wish our pupils all the best in their next chapter of school life. We will be welcoming 14 new families to the Explorers department in September 2022, we have been getting to know the pupils during school visits and Stay and Play sessions and we look forward to building those positive relationships with the pupils and their families.

We sadly bid farewell to Sarah Strudley, our Assistant Head and lead of the Primary Department, Bronwen Cooke, one of our Explorer teachers and Jo Scott, one of our Explorer Teaching Assistants. We would like to thank Sarah, Bronwen and Jo for their valuable contribution to the Explorers department, they will be sorely missed and we wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

A big happy retirement to Brandon Mills! Thank you for your amazing headship and wishing you the best of adventures across the world!!

Finally, we would like to wish our families a wonderful safe summer break and can't wait to welcome everyone back on Monday 5th September 2022.

Fay Bjornstad, Head of Primary Explorers and all the Explorers staff.



A huge thank you to Frances Perrin, a member of The Rotary Club of Reading Matins for kindly donating tickets for a group of our Explorers Pupils with their Brookfields staff to visit Beale Park in July.

Primary Adventurers



Orange Class pupils had the opportunity to visit Thirtover Place near Newbury this term. Thirtover is a Residential and Activity Centre owned by Girlguiding Royal Berkshire set in nine acres of beautiful countryside, with instructor and leader-led activities available to be used by Girl Guide groups and others in the local community. This was our first trip off site as a class and we all loved it! The pupils completed an animal trail and went grass-sledging.



Pink Class has enjoyed exploring this term's theme, Totally Tropical! As part of this topic, the pupils have been doing a variety of activities. The children enjoyed tasting and making a smoothie from tropical fruits. They have also been working on identifying shapes and colours by making tropical fish and flowers. In addition to the Totally Tropical theme, the pupils in Pink Class also enjoyed the whole school celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee where they had fun painting T-shirts and making decorations!



Black Class have had a great term! The topic this term has been 'Totally Tropical', so the children made passports, role-played as travel agents and learned about the Great Barrier Reef and the Amazon Rainforest. The pupils learned about a food that comes from tropical countries – chocolate! The children had fun designing, making and packaging their own chocolate bars.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration at school just before the May half term was a great experience for the pupils to celebrate with their friends and staff. The children loved welcoming and meeting



Her Majesty the Queen! The pupils in Black Class have also enjoyed their cooking lessons this term; they have been making frozen yogurt bark, fish tacos and tropical smoothies. The children have also been learning to sing and sign some different songs. Another highlight for the pupils this term has been the opportunity to participate in learning to play Wheelchair Rugby in Brook House Hall – this experience has been amazing!



Sky Class have been very busy this summer term. The pupils have really enjoyed exploring many different subjects within the 'Totally Tropical' topic, such as rainforests, deforestation, dinosaurs and volcanoes. Their favourite subject was without a doubt, chocolate! The pupils had great fun finding out where chocolate comes from, how it is made and designing their own chocolates. It's amazing to think that chocolate starts as a cocoa pod in the rainforests of places like Africa and Indonesia before finding its way to our shelves! Another highlight of our term has been the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The pupils said "it was brilliant to learn all about Queen Elizabeth and then enjoy a party with all our friends out on the school field. We were treated to lots of lovely food and even had a visit from Her Majesty herself!"



White Class have really enjoyed their 'Bright Lights, Big City' and 'Totally Tropical' topics. The pupils absolutely loved learning about London, specifically looking at the Queen, the landmarks of London and where London is in the United Kingdom. The pupils were lucky enough to have a surprise visit from the Queen too! They have also enjoyed learning about the Amazon Rainforest, where we have considered what animals live there, what the climate is like in the rainforest and important facts to help try to preserve the rainforest.

In this last term White Class have had the privilege of trying Wheelchair Rugby. Every pupil has absolutely loved this experience! They have learnt new skills in how to manoeuvre the wheelchair and hold a ball and realised that it is not always as easy as it looks. Our final highlight of the term was Sports Day. During the run up to Sports Day the children did remarkably well; helping to set up the field, participating in races and encouraging other peers in their races.



Purple Class have had a fantastic term with their 'Totally Tropical' topic. The pupils have had lots of fun learning about animals that live in the jungle, exploring and eating tropical fruits with our 'Handa's Surprise' story and creating lots of beautiful crafts including our own rainbow fish. Towards the end of the term, we have also had lots of fun with waterplay opportunities and enjoyed exploring the different animals that live under the sea. One of our favourite activities this term was our shaving foam ice cream shop, things got very messy!



Well done everybody! The Adventurers staff team wish you all a lovely Summer break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on 5th September 2022.

Jamie Bonewell, Head of Primary Adventurers and all the staff team.

