

**December 2022**

## Head Teacher's Update

Dear Families and Friends,

It is with huge pleasure that I am writing this terms update. It has been lovely to see the wealth of activities experienced by pupils this term and exemplified throughout the Newsletter. I hope that you enjoy reading and seeing all that has been going on this past term.

Highlights of the term for me have been the celebrations of every small step our pupils take which are shared in Annual Review meetings and weekly staff meetings. It has been amazing to consider how pupils develop from when they arrive through to when they leave. Having ex-pupils come to visit last month to talk to and hopefully, inspire current pupils was a really wonderful experience and so important. It created a real buzz in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form as news was exchanged and honest talk about the realities of work shared! I don't think anyone was put off which was good news indeed! We look forward to being able to create a thriving Alumni presence to help pupils as they take their next steps into Life after school.

It has been enriching for the pupils to be able to expand their horizons and take many trips off-site this term ranging from using the community, travel training, community sports events, trips to Basildon Park, to the river and the local climbing wall all of which have been highlights.

We have had a number of Christmas Activities taking place latterly, the first of which was the School Christmas Fayre raising an incredible £3,217. We are so grateful for your support in donating to, attending at, and helping before and afterwards. It makes such a difference to the school and I would like to thank the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and Charlotte Wilshire in particular for doing so much co-ordinating of the event.

The Head of Pangbourne College was kind enough to open the schools impressive chapel to Purley Choral Society who hosted their Christmas Celebration there. This was a truly beautiful occasion and let the Christmas Season in. The Choral Society generously gave all donations to Brookfields raising an incredible £1,357.31 for the school, which we will spend on some of the more expensive musical instruments such as the Timberharp, which enable our pupils with most complex needs to access and experience playing music.

I was also lucky enough to be invited down into the Explorers Christmas Stay and Play, which was well attended by families.

It was a lovely, though messy, and tear-jerking occasion for all who attended! I will never underestimate or view Hippopotamuses in the same light again!

As always we have to say Goodbye to some staff this term, some for wonderful reasons such as to start their own families and we wish Sophie, Abi, Holly and Jenny every good wish as they do so. We have/are also saying Goodbye to Cathlin, Eduard and Lorna who have only been with us a short time but made a big difference and to Charlotte, Louise, Carly, Beatriz, Mawgan, Jo and Assumpta who are moving on to pastures new. **All will be very much missed** for all they brought to the Brookfields Community. We are also saying Goodbye to some of our Governors this term - Shaun Polley, Tom Loucas, Anne Linder, and Lucy Manners. We are so grateful for all the time and effort they invested into the school and I would like to thank them on behalf of the school community for their part in helping us be the school we are today.

We also have parent Governor vacancies and would warmly invite parents/carers to talk to one of our Governors if you are interested in hearing more about the role.

You will have heard much in the news lately about the staffing crisis in SEN schools in particular, and I know this has impacted on our ability to be open to all pupils all of the time in the way in which we would have wished. I want to assure you that we are working hard on recruitment and on retention, particularly in the light of the recent economic situation, and are hopeful that our efforts in attracting a high calibre of staff to complement the existing team are beginning to bring results.

We are therefore delighted to have welcomed new permanent staff in Sarah Blake and Naomi Horton, both based in Key Stage 3 since October and Klodiana, Farhana, Chris, Samuel, Claire, Kelly, Alison, Elland, Tracey, Carina, and Nathan from Agencies, some of whom will be staying with us as permanent staff in the future. We are delighted also to welcome Melissa Phelps and Emma Gager to the teaching team from September. Although they are leaving us shortly for their teaching placements in mainstream they are definitely returning!

Can I ask that parents and carers support us in making the site a safer place to be by parking considerately when using the site and by reporting any difficulties that you are witness to. We are able to act on any information given directly to us rather than via a third party but we are keen to involve families to help us achieve a safer environment for all. Your co-operation and support in this is greatly appreciated.

Projects happening in the forthcoming terms include a focus on recruitment, continuing work on the Curriculum to ensure that the breadth, balance, relevance and aspiration remain high, installation of the climbing wall you may have noticed waiting patiently in the car-park and investigating becoming part of a Multi-Academy Trust. This was a strong part of the Governments previous White Paper and, though the impetus has lessened in the light of their other priorities, what this might mean for us as a school needs to be looked at so that we are proactive rather than reactive going forwards. We are also in consultation with West Berks in relation to increasing pupil numbers and the constant high number of requests for places when we are bulging at the seams. I will keep you informed on all that is going on as we make progress throughout the year.

