

Newsletter



March 2023

Head Teacher's Update

Dear Families,

Firstly, I would like to express huge thanks to you **all** on behalf of Brookfields as a school community, for your patience and flexibility during the recent staffing crisis we have been experiencing. Please know that we do not ask for pupils to be kept at home lightly. I hope that with the additional staff that we have been able to employ starting after Easter, that this will be a rare event. I would also like to thank the whole staff team who have pulled together to provide as much education, care and support as has been humanly possible with what often felt like a hand tied behind their backs. I am enormously grateful. Thank you all.

End of terms always bring change and it is with great sadness that we say Goodbye to Fay Bjornstad, our Head of Explorers. Fay has worked at Brookfields for nearly 7 years and brings enormous positivity and humour as well as a huge breadth of knowledge to the role. I will miss Fay but wish her well in her new venture at Bishopswood School in Oxfordshire. We are also saying Goodbye to Jennifer Smith, 6th Form Teacher, who is moving to a new role as a SENCo in West Berkshire. Jennifer has brought advocacy and un-ending passion to support access to education for all pupils with SEND and I know she will make such a positive impact in her new role. Finally we say Goodbye to Matt Cook. Matt has been a stalwart of the site team for some years now and will be sorely missed. We wish you all well!

On the plus side, we have welcomed new support staff to the school this term including Tayla Green, Christopher Long, Lucy Richards and Alyssa Roberts. Starting after Easter we also welcome Katie Gray as a new Assistant Head, Roger Allwood (Caretaker) and as support staff Anne-Marie Dallarda, Oliver Huxford, Kristina Kutafine, and Isobel Wilding. Additionally Klodiana Stafasani and Bryn Williams who are Agency staff are converting to join the Brookfields Team. We look forward to working with them all.

I am also pleased to say that Emma Gager and Melissa Phelps are returning! Both are trainee teachers who have been in mainstream/alternative classes and are returning to finish their placements. They have been sorely missed by their classes and I am delighted to have them back. Both are joining us in September as new teachers and will be a great addition to the team.

As I write this, the sun is streaming through the window and I can see the daffs' and smell the hyacinths and hope this is the start of the warmer weather...though of course it's bound to rain as there is a Duke of Edinburgh expedition walk planned! Whatever the weather, I hope that you enjoy looking through the experiences that your child has had over the course of this term and have a wonderful Easter break. We will see your child back at school on Monday 17th April. Happy Easter to you all!

Primary Explorers

Mess, mess and more mess in Explorers!!! This term, we explored the topic 'Let's make a mess!' We started off by helping Mrs Wishing Washy clean her muddy animals, we tumbled into her bath and even got scrubbed ourselves with her big brush. Next we helped Mr Wolf make his pancakes! Flour, everywhere! We sieved, poured, shook and mixed up lots of flour. We enjoyed tasting the different toppings too, yum yum!



Then whoosh....we took a ride on the witch's broomstick across different lands where we made bubbling potions. We explored science experiments, played with slimy spaghetti and jumped into the cauldron and got stirred up with our friends...iggetty, ziggetty zaggety zoom! Onto our next adventure, a bear hunt, we squelched through lots of mud, took a few dips in the cold pond, stumbled through the woods and even encountered a snowstorm. Our families joined in with our muddy adventure and luckily we came across some chocolate eggs along the way.



Sadly, I will be saying goodbye and going on a new adventure of my own. It has been such a privilege to teach and learn at Brookfields, the most amazing school! I have loved every minute and met the most wonderful people along the way. Thank you to everyone that has supported me on my journey at Brookfields, I will miss you all dearly. It's goodbye for now but I will stay in touch and maybe be back again one day.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and sunny Spring break.

Fay Bjornstad, Head of Primary Explorers

Primary Adventurers

Everyone has loved the theme 'Let's Make a Mess' in the department this term. Pupils have been exploring colour and have been using and developing their experimenting, predicting and mixing skills. The pupils enjoyed the activity of bubble painting to re-create a scene from the story 'The Colour Monster' alongside their peers. They have also enjoyed exploring the different colours in the sensory story 'The Day the Crayons Quit' with messy play and cooking sessions.