Key Stage 3

The pupils have had a fantastic Summer term and have enjoyed the Key Stage 3 topic of 'Inventors and Explorers'. It has been amazing to see the pupils using their wonderful imaginations to create designs for inventions such as flying cars, smoothies which give us super strength, or supersonic hearing aids to name but a few. Alongside this, pupils have explored different environments and new sensory elements. They have created art from nature after exploring our environment and have enjoyed sensory stories along the way.

A highlight this term was our Cross Curricular week where we changed focus to look at healthy living. The pupils took part in a range of different experiences including using healthy recipes, planting seeds, making art from plastic, quizzes and an outdoor obstacle course. Some pupils experienced paddle boarding whilst others went canoeing. Well done to all!

Kirsty Simmonds, Head of Key Stage 3

Winslet Class have loved becoming 'Inventors and Explorers' this term, they have created smoothies using both fruits and vegetables. They have enjoyed testing out their inventions after using junk modelling to make things that float, fly and roll. They had great fun using playground equipment to see if their inventions worked - the slide worked well to test the rolling models!



Our best and most talked about activity has been the Cross Curricular week where pupils experienced different spaces within the Key Stage. The best activity was the Paddle Boarding trip. Although many pupils were nervous at the start, they worked fantastically well together to paddle out on to the lake and loved jumping in at the end of the session! We are incredibly proud of all pupils for trying something new and overcoming their worries to make such positive memories from their experience. Well done Winslet Class.

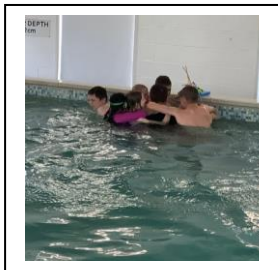
Kirsty, Helen and the Winslet team.

Sutton Class have had a great Summer term and thoroughly enjoyed our topic of 'Inventors and Explorers'. One of the highlights from the topic was when the pupils came up with their own inventions and recreated the 'Dragon's Den' television programme. The pupils had to try to 'sell' their invention to their peers who were on the panel to discuss the invention. Sutton Class have also been having weekly lessons with Heather, the Art teacher at Brookfields. They have enjoyed going up to the Art room and have created some amazing pieces of artwork, one inspired by the artist Modigliani and Kandinsky. A real highlight of the term was the Cross Curricular week on healthy living. The pupils visited the other Key Stage 3 classrooms and teachers for a range of activities linked to eating, mindfulness, the environment, social skills and exercise. Some of the Year 9 students also went on an overnight trip at Thirtover Place. They had a great time joining in with grass sledging, archery and camp fires, they even stopped for a McDonalds on their way home. One of the best parts of the week was Paddle Boarding. It was fantastic to all be at the lake together and take part in games and swimming. I am sure this will be a memory we will all treasure forever.

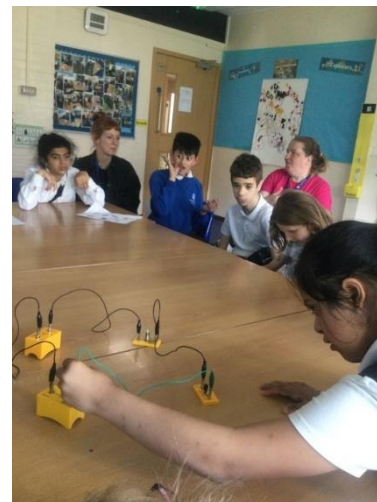


Jess Lewis and the Sutton Class Team

Fletcher Class have used Wallace and Gromit's 'A Grand Day Out' to engage in the themes of the Key Stage 3 'Inventors and Explorers' topic. Everyone enjoyed learning about the inventions. Their favourite lesson was when they learnt about electricity and made circuits.



Fletcher Class have been swimming this half term in the school pool, it has been great for the pupils to get back in the water and start developing their confidence again. All the pupils love being in the water and have used the sessions to work on their interactions with their peers.



Our Cross Curricular 'Healthy Living' week was a busy but fantastic experience for the pupils. We started the week Paddleboarding at the Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre, made fruit kebabs, relaxed in mindfulness and yoga sessions and finished with a water party with the whole Key Stage on the Friday afternoon.

Matt Rosier and the Fletcher team.

Tarrant Class have had a successful summer term. All pupils have enjoyed our topic of 'Inventors and Explorers'. The class have also enjoyed the trips into the community.



We wish you all a restful summer break and look forward to seeing you in September 2022.

Emily and the Tarrant Class Team

Madejski Class have had a wonderful final term. Pupils have enjoyed learning about 'Inventors and Explorers'. We started our topic by looking at some of the worst inventions ever and then focussed on the development of transport. Pupils enjoyed finding out about the first car, then designed their own cars of the future, carefully considering key features. They learnt about steam trains and bi-planes and designed board games and simple flying machines. The Key Stage 3 Activity Week was a real highlight with pupils loving the experience of paddle boarding; it was great fun and everyone had such a memorable time. Over recent weeks, Madejski Class have investigated significant explorers and their amazing achievements. Pupils have taken ownership of working walls and displays in class to support each topic. We've continued to maximise opportunities for community visits and life skills development.