All that is left for me to express now then, is my grateful thanks for your support over the past term and to wish you a safe, happy and restful Christmas. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2023, and to a spring term full of activity and educational opportunity.

With very best wishes,

Catherine

***Catherine Bernie, Headteacher***

## Primary Explorers

With a huff and puff the term has gone! In November we opened all the classes across the department for free flow Explore time sessions, where the pupils have access to different activities linked to our termly theme. The pupils have really enjoyed exploring the 'Three Little Pigs' story where they have had lots of opportunities to explore the texts of the story appropriate to their level of learning. Favourite games have included building houses out of big blocks and then blowing them down or crashing into the ball pit after being blown in by the big bad wolf. The pupils also created houses out of different resources or explored different materials in the tuff trays. Explorers have made lovely progress in their development of their communication skills by consistently initiating requests to sustain an interaction in their favourite activities.



Next, we explored the 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' story, we compared different sizes and explored different types of breakfasts. The pupils particularly enjoyed exploring oats and toast in different ways. Explorers have also had access to a wide range of other activities supporting the development of their engagement and physical skills through swimming, rebound therapy, explore PE, climbing and Forest School sessions.



In October, we welcomed our families to our first Stay and Play session, the pupils really enjoyed engaging with their families at school and coped really well when their families left. It was great to see families chatting and enjoying a cup of coffee together.

We have finished off the term engaging in winter activities exploring ice and snow in the environment and enjoying dancing and sensory festive play. Well done to all the pupils for such amazing explorations and relationship building this term!

We would like to wish all our families a safe and joyful festive season and look forward to lots of exciting activities in 2023!

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



## Primary Adventurers



**Black Class** has enjoyed working on this term's topic 'All about Me!' As part of this theme, the pupils have been creating 'All About Me' books, including their favourite books and snacks! The children have been enjoying many activities, including sensory stories and play, exploration of different textures, working on their fine motor skills, and they have loved their class yoga sessions!



The class has also been enjoying their weekly music lessons with Mark. It has been so much fun exploring the different instruments and singing at different speeds and volumes!



**Pink Class** have loved their Sensory Story based on their 'All About Me' topic. The pupils have shared their friends' favourite activities as part of a 'hot air balloon ride'. Other favourite times of the week are 'Forest School' and 'Music with Mark' where the children have been exploring environments in two very different enjoyable ways.





What a busy term for **Purple Class**! The pupils have been looking at the topic, 'All About Me' and have loved reading lots of different books such as 'The Squirrels that Squabbled', 'Funnybones' and 'The Smeds and The Smoos'. The children have made lots of new friends and have enjoyed a range of lessons, especially Music with Mark, Swimming with Karen, Drama with Emily and Forest School with the class team. Everyone has had lots of fun and have laughs!



This term **Sky Class** have been focusing on Superheroes! This has included learning about what makes someone a superhero in stories and real life. The children dressed up, invented their own superhero and looked at those people who help us in the community. Sky Class also thought about how they can be superheroes and help others - key vocabulary has been: kind, brave, caring, safe and helpful. Along with our Topic, we have also continued learning key Makaton signs, working with Rhian in PHSE to think about appropriate behaviour with friends and family and visiting Forest School to enjoy time outside in nature. This was very useful when we explored the senses as we thought about what we could see, touch, smell and hear.

All the children have worked hard this term.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Happy holidays!





**White Class** have had a great term learning all about themselves! Through reading and watching different stories, we have explored our emotions, our families and our bodies and skeletons. Pupils have also been learning about superheroes and imagining what kind of superpowers they would like to have. The pupils have enjoyed celebrating Halloween and Children in Need Day, trying lots of different ICT activities using the laptops, and in Cooking lessons they have been working on their independence skills, by building up to following a recipe without help from adults.



This term **Orange Class** have had lots of fun visiting the swimming pool, sensory room and the library. Pupils have loved getting creative in Art, Cooking and in their Messy Play sessions. The pupils have been working on building relationships with their peers and playing turn taking games on the smartboard.



Well done everybody!  
The Adventurers staff team wish  
you all a Happy Christmas and  
look forward to welcoming the  
children back to school on  
Wednesday  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.