Adventurers have also been investigating colours by looking at rainbows. The children have melted crayons, made rainbow cupcakes, carried out a skittles experiment and used a series of books about crayons to write expressive letters and make predictions about what could happen next.

The whole Key Stage are very happy that the swimming pool is working again! Pupils have also been active on the trampoline and in gymnastics lessons.



The Nurture Base have had lots of fun this term. The boys really enjoyed group story sessions, turn taking games, cooking and running our daily 'Snack Café'.

Looking forward to more fun and games next term!

We wish you all a safe and happy Easter.

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



Key Stage 3

This term has been another successful one. All Key Stage 3 classes have enjoyed our 'Food Glorious Food' topic. It has been lovely seeing so many different recipes being explored. The smells around the Key Stage have been amazing! The pupil engagement through following recipes and more recently through exploring 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' has been fantastic. Pupils have also continued to access the local community to develop their communication and cognition skills.

Well done to all pupils for their hard work this term.



Madejski Class have had fun this term learning about all things Food! Our topic, 'Food Glorious Food' started with investigating food around the world. We travelled far and wide, exploring traditional foods from England to as far as Japan. Our focus has been to follow recipes and instructions through regular cooking sessions. In phonics, we promoted links to a module about making a disgusting goldfish pie recipe. We have enjoyed making and tasting scones, pizza, stir fry, fajitas and sushi. We have celebrated the herbs and spices and authentic ingredients used in our recipes. Pupils have created a cooking zone outside of our class, making soup and dishes from mud, stones, leaves and berries. To enrich our curriculum, we have read traditional stories including 'Stone Soup' and 'The Runaway Wok'.



Our community visits continued to support the topic, exploring a range of foods in local supermarkets and thinking about healthy eating options. Madejski class have been lucky enough to have swimming lessons at the Meadway Pool and in PE, pupils have started to develop their bench ball skills.



In recent weeks, we have explored Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Pupils loved making cabbage soup (just like the poor Bucket family eat all the time!) and moved onto some wonderful role play, dressing up as Charlie's grandparents and transforming into the key



characters in the story ... not forgetting Mr Wonka himself! We are looking forward to getting our creative hats on and making some tasty treats to share at Easter time.

Madejski Class had a lovely end of term Spring outing to the Mapledurham Playing Fields. The sun was shining!

We wish everyone a lovely Easter break!

The Madejski Team – Helen, Vicki, Wendy, Carol, Jo and Katrina.

Tarrant Class have engaged in learning through our topic, 'Food Glorious Food'. Interacting with different foods, utensils and our story 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' provided opportunities to taste and discover our likes and dislikes and then communicate these to those around us. The pupils have all visited the community, with different groups accessing climbing, the park and The Toby Carvery. Another highlight for Tarrant Class this term was a visit from Everybody's Cycling which provided the opportunity to access cycling with adapted bikes, this was lots of fun and has become a new hobby for some of our students!



Sutton Class have had a brilliant Spring term, the pupils have enjoyed learning about their new topic 'Food Glorious Food.' They started the topic by exploring both the food and culture from a number of different countries around the world, which the pupils really enjoyed. A particular highlight was cooking and trying different foods that some pupils had never eaten before.



The class then moved onto exploring the text of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,' the children are enjoying their daily reading time and learning more about the story. The children have been

working hard on their written work this term and are consistently using a wide variety of adjectives within their work to describe both characters and places from the story.

Another highlight this term for Sutton Class was the 3D Design and Technology project where the children have been designing and building items. Pupils were tasked with creating a realistic food or drink item and spent the term developing different ideas, pupils showed great perseverance and problem-solving skills, identifying the most practical way to create their item.