Our term culminated in a morning together off-site at the Mad Duck Café in Purley-on Thames to celebrate a really happy and positive year in Madejski Class.

We are so proud of the group and all that has been achieved! We wish all our pupils and families a well-deserved summer holiday.

Helen, Vicki, Wendy and Carol, the Madejski Class Team

Key Stage 4 and 6th Form Rock Band 2022

The Brookfields School Rock Band were kindly invited along to the Addington School Proms, a weeklong event celebrating children's musical talent throughout various schools in the area. The Brookfields band have worked very hard over the past few months on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes, perfecting their love of playing a musical instrument and singing great songs. They performed five popular rock songs to the amazement and delight of the audience. A few students had stage nerves but as soon as the band kicked off with the first song, all those nerves went out of the window and their performance was amazing! I believe they were all buzzing for several days afterwards.

Well done to all the band members and for those leaving Brookfields School this year may you continue to further your passion for music in the future.

A special thank you goes to Jayne Roderick who has dedicated her time and musical knowledge each week to the Brookfields band...thank you very much for your hard work.

Mark Gillespie, Specialist Music Teaching Assistant

Duke of Edinburgh Update Summer 2022



The summer term is always extremely busy for the Duke of Edinburgh Award students. It is the culmination of the years' work and the students need to ensure that all the work they have completed is assessed and attributed to their Bronze Awards. Between them, the students have completed fundraising projects, worked on their sporting skills, developed gardening skills, worked on their fitness and improved their music skills. One student has achieved an Open Water Certificate in SCUBA Diving! All of these have contributed to them achieving their Bronze Awards through the commitment they have shown both in school and in their own time.

Of course, the other reason the Summer term is so busy is because it is expedition season. The students complete a practice expedition and an assessed expedition; each is a two-day hike with an overnight camp in between. The students plan and navigate their route, carry their own kit, cook their own meals and sleep out in tents. They are supported throughout by staff, but each student has shown increased independence and resilience; for many this was the first experience of this kind for them and they all made progress in their own way. Importantly they all enjoyed it and have learned ways of working together in more demanding environments. My personal hope is that it has started a shared lifelong enjoyment of being outdoors and enjoying countryside and open space. Having passed their Bronze Award, they now have the option of progressing on to their Silver.

It was particularly gratifying to see Alistair and Max complete their award before leaving school; both students started their Duke of Edinburgh Programme in 2019 but came back to complete it following the inevitable pause brought on by lockdowns and school restrictions.

Congratulations also go to Ibi, Harvey, Hayden, Jonah, Oscar and Kelly.



Bruce Taylor, Duke of Edinburgh Programme Lead

6th Form

Wow, I cannot believe how quickly this year has passed, and what an exciting one it has been! This year has seen the reintroduction of pre-Covid routines, activities and events, much to the delight of the students and staff. There have been many successful work experience placements, enterprise projects, class trips and transition visits.

Some of the standout events of this term have been, the salon enterprise project, volunteering at the church, Sports Day, the Duke of Edinburgh expedition and the long-awaited Talent Show. The highlight this term was the Prom, a fantastic evening of food, dancing, laughter and most excitingly a limo ride. Much enjoyment was had by all.



I would like to wish our leavers the best of luck in their future destinations. You will be greatly missed but not forgotten!

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support of everything we do at Brookfields. Hoping you and your families have a wonderful summer break.

Anna Beaumont, Head of 6th Form and all the 6th Form staff.

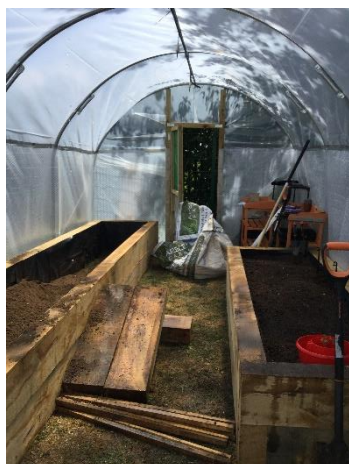
Pathway to Employment

This year Key Stage 4 and 6th Form students have attended 81 offsite work experience placements, using 20 different venues. These included 3 new venues at Paul Francis Hairdressers, The Biscuit Factory and the Reading Museum. The students have completed an amazing 1,303 hours of work-based learning between them. The placements allow the students to build on their skills, self-confidence, experience, and provide them with a meaningful insight into the types of jobs that are available.

This term the 'Employee of the Month' are as follows:



We have also been busy working on expanding our Brookfields Market Garden Enterprise and now have the addition of an onsite polytunnel with raised beds and an allotment. Thank you very much to the VISA staff for volunteering for us again on 8th June 2022 to help set up the polytunnel, fill the raised beds and make up the potting benches ready for the students to fully access in September.