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

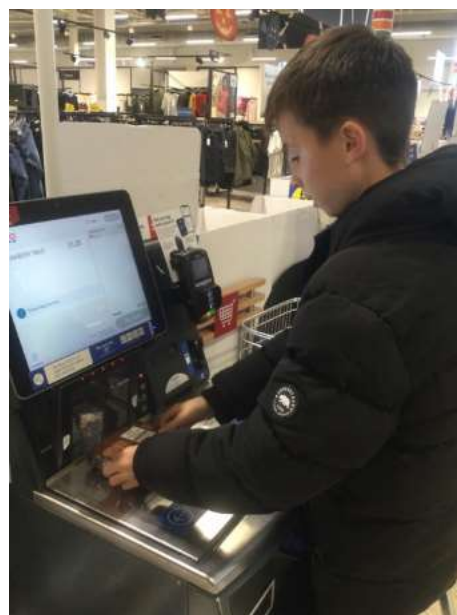
## Key Stage 3

It has been another fantastic start to the school year. All classes have been busy at work. It has been lovely to walk around the Key Stage and visit all the classes to see such a variety of activities taking place such as pirates, sea creatures, sensory stories, PE and much more. Our weekly showcases have provided a time for everyone to get together and celebrate key events happening around the world or closer to home, our most recent being a fun Around the World Christmas Showcase. The Key Stage students are looking forward to their next topic, 'Food Glorious Food' in the Spring term.

**Sutton Class** have had an exciting Autumn term and have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the sea. One of the highlights from the topic was pupils acting out elements of our text, Treasure Island. They used their knowledge of characters and pirates to portray accurate reflections of each of the characters within the story. Well done to all!



Sutton Class pupils have had great and successful weekly visits in the local community where they have put their money skills to the test when buying different items, pupils have also improved their navigation around a supermarket.



Another highlight this term has been Wheelchair Rugby, all pupils have enjoyed these sessions and have approached each lesson with positivity and enthusiasm. It was fantastic to see each pupil engaging and actively participating with this sport and working as a team to achieve a shared goal. The children have learnt and developed some new skills that they can transfer to other sports.



Merry Christmas!  
**Courtneay and the Sutton Team**



**Winslet Class** have enjoyed a variety of sessions this term, including using the outdoor gym, making sentences in Topic, learning about kitchen safety in Cooking, using the Soundbeam in Music, thinking about the sky in Explore Art and getting back to nature at Forest School. It has been a successful term for everyone. We send good wishes and Season's Greetings to you all and look forward to seeing you for more fun in January!

***Emily and the Winslet Team.***



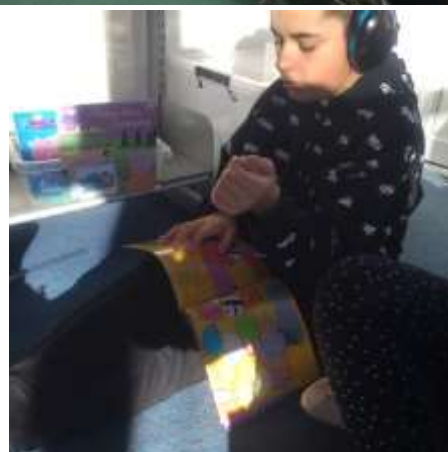




**Fletcher Class** have been enjoying exploring our topic of 'All at Sea' this term. The pupils have acted out parts of the story 'Treasure Island', meeting pirates, creating treasure maps, and sailing on their ship in search for treasure. They have created their own boats from recycled materials in Science to see if they would float or sink, with success! Pupils have enjoyed outings to the community during weekly shopping trips, with a big focus on handling money, communication, and road safety. A highlight of this term has been their swimming sessions, which are always lots of fun.

Well done Fletcher Class, it has been a great term!

***Kirsty, Melissa, Janine, Nicola and Katie.***





**Madejski Class** have had a positive and happy Autumn term. Our topic 'All at Sea' has provided cross-curricular learning opportunities and has allowed pupils to make meaningful links across subject areas.



Pupils have followed a learning journey, discovering where water comes from and where it goes to. Madejski Class have learnt about the water cycle, rain, ponds, streams, rivers and have explored ecosystems and local geography through links to the River Thames. The class had a memorable off-site trip to Mapledurham Lock too. Since half term, our journey has taken us to



the mouth of the river and into the wide-open ocean. Pupils have absolutely loved the story of Treasure Island; they have engaged brilliantly with this rich text. The class have agreed their class pirate code, learnt shanties, made grog and ship's biscuits, followed the story through role-play, poetry, singing and dressing up at any opportunity! Over the term, everyone has truly brought Treasure Island to life!