Fletcher Class have absolutely loved learning about all things food related this term. Our topic, 'Food Glorious Food' started with investigating different food from around the world. The pupils took imaginary trips to each country where they explored the food, tasting and identifying which they liked or disliked. Alongside this, pupils have been creative and enjoyed following recipes to make some of the food they had tried within their weekly cooking sessions. The class enjoyed making and tasting scones, pizza, stir fry, fajitas and sushi. The pupils have also thought about healthy eating and have made healthy food choices when out shopping within the local community as well as continuing to work on their communication skills. Within PE the pupils have been learning a new skill, 'Table Cricket' and were very excited to attend the Berkshire School Games to represent Brookfields.

More recently Fletcher class have explored Roald Dahl's book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and have enjoyed the story through taste, touch and smell. Pupils also enjoyed a visit from Everybody's Cycling which provided the opportunity to access cycling with adapted bikes, this was lots of fun and has become a new hobby for some of our students! Well done to all pupils.

We wish everyone a lovely Easter break!





Winslet class have loved the topic 'Food Glorious Food' taking imaginary holidays to certain countries to try their snacks and cooking different dinners to taste. Recently, for our topic 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' the pupils enjoyed making variations of 'Rocky Road', exploring which ingredients they prefer to use in the recipe, whilst listening to the 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' soundtrack.



Winslet class have particularly enjoyed their offsite trips on Mondays to Ufton Court where they have engaged in many different activities including low ropes, archery and marshmallow roasting. They have loved being outdoors exploring the houses and the wonderful woodlands! Have a lovely Easter Break! The Winslet Team.

The Key Stage 3 Team hope everyone has a lovely Easter break.

We look forward to welcoming all the pupils back to school on Monday 17th April 2023.

Kirsty Simmonds, Head of Key Stage 3 and all the staff team

Key Stage 4 and 6th Form News

Key Stage 4 and 6th Form classes have had a great Spring term and have continued to participate in lots of interesting activities. Students from Key Stage 4 including Mapledurham Class have had the opportunity to access Pangbourne House which has been a firm favourite, as well as swimming off-site which they have all enjoyed. Englefield have fund raised and spent the proceeds on a cinema visit and of course a McDonald's trip, while Sulham have led the organisation of the widely anticipated Brookfields' Got Talent show! All students have benefited from weekly drama sessions and many have been introduced to Parkour with their 6th Form peers. The Hub (Sharman Class) have really enjoyed swimming and Rebound Therapy sessions this term and have had an opportunity to take part in various sensory activities such as music,

sensory cooking and horticulture. During their Horticultural Therapy sessions, they had the opportunity to explore and use a drill and a saw with adult support.

Students from Columbus class and Livingstone class have had the amazing opportunity to access weekly Immersive Theatre sessions, which they enjoy and participate in well. Columbus Class have been involved in offsite visits to Ufton Court Education Centre where the students have loved taking part in outdoor activities and being out and about in the natural world.

Scott Class have had a great time experiencing different bikes at a visit from Everybody's Cycling which provided the opportunity to access cycling with adapted bikes. The students felt proud seeing the seeds they planted which then bloomed and made lovely Mother's Day presents! They loved the topic 'Our Cultures' and honed their research skills finding out about different countries.

MacArthur class have been out and about in the community, getting involved with visits from other schools, developing DofE skills and even working out at the local Cotswold gym!

Students from both Key Stages enjoyed Comic Relief Day and playing a charity football match against the staff. They were all overjoyed to see how much of a contribution was made to the charitable work Comic Relief carries out.

Tim Shephard, Head of 6th Form and all the 6th Form staff.

Pathway to Employment

Since January 2023, the Pathway to Employment team have supported an incredible 31 students on Work Based Placements. We have used 11 different venues; Flint House Restaurant and Poly Tunnel, GWR at Reading Station, Berkshire Maestros, Sainsbury's, IKEA, Reading Biscuit Factory, Brookfields Market Garden, National Grid, Barista & Beyond and The Butterfly Café.