We plan to continue to sow and grow delicious, sustainable, nutritious, seasonal fruit and vegetables over the next school year by having regular plant sales and fundraisers. We are also looking at ways to continue to develop the Brookfields Market Garden enterprise in the local community. If you have a couple of hours free a week and gardening is your thing, we would love to chat to you, as we are always in need of help!!

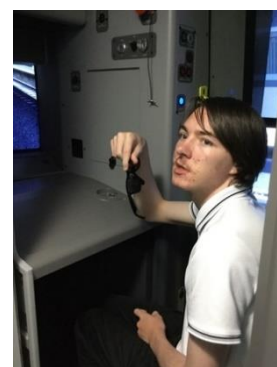


We continue to develop our relationship with VISA who invited us to take part in the 'Power House Games' alongside other schools using adapted games and sports, they included Sitting Volleyball, New Age Curling, Visually Impaired Football, Boccia and Tag Rugby.

Great fun for everyone!



Some of the students had the opportunity to drive a train-driving simulator at GWR. It was a fun and challenging game for them to be able to put themselves in the shoes of a real railroad engineer. They had to drive carefully from station to station, control the speed of the train and make sure it stopped in time at the station. Thank you GWR.



We entered the Hampton Court Wildlife Homes/RHS Campaign for Schools Gardening Show with our adjoining school Westwood Farm. We worked together to create and design a wildlife home exhibit for the flower show.



We are grateful for the ongoing support of our local business network; we have enjoyed working and evaluating how we can work together in this changing climate to make a real difference to the future lives of our students. We are always on the lookout for new businesses to collaborate with us.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in becoming a 'Pathway to Employment Partner' and supporting our students work based placements then please do get in touch.

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

We are also looking for parent/carers volunteers to help us provide additional support for our students when they undertake their work-based learning experiences. We will provide training for you as well as extended DBS checks, which are essential for safeguarding purposes.

Julie Grant and Lucy Bellman, Pathway to Employment Team

Independent Travel Training

It is fantastic to have the Brookfields Travel Training program back in full swing as it is such a key part of our student's preparation for adulthood in working towards being able to travel confidently and independently. Travel Training gives our young people the opportunity to practice their safety on the roads and use public transport, whilst also helping them to learn how to plan and prepare for their journey.

As well as being able to take small groups out on public transport, many of our secondary students have been practicing individual journeys to and from work experience and college in preparation for making the journey independently. It has been truly great to see so many students growing in confidence and gradually becoming more independent.



We have also had the opportunity to team up with GWR and Community Rail Partnership, to offer some of our secondary students the chance to take part in a train journey experience. The trip involved how to plan and prepare for their train trip, explore the different sights and sounds of a busy railway station and learn about how to be safe both on the train and at the station. The group thoroughly enjoyed the day and were full of enthusiasm, asking questions of GWR staff and having the experience of travelling by train.

For more information about Brookfields School Travel Training, please contact me at cgingell@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Cathy Gingell, Preparation for Adulthood / Travel Training Specialist

Transitions

This term has been busy with transition visits for those students who are leaving Brookfields School. We have students transitioning to Newbury College and Reading College. These students have enjoyed their college visits and have met some of their new Tutors and peers. Another future destination is 'New Meanings', with two of our students gaining a place there on a Carpentry Course starting in September 2022. One student is joining a residential college in Doncaster and other students are pursuing Social Care routes. Another pupil is going to 'Route 2 Recruit' – an internship programme. We wish them well on their next pathways.

Year 13 students and their families have been invited to attend meetings with the Transitions Lead at Brookfields to start the process of preparing to move on from school. Several families have already taken up this opportunity.

I am also pleased to inform you that we are planning to start up a Brookfields Alumni. This will be in the form of an online platform for ex-pupils to be able to keep in touch with each other, as well as the school. This is in its early stages of development, but we are hoping to have this up and running by September. We hope that the students leaving us at the end of this term may be happy for us to contact them to sign up to our Alumni once it is ready. The purpose of the Alumni is to enable ex-pupils to stay connected and for us as a school, to invite pupils back to school to talk to staff and current pupils about what life has been like after leaving Brookfields. The Alumni could also work as a support network for our ex-pupils and their families.

Four ex-pupils have already come in to talk to our Key Stage 4 students and five pupils have returned to talk about their journey since leaving school. This was a wonderful experience for our current pupils to be able to find out what life is like after school, and to know that although the prospect of leaving is daunting, there is life after Brookfields and it is OK.

If you have any questions about future options or destinations for your young person please email Ceri to arrange an appointment:

cbrueton@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Ceri Brueton, Careers and Transition Lead 14-19.