Highlights of the term have also included weekly PE; pupils' tennis and rugby skills have significantly improved thanks to specialist coaching which has been fantastic. Weekly cooking, horticultural therapy and community visits have all enriched the weekly timetable.



Finally, we all enjoyed an icy end of term trip to Basildon Park which was like exploring a winter wonderland! We had such a lovely time.



We are all looking forward to the holidays and wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break!

***The Madejski Team - Helen, Vicki, Wendy, Carol, Jo and Karina***

**Tarrant Class** have had a great Autumn Term exploring the topic 'All At Sea', our text 'Treasure Island' has provided many opportunities to find treasure and share in sea shanties. We have also enjoyed our Immersive Theatre sessions run by Make SENSE Theatre, where we have been heading underground on the Zoobilee Line Service to Mole End. We are looking forward to the Spring Term where our topic will be 'Food Glorious Food', but until then we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

**Jane and the Tarrant Team**



Well done all on a fantastic Autumn term Key Stage 3 and I hope you all have a lovely break.  
**Kirsty Simmonds, Head of Key Stage 3**

## **Nurture Base**

This term we welcomed Leanne and Karen as part of the Nurture Base Team. Our pupils have all done so well transitioning from their class bases to the group daily and have engaged in a range of activities together such as P.E, gardening and visits to the library. Clear favourites have been swimming, cooking pizzas and making a pretend campfire with lots of hot chocolate!



We wish all the pupils and families an exciting and enjoyable Christmas and we look forward to seeing them in the New Year!

**Nurture Base, Therapeutic Support Team**

## **Key Stage 4 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

This term has been a busy one in Key Stage 4 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form! Between both key stages we have had visits from Make Sense Theatre, The Willink School, Health Reach and Christmas Immersive Theatre. Students have been involved in lots of different Enterprise activities as well as visits to Addington School, local shops, swimming, parkour and Pangbourne House. They've also been involved in a variety of really successful work experience placements (see Pages 13-14).

Thank you for your continued support of everything we do at Brookfields.

Hoping you and your families have a wonderful Christmas.

**Tim Shephard, Head of Key Stage 4 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form.**



## Pathway to Employment

Since September the Way2Work Team have supported 28 students on Work Based Placements. We have used 10 different venues; Flint House Restaurant, Flint House Polytunnel, Great Western Railway at Reading Station, Berkshire Maestros, Sainsbury's, Ikea, Reading Biscuit Factory, Brookfields Market Garden, The Watermill Theatre and Brookfields Early Years Department. The students have totalled an amazing 392 hours of work-based learning between them. These placements allow the students to build on their skills, self-confidence and provide them with a meaningful insight into the types of jobs that are available. The following students have shown real enthusiasm during their placements, the 'Employee of the Month' awards for this term are as follows:



Students have also been very busy working to expand the Brookfields Market Garden Enterprise. The on-site poly tunnel and raised beds are fully up and running producing wonderful fresh vegetables and plants for sale. Classes are now enjoying the benefits of being able to book a weekly slot on the timetable.



We are forever grateful for the ongoing support of our local business network; we have continued to extend our links and evaluate how we can work together in this changing climate to make a real difference to the future lives of our students. New connections have been made with: The Butterfly Café, Barista and Beyond, Make Sense Theatre, Great Western Railway.

Secondary students have also had multiple opportunities to learn from Employers first-hand about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace.



The students have visited Baylab and Reading Buses and attended an onsite workshop provided by Health Reach.







Following on from a successful work experience placement and volunteering placements our students were offered a chance to watch a performance of Rapunzel.

They were thrilled!!

Brookfields Market Garden had a stall at Brookfields Christmas Fair and at Laithwaites Christmas Fair selling Spring Bulb Lasagne, Homemade Chutneys and Planters grown by the students. A delicious home-grown leek and potato soup was sold at the fair too.



We are always on the lookout for new businesses to collaborate with. 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:-

[igrant@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:igrant@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk) or [bellman@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:bellman@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 the extended DBS checks, which are essential for safeguarding purposes.