The students have totalled an amazing 449 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.

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. This term we have been focusing on growing bulbs and flowers for the beautiful Spring terracotta planters.



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.

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.

We have made a new connection with another business that can offer work experience:

- IVM Engineering (car maintenance garage)



This term students have visited Baylab, Smart Works, New Meanings and the Merl.



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 by emailing:-

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



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

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

brookfieldsschool.org

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

Youth Club

The students who attend the Brookfields Youth Club have had another great term. The Spring term ended with all students having an Easter egg to take home with them.



In February we enjoyed having freshly cooked pancakes with a choice of tasty toppings. All cooked by Darren! Thank you!



We had a great evening in the Brookfields swimming pool, where we enjoyed playing games. Even the staff had fun too.

The orienteering evening was so much fun, we needed to work together, following the clues to solve a puzzle around the 6th Form (much harder than it sounds!).





It's great to play Xbox One, Wii, PlayStation, Xbox 360, Pool or just hang out with our friends.



There's always a tuckshop where we can buy goodies!!



Youth Club is a safe place to play Xbox One, Wii, PlayStation, Xbox 360, Pool, or use an iPad, watch TV or do Arts and Crafts activities. Youth Club is also a great place for Brookfields students to socialise with their friends. Thursday evenings 7pm – 9pm (£15 per session) in our 6th Form building.

If your son/daughter would like to come to Youth Club for a free trial visit please contact Kerrie Byers.

kbyers@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

The evenings are getting lighter and we are looking forward to spending more time outside next term. We hope you have a lovely Easter

From Kerrie, Darren and all the youth club staff.

World Book Day 2nd March 2023

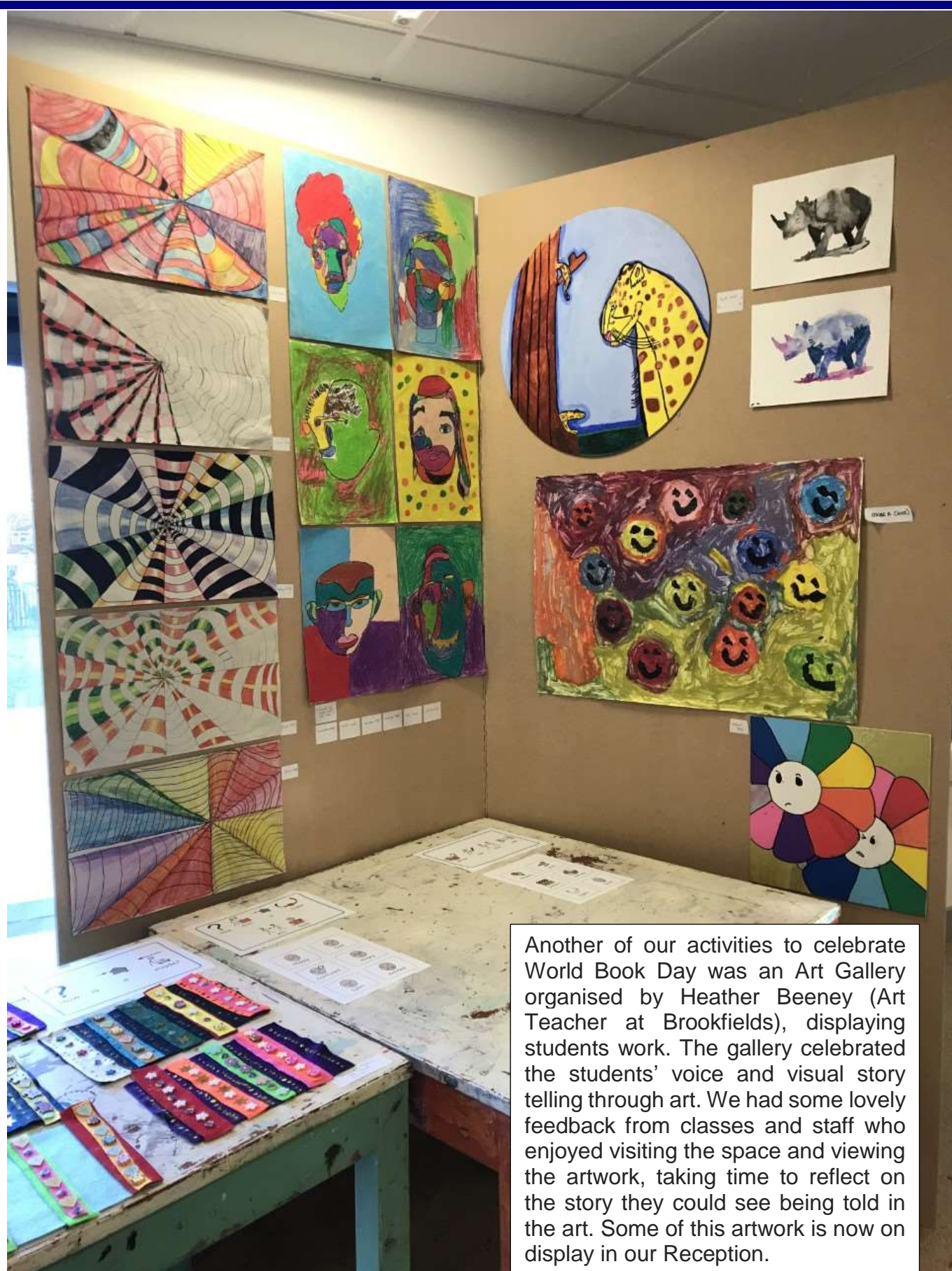
This term we celebrated World Book Day with a range of activities from 27th February to 3rd March. The Masked Reader was our take on the Masked Singer. Each day students had to guess who was behind the mask reading from their favourite book. It prompted lots of discussions in classes looking for clues to who the readers could be. It was great to have classes visiting the library and creating their own Masked Reader videos.