**15 Years of the MOVE Programme at Brookfields
11 Years as a Centre of Excellence**



'MOVE to Save the Planet'



FINALLY! After the pandemic restrictions had lifted, we were able to hold our first MOVE Day for a few years and celebrate the progress our MOVE pupils have been making towards their MOVE Goals. It was amazing to welcome families and visitors back on site.

The day consisted of lots of fun activities and then our MOVE pupils completed their sponsored MOVE Challenges. Each MOVE pupil had been working on their MOVE Goals built into their individual challenge.

- Biathlon, which involved moving as independently as possible in the water during hydrotherapy building up to 25 laps, lengths or widths of the pool and then walking 25 laps (about 8km) around our cycle track independently tailored to each pupil
- A challenge for MOVE pupils to complete 25 laps of the cycle track walking independently, using their walkers or our adaptive trikes.
- A challenge for MOVE pupils to use their standing frames for 25 repetitions for 25 minutes at a time.

All challenges were designed to provide opportunities to practice mobility skills for each individual's capabilities. The pupils started these challenges after the Easter Holiday until our MOVE Day on 24th May with the last repetitions being completed on the MOVE Day when the pupils were presented with a medal for their achievements.

To follow the theme of 'MOVE to Save the Planet', we decided to ask for a donation of a tree to plant onsite. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families. We ended up with not one, not two but five trees to plant within the grounds of the school. We now have an apple, plum, cherry, an ornamental flowering cherry and a magnolia tree. All doing very well and looking healthy. **THANK YOU!**





Other activities during the MOVE Day were: -

- Planting wellies with bedding plants, which can be found all around the school site. flowering and looking fantastic.
- Making and playing junk instruments for a Junk Orchestra.
- A bring and buy cake sale, with an afternoon tea and other refreshments.
- A cake decorating competition, which The Hub won with their lovely 'whale cake'!

The fundraising activities, such as the sponsored challenge and the bring and buy cake sale raised just over **£450**, for which I would like to say a **great big THANK YOU!** This will be put to good use to support the MOVE Programme here at Brookfields.

A Welcome and a Farewell!

I would like to welcome two new families to the MOVE Programme at Brookfields this academic year from Explorers. In addition, I wish two pupils and their families a farewell as they are leaving our 6th Form and going onto their future destinations.

Amelia's year!

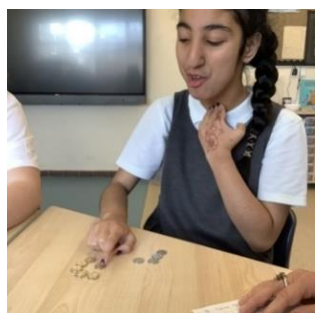
A MOVE pupil from The Hub has achieved over and above using her Rifton Pacer this year. Using her Pacer to walk to the local shops or the park she has just blown us all away! Amelia's challenge started during lockdown when we had a virtual visit from Paula Radcliffe, as part of a keep moving campaign. Danielle (Amelia's Intervener at school) suggested that Amelia could walk the length of a marathon while using her Rifton Pacer. She started using her Pacer to walk to the local shop, the local park, the cycle track for the daily mile and around the school site at the end of April 2021. Danielle kept a track of the distances Amelia stepped. Amelia was building up her mile tally quickly, she could often be seen out in the local community in all weathers. Danielle often had to give Amelia's Pacer a good clean after she had walked to the local park or around the field. Amelia completed her 26 miles, the equivalent to a full marathon in March this year and then went straight on to complete her MOVE challenge for our MOVE Day. A huge "Well Done to Amelia", I am sure you would agree!



Helen Thurgood, MOVE Coordinator at Brookfields School

Maths News

We have had a very busy term doing all things mathematical across the school. The primary pupils in the Explorers Department have sorted, tasted and experienced the weight and shapes of different fruits. The Primary Adventurers pupils have been using money and measures, comparing size and measuring length with a metre rule. Some children have also been exploring the world of chocolate and counting out orders for cocoa beans, which smelled wonderful! Everyone in the primary school has had a huge variety of opportunities in quality play to communicate more, less, heavy, light, big, small, long, short and so on.



Key Stage 3 have been learning about time and incorporating maths in their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) projects on Healthy Living. Lots of planning, spatial awareness, measuring and construction techniques in action in the building of a palatial bug hotel, repeating patterns in fruit kebabs, making lemonade and shopping experiences.



Key Stage 4 and 6th Form have also been able to get out and about, planning trips, scheduling tasks in work experience, using time and money skills in different contexts.



The whole school was able to come together on National Numeracy Day. There were step counts in dance routines, scoring in sports, weighing and measuring in cooking activities, stories with numbers, treasure hunts, numbers in the environment and a maths trail. Luckily, the sun shone and we all enjoyed finding the numbers around the field and following the tasks.