**Julie Grant and Lucy Bellman, Pathway to Employment Team**

## Independent Travel Training



This term, our students have really excelled themselves going out and about learning to travel independently. Two of our students have begun to make their first journeys independently using public transport. Other students have been able to plan journeys to new destinations (Work Experience) including working out the route and bus times and then making the journey independently. We have been able to take small groups out on public transport to help them to build confidence when on the bus and learn how to travel safely. It has been such a pleasure to see these students growing in confidence and ability, knowing how to keep safe and being able to problem solve when a journey does not quite go to plan. I would personally like to thank parents and carers for their very kind feedback and support as they see the progress that is being made by our learners. In November, we celebrated National Road Safety Week and WOW ... there was so much going on! Students took part in lots of different activities both in class and off site in the community. We had wonderful displays and posters being made and different arts and crafts, including making bright coloured tags to put on bags to highlight "be bright, be seen". Students went off site to practice safe road crossing and we even had a visit from the local Police Officers who talked to some secondary students about road safety. Students loved being able to try on high viz jackets, police hats and have photographs taken next to the police car.

I am looking forward to next term and seeing even more students spreading their travel wings!

In the meantime, I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas

For more information about Brookfields School Travel Training, please contact me at [cgingell@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:cgingell@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

**Cathy Gingell, Preparation for Adulthood / Travel Training Specialist**

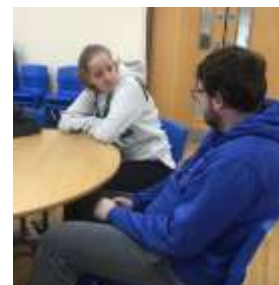


## Careers and Transitions

This term we have continued to explore Careers throughout the school. We are continuing to support Early Years and Key Stage 2 pupils to develop their Personal Care and Life Skills. Key Stage 3 pupils have been planning enterprise activities while Key Stage 4 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form students have been following the Careers Programme, which looks at: Personal Hygiene, Work Experience, CVs, Vocational Profiles and Life Skills.

There have been many wonderful class Enterprise schemes going ahead across the Secondary School – Cake, Cookie and Mince Pie Sales, Cinema Days, Guess the Weight of the Christmas Cake, Sweet Bag Sales as well as a Pool Tournament. The winner is still to be decided.

This term some of our ex-pupils, our Alumni, were invited to come into school to talk to our current Key Stage 4 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form students on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The day consisted of 10 ex-pupils speaking about their journey since leaving Brookfields.



Current students had the opportunity to ask questions and gain an understanding of what life is like after Brookfields. The day was positive with our students saying that it gave them a good idea of what lies ahead as well as having time to catch up with old friends.

By now, all our students who will be leaving Brookfields in July 2023 should have had a meeting with the Transitions Lead, to discuss next steps. If this has not happened or families would like another meeting please email me, Ceri Brueton at [cbrueton@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:cbrueton@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk). I would also be pleased to hear from any families of Year 10, 11, 12 or 13 students that would like to arrange an appointment with me to discuss future options. Please do email me.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

**Ceri Brueton, Careers and Transitions Lead (14-19)**

## Curriculum Centre

It's been a busy time in the library this term. During the last school year, we ran a weekly 'Sing and Sign' session with Primary Adventurers pupils. The session proved so popular that this term we have been able to run a weekly session for pupils in Primary Explorers and Tarrant class in Key Stage 3. Popular action songs with the Primary groups have been 'Hop Little Bunnies', 'Happy and You Know It' and 'Wind the Bobbin Up'. Tarrant class have been learning signing songs about the sea as they have been learning about 'Treasure Island'; the most popular songs have been 'Pirate Sea Shanty' and 'Yellow Submarine'.

For the last 12 days of term, we have shared a 'Sing and Sign' advent video with classes each morning. Madejski class recorded a fun version of 'Jingle Bells' which included a surprise snowball fight.

In October we shared a collection of new books celebrating Black History Month. Students from Scott class enjoyed reading and listening to 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon. Other popular books were the 'Little People Big Dreams' series especially Marcus Rashford and Dwayne Johnson.

We have ended this term with a joint project between the library team and Ola who teaches in The Hub to take



students on an immersive storytelling experience. The theme for our end of term story was 'The Hunt for the Christmas Tree'. The drama studio was transformed into The North Pole as we travelled to a snow cave, the elves' café and finally danced with Rudolph who showed us the hidden route to the Christmas tree. Pink class especially enjoyed helping to decorate the tree. Next term we are planning a story which will take us to the jungle.