As part of the celebration and to inspire classes to discover new books we sent out a Book Blind Date to each class. Each class received a book to unwrap and share together. We have received some lovely feedback from classes who have enjoyed their books so much and asked to keep them for longer.

White class wrote a book review to share their thoughts and feelings about their Blind Date book 'The Wonky Donkey'.





Another of our activities to celebrate World Book Day was an Art Gallery organised by Heather Beeney (Art Teacher at Brookfields), displaying students' work. The gallery celebrated the students' voice and visual story telling through art. We had some lovely feedback from classes and staff who enjoyed visiting the space and viewing the artwork, taking time to reflect on the story they could see being told in the art. Some of this artwork is now on display in our Reception. Thank you to all involved!

Thank you to everyone who helped to bring the World Book Day together. Happy reading!
Clare Hook, Curriculum Centre Manager

Maths News

There has been lots of fantastic Maths being practised across the school again this term. Number skills include learning to count accurately, matching a quantity with a numeral, writing numbers, counting in multiples.



Learning different techniques for addition: recognising the symbols, counting on, using number bonds - building on what has been learned to achieve increasingly complex calculations.



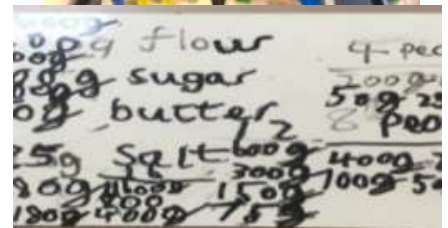
Using money in Enterprise, shopping experiences and community activities

Exploring patterns, repeats and 2D shapes. Recognising patterns is the foundation of being able to deal with numbers.