Gilly Cummings, Head of Numeracy

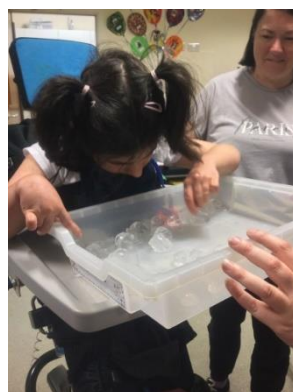
Curriculum Centre News

This term we have celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a sensory retelling of the book 'The Queen's Hat'. In the story the hat blows away on a windy day and lands in famous landmarks across London. For our sensory story we created a windy day around the parachute and took our students on a journey to look for the Queen's hat in four different places.

*The Queen has lost her favourite hat
It's blown away on a windy day
Who can find the Queens hat?
It's landed in.....*



We started the search for the Queen's hat in Trafalgar Square. We created the noise of Trafalgar Square with car horns and touched feathers to represent the pigeons. The rice to create the texture of bird seed was a popular sensory experience.



We next travelled to the River Thames. Ice cubes and water sprays helped to create the feeling of the cold river. We rowed our boats along our imaginary river before travelling to our next location.

The London Underground allowed students to climb inside the underground tunnel we had created. A large fan was used to create the feeling of trains traveling past. Classes enjoyed using torches and light sticks to explore the tunnel. Our last stop was in the gardens of Buckingham Palace at the Queen's Garden Party. This again was a popular location. Students used their sense of taste and smell to try cucumber sandwiches and strawberries whilst listening to classical music.



We finished our story around the parachute with lots of different types of hats placed on top ready to fly into the air for students to try on. This was everyone's favourite part of the story, trying on the hats and looking to see how they looked in the mirror.



The library team had a great time taking students on the journey to find the Queen's hat and look forward to working with classes in September 2022 to go on more sensory story journeys.

Clare Hook, Curriculum Centre Manager

PE News

Wheelchair Rugby

Some primary pupils have been participating in rugby on a weekly basis which they have all been thoroughly enjoying! Pupils have had the opportunity to have a go at playing the game in a wheelchair. They have loved bumping into each other and using the chair to get around the secondary hall. They have learnt the routine of how to get in and out of their chair, putting on their gloves with tape and strapping themselves in.



They have been working on moving forwards, backwards and turning in the chair.

Basketball

Key Stage 4 students have been working with Steph, the basketball coach from Reading Rockets on a weekly basis. The students have developed their skills, knowledge and understanding of the game. The team participated in a SEN Basketball Tournament at Reading University Sports Park. They worked hard to play against different SEN schools in a 3v3 game. Many of the pupils scored a goal and managed to demonstrate dribbling and passing skills within a competitive game situation. The team had a great day and enjoyed representing Brookfields School in the tournament.



Water Sports

Key Stage 3 students had a great Cross Curricular Week this term. Some classes had a go at Paddle Boarding and some tried out canoeing on the River Thames. The pupils enjoyed the sessions and had fun taking part. Well done to all students!



Climbing



A group of pupils in our Early Years Explorers Department have had weekly climbing lessons offsite at Adventure Dolphin in Pangbourne this term. The pupils have learnt their weekly routine of boarding the school minibus to go to Pangbourne, going into the building to use the climbing wall, putting on their harnesses and waiting for their turns to climb the wall. They have been able to use their communication skills as well as develop their physical competence when climbing safely. Some of the pupils have gone on to do some after school 1:1 sessions with the climbing instructor privately which is great to hear!



PE for Complex Needs Pupils

Pupils with Complex Needs have accessed Physical Education in a variety of ways throughout the school term. Pupils have had weekly access to Swimming, Rebound Therapy and Yoga sessions. They have followed their daily physiotherapy programmes using standing frames, pacers, physio wedges and physio ladders to maintain their physical skills and to learn new skills to increase their physical development. Pupils have been using the Daily Mile track on the school playing field where they have used the Rifton trike, pacers or their own chairs to complete their mile each day. They have also accessed some PE lessons in the hall where they have completed an obstacle course. Pupils have been working on kicking, reaching, pushing and walking skills based on the Motor Activity Training Programme (MATP). Pupils have been reaching to push balloons attached to a frame, kicking and pushing balls, walking in their pacers under parachutes, and pushing balls into skittles.

Swimming

It has been an excellent term for swimming! Some Early Years pupils have gained enough confidence in the water to take away their swimming jackets and move to swimming fins. Some pupils in Key Stage 2 have removed their fins and are now able to swim on their own with confidence. Progress has been amazing this term! Students in Key Stage 3 and 4 have been attending offsite swimming lessons; they have worked hard to develop their swimming skills using floats and some have been working on lifesaving skills where they have had a go at swimming in their pyjamas and have learnt about CPR. Lewis has been working particularly hard on his swimming skills, he is now confident at swimming on his front and back with floats without adult support. Well done Lewis!