Finally, 'Norbert the Green Nosed Reindeer' visited classes to share his story which was a twist on the song 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer'. Norbert was well looked after by White class who kindly offered to find him a tissue for his green nose as the story reveals that Norbert is suffering with a bad cold. Fletcher class revealed Norbert's red nose when he managed to save Christmas.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

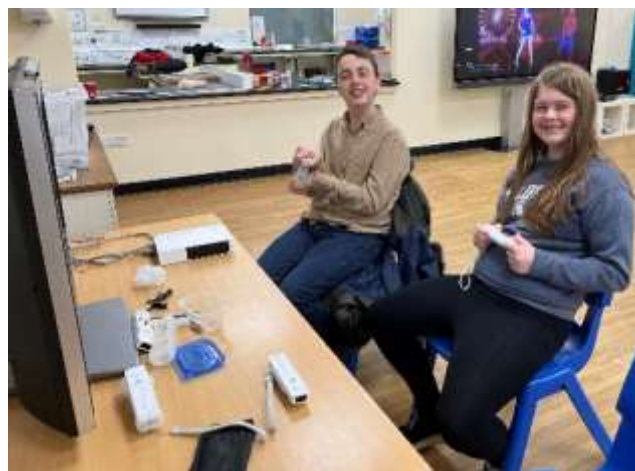
**The Curriculum Centre Team**



## Youth Club

The students have had another great term at Youth Club and have enjoyed hanging out with their friends. The Club used the swimming pool a couple of times and the students have had fun cooking. They loved having pizza delivered too. Everyone likes using the pool table, even the staff! especially on the evenings when there are competitions between students and the staff.

The students were pleased that they didn't have to miss any World Cup football matches when they were at Youth Club. They had fun watching the games on the Smartboard.



We finished off this year with our annual trip to McDonalds seeing all the Christmas lights on the journey.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to one Youth Club student this term as he has moved to West Yorkshire with his family. He will be missed by all of us and everybody else at school who knows him.

## We are looking for new members to join our Youth Club.

*"Youth Club is a good place to play Xbox One, Wii, PlayStation, Xbox 360, to watch TV or do Arts and Crafts together and to just hang out with our friends. There is always a tuckshop where we can buy goodies too!!"*

If you are interested in your teenager joining Youth Club, please contact Brookfields office who will give you more information and we can arrange a free trial session:-

[office@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Kerrie and Darren.**





## Maths News



We have had another busy term exploring, learning and applying maths concepts both in school and out in the local community.



Explorers have been working around the theme of the Three Little Pigs, following 2 step instructions, building houses that are big or small, walls that are tall, short or long, and of course, keeping a check that there are still three of those Little Pigs!



Adventurers pupils have been exploring number through counting teddies, jellyfish and all manner of other items. Some have started to explore place value, problem solving and directional language.

Key Stage 3 have also been looking into number, positional and directional language. There has also been some lovely work on identifying pattern repeats, 3D shapes. Symmetry, sorting, categorising and interpreting data through graphs and charts. There have also been trips to the shops to put their money skills into practical use.



**Key Stage 4** have been working hard on their number skills too. Some have investigated partitioning numbers as a strategy for mental calculations, explored 'difference' as a mathematical concept. Some have made themselves feel very hungry investigating dividing up pizzas into fractions, working hard on their money skills. Others have explored pattern, shape and counting skills.

**6<sup>th</sup> Form** have applied their maths skills in a host of practical contexts. Many students took part in a health project in which they had to budget for several weeks, measure and compare height and read scales on ovens, weighing scales, blood oxygen meters and other digital equipment.



A group took part in an Enterprise project which challenged them to raise money at the Christmas bazaar. They decided to buy everything necessary to make a Lucky Dip, peppermint creams and candles which they then sold and calculated the handsome profit of £25!

**Gilly Cummings, Head of Numeracy**



## PE News

### Wheelchair Rugby



Wheelchair Rugby has been a huge success this term, with Craig from CH Rugby delivering weekly sessions to pupils across the school. All pupils really look forward to the lessons and have been asking when it will start again! It is a great opportunity to experience a new sport and something we hope to continue in the New Year.



## Offsite Tennis

Madejski Class went to Purley Tennis Club to participate in tennis lessons as part of the 'Bright Ideas in Tennis' initiative. The pupil's loved going offsite to a tennis club described by staff as 'very professional' and received coaching from trained coaches and volunteers from Purley Tennis Club. It was a highlight of the week for Madejski Class and we look forward to more classes going again after Easter when the weather warms up.