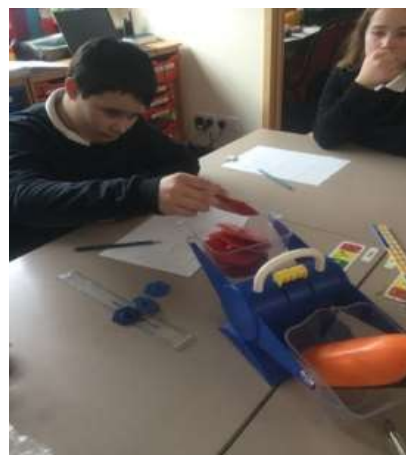


There has been a great deal of measuring going on too.

Madejski class is full of budding architects using trundle wheels and metre sticks to measure the corridors and school grounds. Many students have been scientists and chefs using and reading a variety of scales. Some students in Sutton class have been learning how to adapt a recipe by doubling the weight of ingredients. Yellow class have been making sure the birds are well



fed by making bird feeders with the different seeds and fat all weighed out in the correct proportions.



We were also lucky enough to have Merete Hawkins, one of the pioneers in Waldon, to work with our staff and children to complete some Waldon activities. Waldon is an early Maths activity which helps children to learn 'by doing'. It follows the process of how babies learn to complete simple activities, such as stacking blocks and filling and emptying containers. It then progresses to working out patterns and learning problem solving skills. Waldon is a really engaging activity and all children in Explorers enjoy completing Waldon activities.



Here are some pictures of the children doing Waldon:



The weather is improving and hopefully we can look forward to more Maths opportunities next term outside in the sunshine!

Gilly Cummings, Head of Maths

PE News

Parkour

Pupils have continued going to Virtue Gymnastics on a weekly basis to participate in parkour coaching sessions. This term pupils have been focussing on transitioning across different apparatus and learning safe landings.



Swimming News

More new pupils have enjoyed going to the swimming pool and it is already a highlight of their week, they are coping with the transitions well.



Mapledurham and Madejski classes have been to Meadway Sports Centre this term and have really developed their water confidence, many of the pupils swimming in the deep end!



Table Cricket Event

Fletcher class have received specialist coaching in Table Cricket and attended the Berkshire School Games on Wednesday 22nd March to represent the school. Thanks to Chris Baker for providing the coaching and organising the event.



Matt Rosier, Head of PE and Karen Withers, Swimming Instructor

COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief was a great success this year! The students made the most of 'dressing for joy' with some brilliantly expressive outfits. The students were able to explore a variety of activities in their classes, and of course the cake sale was a highlight!

The day culminated in a staff vs students football match, organised by one of the classes in Key Stage 4. Although the result has been contested, both the students and staff enjoyed the game. To top it all off, we raised £212! Thank you to everyone who dressed up; made, donated and ate cakes and joined in with the day.



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brookfieldsschool.org

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

Governors Update

We were delighted to welcome Tom McAuslin to the governing board. Tom is a retired Commander who served 39 years in the Royal Navy before spending 9 years as the CEO at the Police Rehabilitation Centre, Flint House. During his time in the Navy he served on ships, submarines and naval hospitals in the UK and abroad, and his last posting was in Gibraltar where he was responsible for the medical support to the resident armed forces and their families. Whilst at Flint House Tom introduced the successful work placement scheme for Brookfields students which is ongoing and continuing to develop. As well as serving on the governing board, Tom will be our Safeguarding governor and link governor for careers. The governing board reappointed Sam Jacob as Chair and Dr Anne Murdoch as Vice-Chair. The school is very grateful to Sam and Anne for staying in these positions to maintain continuity for the school.

The following policies were approved at the January meeting; Charging and Remissions, Governors' Allowances, RSE (Relationships and Sex Education), Financial Management, Admissions and Health and Safety.

The governors would like to extend their thanks to the whole staff team for their incredible work this term under very challenging circumstances. We are very grateful for their support for the pupils and families at Brookfields. We hope you all enjoy the Easter holidays.

Finally, the board is actively looking for new governors to join the team. We already have parent governors but if you know anyone in the community who might be interested in joining the board, do please ask them to contact us if they would like to find out more. There are more details below.