Sports Days 2022

Primary Sports Day 30th June

It was fantastic to be able to welcome back parents on site for Sports Day this year! Unfortunately, the British weather ruined the outside races we had planned! We quickly had to move the races inside to take place in the school halls. The pupils still enjoyed racing against their friends and seeing their parents inside. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces all round!

Before the rain came down the pupils loved taking part in different outdoor activities from sports Tac Pac to our new sport Pillo Polo.



Secondary Sports Day 1st July

Then there was round two on Friday for the Secondary students. Thank you to all the families who were able to swap to attend in the morning to make sure they could see their children participate in some activities. It was lovely to see the field so full of pupils, families and staff having a great time whilst being physically active. Luckily the rain held off and we managed to complete all 31 races for those pupils who had signed up to take part.

There were Egg and Spoon Races, Obstacle Races, Water Relays and to finish off a Big Ball Race which was definitely a favourite!





A huge THANK YOU to the Denefield School PE GCSE students for helping to set up the activities and for leading them on the day. They were great role models. Well done to all our Primary and Secondary pupils!

Tor Carter, Head of PE and Karen Withers, Swimming Instructor

Youth Club News

This term at Youth club has been fantastic. We have had a pizza night "delivered fresh from Hungry Birds with lots of sides!", a fun evening in the Brookfields swimming pool, competing against each other on the XBOX, Playstation, Wii and the Nintendo Switch and a pool tournament,. The staff still haven't won any games!!



The evening weather has been great this term, so the Youth Club members have had lots of fun outside too.

Unfortunately, this time of year also means saying goodbye to some Youth Club students who are moving on to bigger and better things!

Although we are saying goodbye to some people, we did it in style at our Summer BBQ.



Thank you for supporting the return of the Brookfields Youth Club this year. There are spaces available in September. The Youth Club runs on Thursday evenings and is held in our 6th Form building. The Club is for Age 13+ and it would be great to see some more pupils joining us next term. Please do contact us for further details if you are interested in a place for your child:

kbyers@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

We want to wish those pupils who are leaving goodbye and good luck. We hope everyone has a great Summer. We look forward to seeing you again in September!

From Kerrie Byers, Darren Cunliffe, Verity Weekes and all the Youth Club team!

Fundraising Update



We start with a big thank you to Waitrose & Partners in Reading for their very generous donation of £300 to support the school. We put the money towards the purchase of a Timberharp. This is a sensory musical instrument that has great therapeutic properties. It will be used by a number of pupils across the school.



As the school returns to normal, we are now able to look at several key projects which will benefit from fundraising support over the coming months. The majority of the projects are around upgrading a few areas across the school which are looking a little tired. The key projects are as follows:

- **Primary school playgrounds.** Two of the primary school playgrounds are in need of modernisation. We are about to make our final choice of contractor and then fundraising work can start. All the contractors are very busy so we hope that work will start at some stage in 2023
- **Enterprise room.** This is a slightly longer-term project. We are working on a plan for the room and will then start fundraising
- **Library.** The area needs updating, particularly in respect of the sensory needs of the pupils. Equipment quotes have been sourced and we will shortly be submitting our application to the Foyle Foundation
- **Early years allotment and market garden.** Work is underway to source donations to support both these projects which will be of benefit to our younger and older pupils



If you have any fundraising suggestions or work for a company that offers matched funding, do please get in touch.

The PTA is continuing to benefit from the Amazon Smile scheme. To date the PTA has received £695.67 from the scheme. It's a really easy way to raise money for the school by doing your usual Amazon shopping. You just need to register for the programme via the details below. The PTA will receive 0.5% commission on all eligible purchases. www.smile.amazon.co.uk Search for the Brookfields School Association (charity number 273594) and register the charity. You will then start earning commission for the PTA. You can also do this on the app.

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

Thank you for your support.
Charlotte Wilshire, Fund Raiser

Governor News

Following the intense activity in the Spring term to recruit a new headteacher, the governing board has been continuing with its regular work and meetings with the school team. One of the key priorities was for the governing board to review the school budget and approve it formally. This was done at the meeting in May 2022.



A number of statutory policies were approved by the governing board:

- Behaviour
- Early Career Teachers
- Premises Management
- Data Protection
- Careers
- Teacher Pay

There have been some changes of personnel within the governing board. Unfortunately, Richard Clarke, co-opted governor, stepped down from his role and work is underway to recruit a replacement. As a result of Richard's departure, Christine McLean (Parent Governor) very kindly agreed to take over the role of Chair of the Finance Committee.

We were also very sorry to hear that Tom Loucas (co-opted governor) had decided to step down from the board at the end of this term. Tom joined the governing board in 2017 and brought a wealth of experience to the team with his educational expertise.

Sadly, Sean Polley (co-opted governor) advised that he was relocating and could no longer be on the board. However, Sean has agreed to support the team until the start of the new academic year. We are very grateful for the huge amount of work Sean put into sharing his safeguarding expertise with the school.