## Swimming

We have had amazing fun in the pool again this term and all new pupils from early years have settled into their swimming sessions and are loving the new LED lights purchased from the money raised through the Reading Half Marathon. It has helped make swimming an even more sensory experience for the pupils and you can see Demi enjoying the lights in the photo below.

MacArthur and Sulham classes have been to Meadway Sports Centre this term and are loving having half swimming and half water skills lessons which included rescues and great fun with the ropes!



## Football

13 secondary school pupils went to The Madejski Dome for our first football tournament of the year organised by Reading Football Club. The excitement in all of the pupils was lovely to see and although some were disappointed that they didn't win they all enjoyed themselves and demonstrated good teamwork and sportsmanship in all of the games. The post-tournament



discussions on the bus were tactics for the next tournament and how to improve and get better as a team which was nice to hear.



I hope you have a good Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing the pupils back on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January for a new term of PE activities.

**Matt Rosier, Head of PE.**

### Fundraising Update



We would like to thank a number of sponsors for their generosity to the school over the last few months. The Berkshire Masonic Charity donated £1,348 towards our early years outdoor classroom and the Masonic Charitable Foundation matched this amount which gave a terrific boost to the project.



The Lions Club of Reading very kindly donated £160 to allow the school to buy a selection of tools for the outdoor classroom.

The Ernest Cook Trust supported the early years classes with a fantastic donation of £500 which has allowed us to buy waterproofs and wellies so that the pupils can enjoy the outdoor areas in all weathers.



We were delighted to receive a donation of £500 from the Pangbourne Rotary Club. This funding will allow us to buy new books and sensory toys for the library which will make a tremendous difference to the activities we can undertake.

Finally, we were delighted to attend the Christmas concert of the Pangbourne Choral Society on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Despite the football and the bad weather, the concert was well attended and a collection at the end of the concert raised a staggering sum of £1,357.31 in support of the school. The money will be used to buy sensory musical instruments.



We received a further £78.48 from the Amazon Smile programme. 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](http://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.



We also benefitted from ongoing support from Collecteco. The company donated several items of furniture which have found new homes across the school. This great programme donates surplus furniture and supplies to charities and saves them from going to landfill.



If you have any suggestions for fundraising opportunities please contact our fundraiser Charlotte Wilshire. [cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

Thank you for your support.

**Charlotte Wilshire, Fund Raiser**



## Governor Update

The governors would like to say a huge thank you to the staff team for all their hard work this year as the school returns to normal after Covid. The governors appreciate the significant amount of work that has been done by everyone in the school.

There have been a few changes to the governing board. Sadly, Anne Linder, Tom Loucas and Shaun Polley stood down from their positions as co-opted governors. The board would like to extend its thanks to Tom, Shaun and Anne for their contribution to both the governing board and the whole school. We will also be sad to lose Lucy Manners, Local Authority governor, who will be leaving the board at the end of the year.

The board has been very pleased to hear about the hard work that has been going on in school this term. The redecoration of the primary areas, the smooth integration of new staff and the general post Covid recovery have been of particular importance to the school. The board has approved several key statutory policies this term, including Child Protection and Safeguarding, Admissions and Whistleblowing.

The governors would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the school community Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year.

If you have any questions about the governing board, please do not hesitate to contact: - Charlotte Wilshire, Clerk to the Governors. [cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

**The Governing Board of Brookfields School**

## PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Update

It has been a busy first term of the year for the Brookfields PTA (Parent Teacher Association).

Sam Clarke stood down as Chair of the PTA in October. We would like to thank Sam for the huge amount of work that she did for the PTA during her time as Chair. Sam pioneered new ways of doing things and she spent countless hours supporting all the major events such as Quiz Night, the Summer BBQ and the Christmas Bazaar. Sam also made the room set for Santa's grotto and donated many beautiful hampers to the raffle.



The PTA is looking for a new Chair and Secretary so please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

You can contact us at: [brookfieldspta@gmail.com](mailto:brookfieldspta@gmail.com)

Thank you for supporting the PTA events held so far this year. Our first event of this term was the return of the very popular Quiz Night. We had a great turnout, and the event made a profit of £376.95. Many congratulations to the winning team of parents who very kindly donated their prizes back to the school. Our resident quizmaster Maurice did an excellent job as master of ceremonies for the evening. Our biggest event of the year was the Christmas Bazaar held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We were delighted that it returned to school after a 3-year absence.

