

Newsletter



July 2023

Headteacher's Update

As I come to the end of my first year of headship I find myself with the lovely task of reflecting back on all that has gone, by looking at the Newsletter comments and photos, whilst planning ahead for all that is still to come and learning from what hasn't gone quite to plan!

During this year, as a school, we have certainly experienced the whole gamut of emotions from happiness and excitement, much evidenced on the pages of this newsletter, to shared pride in the achievements of all who attend Brookfields School. As a school community we have also experienced sorrow and grief as we have said goodbye to Kathryn, who sadly lost her battle with cancer. However, I have found that at these times of high emotion, both joy and grief, the school community has come together to support each other and has grown through the experience. Individually and collectively, families, staff and our students have found ways to celebrate and remember the good times. We end the year stronger than we started it because of everything we have experienced.

Challenges this year have included the subsiding buildings in Key Stage 3. This has led to a re-jigging of class bases for the new class groups next term which has caused confusion for some students, as it would appear they have been catapulted into becoming 6th Formers. This is very much NOT the case - they are purely inhabiting classrooms in the 6th Form while the subsidence is fixed. They remain part of Key Stage 3 and 4 and are still required to wear the Secondary Uniform of black jumpers until they reach the heady heights of Year 12.

Highlights for me this year have included being able to offer trips off-site once again. Pupils of all ages have been near and far, experiencing water fun, chocolate tasting and making and the thrill of the ride at 'Legoland'. Competitions for those who want to participate, have come back onto the sports agenda and it has been wonderful seeing triumphant and not so victorious students return, having developed resilience and been able to vow to come back stronger!

Work Experience is fully up and running too and all students taking part should feel very proud of their successes, from the market garden and stall on site, through to work at Laithwaites and IKEA amongst others. Two of our 6th Form students have been successful in obtaining paid employment over the holidays and will be starting Internships in September 2023 which is an amazing achievement!

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Time to say Goodbye.....

Sadly this term we have a long list of staff who are leaving us for ventures new. We wish them all well in their new roles and I want to thank each and every one of them for all they have brought to Brookfields in their time here.

We are saying Good Luck and Goodbye to Ceri Brueton our Careers Lead who is heading off to teach at Henley College. Ceri caught up with ex-pupils on her visit there and they were delighted she will be joining them again! Ceri has been here for 10 years and will be missed but we hope to maintain contact and who knows, several of our pupils may see her again as they move on into adulthood.

We are also saying goodbye to Catie Fenner. Catie joined us in 2018 and after being a huge support to families online during COVID is taking a sabbatical. We wish her all the very best with the opportunities that I am quite sure will come her way in the future.

We are also saying Goodbye and Good Luck to Alex Gomez who, as our Lead Teacher for Pupils with Complex Needs has brought a breadth of experience and knowledge which will be hard to replace. Alex has been here for 5 years and is going onto lead a specialist unit in a local Primary School. I am delighted that she will still be working in the field of SEN, as we know, they are very lucky to have her! Tim Shepherd, who has led 6th Form while Anna has been on Maternity Leave is going off to pastures new, we wish him well as he finds a new home at Thames Valley Free School. Ola Tarczynska is leaving us to start her Maternity Leave which is a huge relief to those of us anticipating delivering her baby on site in these last few weeks of term! We look forward to seeing the new addition to your family Ola, and to welcoming you back next year.

We are also saying Goodbye to many well-loved support staff who are leaving us for ventures new; Tom Chapman, Sam James, Katie Sayer, and Natasha Whitely and Natalya Furneaux (who left at Easter), are all having a change of career. They have contributed enormously to staff and pupils alike while here at Brookfields and we look forward to hearing great things about their new ventures! Nicola Painter, Suzie Page-Smith, Verity Weekes are leaving but join Kirsty James and Lynn Stevens who left at Easter, to go onto roles within education. We have also recently said Goodbye to Phil Roddy, one of our site staff who is recently retired. He was a staunch Liverpool fan so I expect to spot him on the terraces in the next home games for the club as he will now have plenty of time to travel there.

I am so grateful for the contribution to the school given by all of our support staff; office, site team and school based staff alike, particularly this year, for the consistent support offered where it could be, throughout the recent teachers' strikes. This enabled the school to stay open. Without their flexibility and enduring desire to support the pupils, this would not have been possible.

Finally I have to say Goodbye to Maurice George, Deputy Head. Maurice has been a member of the Senior Leadership Team for nearly 8 years and has worked tirelessly to ensure our students are as prepared as they can be for their future on leaving Brookfields. He has been instrumental in developing our careers programme with Ceri, Julie and the team and it is no surprise therefore that he leaves us to take up a role as Managing Director for 'Ways into Work', supporting young people with Learning Disabilities as they pursue their futures. To me however, Maurice will always be synonymous with our efforts to bring the school community together once a week during COVID, through a range of characters such as Prince Philip, Lars, a naughty schoolboy, and a would be sportsman taking on Paula Radcliffe's challenges, all *incredibly* ineptly portrayed but with great humour. I couldn't have asked for a better co-presenter, nor a better Deputy.

We will miss all of these staff immensely and I know you will join with me in wishing them well for the future.