Engage, Empower and Inspire



BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR GOVERNORS

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

Brookfields
Specialist SEN School

Step into Special Education

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

The Governing Board is responsible for:

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

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

If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact cwllshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk for more information or an informal discussion



The school is committed to safeguarding children and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We are committed to securing genuine equality of opportunity in all aspects of our activities as an employer and education provider

www.brookfieldsschool.org

Fundraising News



We were delighted to welcome Mel Sandham and Brian Davies from the Rotary Club of Pangbourne who came to visit the Brookfields library to see how their £500 donation was spent. It was great to be able to thank Mel and Brian in person. They thoroughly enjoyed meeting Wendy, Clare and the students and seeing all the lovely sensory toys and books in our library.



Thank you to the Rotary Club of Pangbourne. The money we received from the Rotary Club was used to buy books and sensory resources to support storytelling sessions. Some of the most popular new items included a sensory tree, a floor skeleton and a collection of story puppets. Among the popular new book additions are a series of books called 'Little People Big Dreams', classes also love the new books about Marcus Rashford, Dwayne Johnson and Ru Paul.

Pangbourne Dragon Boat Race – 10th June 2023

The Rotary Club of Pangbourne are running their annual dragon boat race on the River Thames on Saturday 10th June. They have very kindly nominated Brookfields as one of 2 charities to benefit from the event. We hope to enter a Brookfields team so do come along and give them a cheer and enjoy a great day out at Pangbourne Meadows.



We received £100.27 from the Amazon Smile programme in January 2023. Unfortunately, the programme has now finished but you can still support the school by shopping via 'easyfundraising'. It works in the same way as Amazon Smile but covers 100s of retailers (including Amazon) so it's a great way to raise money just by doing your shopping. It's easy to set up, you just need to register and nominate **Brookfields PTA** as your charity and we will earn commission when you shop with a huge number of retailers including Amazon, M&S, John Lewis, Argos, Just Eat and Ebay. If you follow the link below you can register for the scheme and nominate the Brookfields PTA. There is no charge for this. You just need to shop as usual but go to the retailers via the easyfundraising website or app. Thank you for your support.

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

Reading Half Marathon



One of our courageous parents, Stuart Matthews, is running in the Reading Half Marathon on Sunday 2nd April. Stuart is very kindly running to raise money for the school so if you are able to support him it would give some added encouragement to cover those hard 13 miles. Here is the link:

<https://gofund.me/76f1ebd6>

It would be great if you could give Stuart a cheer if you are watching the event, he is hoping to be wearing a top with the Brookfields logo. Thank you.

Matched Funding

Lots of businesses offer to support their employees by offering matched funding when employees contribute to charities or help at fundraising events. Below is a small selection of some of the companies that do this. Do please ask your HR department if it is something your company offers as it's a great way to raise money for the school. Thank you for your support.

Some of the companies offering matched funding



savills

We would like to thank Savills Reading for donating several items of furniture to the school. They have all found new homes around the building. We were also very grateful for their donation of some Easter treats for the school.



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

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.

WB
Local Offer

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, is available by phone to access advice and support during some of the holiday. Please ring and leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as possible, but will also be taking some much needed holiday over the break. As always, if your child is displaying seriously challenging behaviours and someone is at risk, you must contact the police. You can call 999 in an emergency or dial 101. On that number you will talk to the police directly. They will discuss with you the best course of action.

**Advice and support from
Brookfields staff**

Family Support Worker

Ashley Sayer

0751 624 1989

Catherine Bernie

by email on

cbernie@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

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.

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.



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 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.



Secondary Jumper

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

Secondary pupils can wear either a black school jumper with the school logo on, or a plain black one. Please be advised that this must be a jumper or sweatshirt, hoodies 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.



Primary Jumper

The uniform jumper for all Primary pupils is blue.

6th Formers 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>

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 will increase from 17th April 2023 to **£2.73** per day and **payments must continue to be made in advance online**.



Thank you for your support.