We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to the event by donating prizes, buying and selling raffle tickets, baking cakes, helping on stalls, setting up and clearing up and all the other jobs that are an essential part of the day. We were bowled over with the support for the event.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our key sponsors for the event; HTC Reading Daf, Tesco Napier Road, Waitrose Oxford Road, The Entertainer Reading, Warings Bakery Tilehurst, Hotelgroup, Reading Buses, Paul Francis Tilehurst, Bucklebury Farm, LK Frain Tilehurst, Laithwaites, Dolce, Costa Tilehurst, Dominos Tilehurst and Mad Hatters Tilehurst.



Oxford Road



Napier Road



Reading



Tilehurst

**LK Frain Builders and Decorators**



Tilehurst



Mad Hatters



The great news is that the bazaar raised a record-breaking total of **£3,217!**

We are absolutely thrilled. Some of the money will be used to buy a Christmas gift or treat for every pupil in the school. The rest of the money will be used to support other projects in the school in the future.





**Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise this outstanding total.**

If you would like to find out more about the PTA and the work we do, please contact us at:  
[brookfieldspta@gmail.com](mailto:brookfieldspta@gmail.com)

### Charity Days

Thank you for supporting our Children in Need Day on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Many thanks to those of you who kindly baked or sent in items for our Cake Sale. The total raised for the charity was an amazing **£460**.



Thank you for also supporting our Christmas Jumper Day on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The school raised **£160** for The Save the Children Charity.

**THANK YOU** for all your donations.

## Support for Families



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



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

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

## Support for Families during the holiday

Ashley Sayer, Senior Family Support Worker and Carly Bennellick, Family Support Worker, are on call for advice and support during some of the holiday from Monday to Friday between 10 - 4.

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.

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!



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



The forums aim to support parents/carers to participate and have a voice in how services for disabled and special needs children are shaped and delivered locally. 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@West Berks PCF](mailto:Info@WestBerksPCF) or contact our Chair at [dawnwbpcf@gmail.com](mailto:dawnwbpcf@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/westberksparentcarerforum](https://www.facebook.com/westberksparentcarerforum)

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

## **Reading:-**

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

Phone: 0751 618 5380

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

## **Reminders to parents and carers**

### **Uniform**

From September 2022 there was a change to the school uniform for our Secondary pupils. To mark the change from Primary to Secondary pupils now wear a black jumper when they join Year 7. This can be purchased through Price and Buckland and can also be purchased reasonably priced, at large supermarkets. Secondary pupils can wear either a black school jumper with the school logo on, or a plain black one. Please be advised that this must be a jumper or sweatshirt, hoodies 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 continue to be able to wear their own smart but casual clothes.



**Secondary Jumper**



**Primary Jumper**

To order Brookfields School uniform with the school logo: -

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

### **School Meals**

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



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

If your child is in Key stage 1 (Reception, Year 1, Year 2) they will receive a Universal **free** meal each day. This will automatically be set up on your SchoolGrid account as free. If your child is already eligible for Free School Meals this will also be set up on your account. The cost of a school meal from Year 3 to Year 14 if your child is not entitled to Free School Meals continues to be **£2.50** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

You can also download the *School Gateway App*

Apple iPhone users, download the app

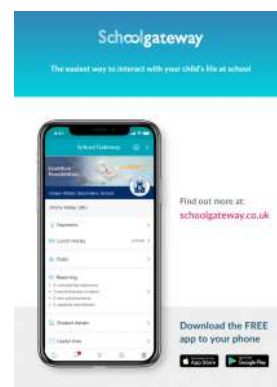
here: [schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload)

Android phone users, download the app

here: [schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](https://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 2023

<b>Holiday</b>	21/12/22 – 03/01/23	
<b>Term 3</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	<b>28 days</b>
<b>Holiday</b>	13/02/23 – 17/02/23	
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	<b>29 days</b>
<b>Holiday</b>	31/03/23 – 14/04/23	
<b>Term 5</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	<b>29 days</b>
<b>Holiday</b>	29/05/23 – 02/06/23	
<b>Term 6</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	<b>34 days</b>

### UK Public Holidays 2022-2023

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

**We look forward to  
welcoming pupils  
back to school on  
Wednesday  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**