The governing board is very grateful to Tom, Richard and Sean for their unfailing dedication and commitment to supporting the work of the school. They will be greatly missed.

The governing board would also like to record its formal thanks to Brandon Mills (Headteacher) for his outstanding 22 years of work at Brookfields School and also to Sarah Strudley (Assistant Head) who leaves after 18 years' service to the school.

Last, but not least, the governing board would like to say a huge thank you to all Brookfields School staff for their hard work this year. It has been another challenging year with Covid affecting many children, families and staff.

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 governors wish you all a very good Summer break.

The Governing Board of Brookfields School

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

Ashley Sayer, Senior Family Support Worker and Carly Bennellick, Family Support Worker, are on call for advice and support during the holiday from Monday to Friday between 10am to 4pm. Please feel you can contact Ashley or Carly to discuss problems during the holiday. However, if your child is displaying seriously challenging behaviours and someone is at risk, you must contact the police. You can call 999 in an emergency or dial 101. On that number you will talk to the police directly. They will discuss with you the best course of action.

**Advice and support from
Brookfields staff**

Family Support Workers

Ashley Sayer

0751 624 1989

Carly Bennellick

0787 170 8411

Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Emergency at home during the holiday

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

Out of hours Duty Social Worker 01344 786543

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.



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

- WBPCF will help you to find the service or support you need.
- WBPCF is run by parents for parents. We know how frustrating all of this can be!
- 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. You can give as much or as little time as you want to, we are all parents/carers of special needs children too and appreciate how hectic life can be. 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@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

Reminders to parents and carers

Uniform

From September 2022 there will be a change to the school uniform that we will be phasing in for our Secondary pupils. Following consultation with pupils through our student council, we are going to mark the change from Primary to Secondary by introducing a different colour jumper for our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils.

This will be phased in gradually, to avoid placing any unreasonable additional strains on household budgets.

Therefore, all pupils who are starting Year 7 in September 2022, will be required to wear a black jumper. This can be purchased through Price and Buckland and can also be purchased reasonably priced, at the 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 will not be allowed as part of the school uniform.

There is no expectation that current secondary pupils should change the colour of their jumper, however they may want to when they next need a new jumper.

The uniform for all Primary pupils remains the same.

As now, 6th Formers will continue to be able to wear their own smart but casual clothes.

To order Brookfields School uniform with the school logo: -

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



Secondary Jumper



Primary Jumper

School Meals from September 2022

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

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

If your child is in Key stage 1 (Reception, Year 1, Year 2) they will receive a Universal **free** meal each day. This will automatically be set up on your SchoolGrid account as free. If your child is already eligible for Free School Meals this will also be set up on your account. The cost of a school meal from Year 3 to Year 14 will continue to be **£2.50** per day and **payments must be made in advance online**.



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

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

Keeping in Touch By text and email



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

You can also download the *School Gateway App*

Apple iPhone users, download the app

here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

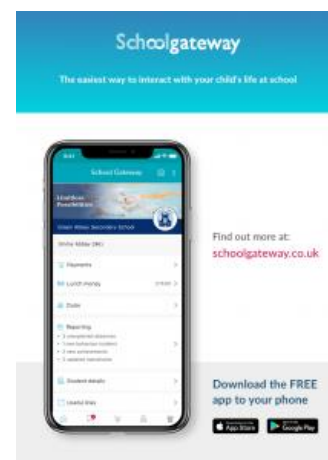
Android phone users, download the app

here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

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

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 2022 / 2023

Term 1	Monday 5 th September 2022 – Thursday 20 th October 2022	34 days
<i>Holiday</i>	21/10/22 – 31/10/22	
Term 2	Tuesday 1 st November 2022 - Tuesday 20 th December 2022	36 days
<i>Holiday</i>	21/12/22 – 03/01/23	
Term 3	Wednesday 4 th January 2023 – Friday 10 ^h February 2023	28 days
<i>Holiday</i>	13/02/23 – 17/02/23	
Term 4	Monday 20 th February 2023 – Thursday 30 th March 2023	29 days
<i>Holiday</i>	31/03/23 – 14/04/23	
Term 5	Monday 17 th April 2023 – Friday 26 th May 2023	29 days
<i>Holiday</i>	29/05/23 – 02/06/23	
Term 6	Monday 5 th June 2023 – Thursday 20 th July 2023	34 days
Total		190 days

UK Public Holidays 2022-2023

25 th December 2022	Christmas Day
26 th December 2022	Boxing Day
27 th December 2022	Christmas Day Holiday
1 st January 2023	New Year's Day
2 nd January 2023	New Year's Day Holiday
7 th April 2023	Good Friday
10 th April 2023	Easter Monday
1 st May 2023	Early May Bank Holiday
29 th May 2023	Spring Bank Holiday

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 5th September 2022.