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

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

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

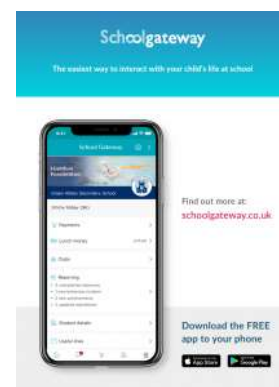
here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

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/>



West Berkshire Council are in the early stages of developing a new SEND Strategy which will run between 2023 and 2028.

As part of this work it is important that West Berkshire Council listen to the views of children, young people and young adults with SEND. We would like to invite you to participate in our survey to share details of your experience within West Berkshire. This survey is intended to capture the views of:-

- Any child or young person with SEND up to the age of 18.

The West Berkshire SEND Young Person Survey has been developed in partnership with the West Berkshire Youth Forum and Parent Carer Forum. Depending on what is appropriate for each young person, the survey has been designed to be completed by SEND young people individually, 1-2-1, or with a professional or trusted family member. The results of this survey will inform the new SEND Strategy.

The survey can be accessed via this link
<https://forms.office.com/e/ykFJaNyVQJ>

or via the QR code.



To ensure West Berks Council get as wide a response as possible, this survey will run until Friday 26th May 2023. If you have any questions about this survey or the SEND Strategy, please contact the West Berkshire SEN Team: SenTeam@westberks.gov.uk

Please find the QR code below linking to the West Berkshire Council Directory.

This includes Family Services, the SEND Local Offer, and Adult Services.

West Berkshire Directory

Your local guide to support,
information & activities



office@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Reading SEND Newsletter



Reading have published their Spring edition of the SEND Local Offer Newsletter 2023. It's packed with lots of information including blogs from Brian Grady, Director of Education, Lara Patel, new Director of Children Service and Jane Stanford Beale, CEO Autism Berkshire, news items, what's on/events available throughout the Easter holidays, short breaks, support services and much more. Further information can be found on www.readingsendlocaloffer.org

Here's a QR code (see below) for easy access to the Reading SEND newsletter.



Brookfields staff look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Monday 17th April** after their safe and enjoyable break.



Brookfields School Remaining Term Dates for this year 2022 / 2023

<i>Holiday</i>	31/03/23 – 16/04/23	
Term 5	Monday 17 th April 2023 – Friday 26 th May 2023	28 days
<i>Holiday</i>	27/05/23 – 03/06/22	
Term 6	Monday 5 th June 2023 – Thursday 20 th July 2023	34 days

1st May - Early May Bank Holiday
8th May - King's Coronation Bank Holiday

Brookfields School Term Dates for NEXT YEAR 2023/2024

Term 1	Tuesday 5 th September 2023 – Thursday 19 th October 2023	33 days
<i>Holiday</i>	20/10/23 – 30/10/23	
Term 2	Tuesday 31 st October 2023 – Wednesday 20 th December 2023	37 days
<i>Holiday</i>	21/12/23 – 05/01/24	
Term 3	Monday 8 th January 2024 – Friday 9 th February 2024	25 days
<i>Holiday</i>	12/02/24 – 16/02/24	
Term 4	Monday 19 th February 2024 – Wednesday 27 th March 2024	28 days
<i>Holiday</i>	28/04/24 – 12/04/24	
Term 5	Monday 15 th April 2024 – Friday 24 th May 2024	29 days
<i>Holiday</i>	27/05/24 – 31/05/24	
Term 6	Monday 3 rd June 2024 – Wednesday 24 th July 2024	38 days
Total		190 days

Public Holidays	
25 th December 2023	Christmas Day
26 th December 2023	Boxing Day
1 st January 2024	New Year's Day
29 th March 2024	Good Friday
1 st April 2024	Easter Monday
6 th May 2024	May Bank Holiday
27 th May 2024	Spring Bank Holiday

Staff Inset Days for Next Academic Year

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 20th October 2023