I would like to thank you all for your support in which has been my first roller coaster year of headship, I certainly couldn't have anticipated all that has happened, and I look forward to continuing to lead Brookfields as an outstanding provider of education as we move together, into the new school year. Nearly there! I would like to end by saying Good Luck to all our 6th Form leavers and their families who we will celebrate in tomorrow's Leavers Assembly. Please do keep in touch if you would like to, we would love to hear from you all in the future.

All that it remains for me to do is to wish you all the very best for the summer break, stay safe!

I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on **Tuesday 5th September 2023** where we will start it all over again!

Now I warmly invite you to look at all of the experiences your children have had while at Brookfields School and to celebrate with us their successes.



Catherine Bernie
Headteacher



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Madejski Class enjoying their visit to Beale Park in July 2023

Primary Explorers



Wow! What a busy term the children have had in Explorers. Learning has been based around the topic 'Surf, Sea and Sail' where all pupils have had fun exploring all things water. In Explore Time, there were water-themed activities across four different rooms, cognition, creativity, imagination and sensorimotor. In particular, the children enjoyed creating a multi-coloured Rainbow Fish and designing a pair of pants for some pirates!



The pupils also enjoyed exploring different senses that they might experience at the beach such as: the feeling of the sand between their toes, the breeze of the sea against their face and the feel of the water through their fingertips.



Our Stay and Play session was enjoyed by all and was based around our water theme. We invited our parents and carers in to learn and play with us. We washed cars in the car wash, blew bubbles as we painted and searched for fish within blocks of ice.



Primary Explorers

This term, each Explorers class was lucky enough to go to Bucklebury Farm Park and learn about different types of animals. The pupils experienced the deer up close and fed them by the palms of their hands. The children also had the chance to carefully hold and pet different animals.



Sports Day was another fantastic day in our calendar where all children in Explorers took part in different activities such as a race themed sensory story, Frisbee golf and circus skills. Some of our children even took part in running races. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



In September, we look forward to welcoming Tamsin Banfield as our new Head of Department.

Have a wonderful summer,
Jack Sharpe and Katie McAlees

Temporary Heads of Primary Explorers and all the Explorers staff.

Primary Adventurers

Black Class has been enjoying working on this term's theme "Sea Surf Sail". This term the class has started Explore Art allowing them to explore different stations based on the theme, such as sand and messy trays, paint with stencils, and collage stations, all using summer themed colours. Additionally, the pupils have enjoyed their immersive story telling sessions of "Walking in the Jungle" both in the Drama Studio and in The Library! They enjoyed exploring the different resources and singing different songs, including a welcome song that incorporated a hello in a variety of languages! As the sun is officially out, the pupils have been enjoying more time outside with water play, walks on the daily mile track, and of course their weekly swimming sessions!



Sky Class have continued exploring our theme of 'Surf, Sea and Sail', focusing on sea creatures and pirate stories. The children have been practising their phonics and reading, making incredible progress, as well as developing their numeracy skills with a particular focus on addition, repeating patterns and learning about money. We have also regularly enjoyed playing games together to develop our communication and social skills, and build friendships and positive relationships with different adults.





Pink Class have really enjoyed our topic 'Surf, Sea and Sail' this term. Pupils have explored pirate themed resources to go with their story 'Pirate Pete and his Smelly Feet'. The children have branched out to different areas of the school such as the Forest School and the Drama Studio, and made sure to stay cool and hydrated in the hot weather! The term has been bookmarked by a brilliant Sports Day! Well done Pink Class, time for a well-earned rest!





Over the summer term, **White Class** have enjoyed their topic of 'Surf, Sea and Sail'. Within this topic the pupils have looked at different countries around the world, considering their leader/ruler, the currency, local foods, drinks and the climate of each country. White Class have loved using the computers to complete Kahoot quizzes – with questions based on our learning from the week before. The children have also learnt about Pirates, what ships they used, what food and drink they had aboard their ships, creating our own treasure maps and ships from junk modelling materials. During Music sessions,

pupils have focused on Sea Shanties, and the class were able to create their own lyrics to the tune of the 'Wellerman Shanty'. White Class loved learning the sign language for some pirate words! This half term we have focused on Rock Pools, looking at the different creatures within a rock pool, where we find rock pools and making their own rock pool creatures from clay. A big highlight for White Class was Sports Day – they were all able to take part and cheer each other on – it was a lovely team atmosphere.



Our **Nurture Base** students access a separate provision to the normal school offer, focusing on the 6 Principles of Nurture to help develop social, emotional and behavioural skills. This term, we have been out and about as a group accessing things in our local community. It has been great to celebrate how safe we can be together, and the progress we have made in the past year. The group have been for a walk to the local shop and playing field.



The Nurture Base pupils also went on a school trip to the Select Car Leasing Stadium, home of Reading Football Club.

We are so proud of how the pupils are recognising their own emotions even when they are overwhelmed and how they are using appropriate tools to regulate. Have a lovely SUMMER!



This term **Purple Class** have enjoyed the theme 'Sun, Sea and Sail'. The children have learnt through play, drama and lots of sensory activities. In Science the pupils tested materials to make a pirate ship, they made treasure maps in Art and Maths and designed sea creatures in Topic. Purple Class have enjoyed the story 'Clean Up!' where the pupils learnt about oceans and recycling through story telling. All the pupils have enjoyed the sensory jungle story in the library and of course their swimming sessions! What a busy and brilliant term. Well done to all!



This term in **Orange Class** have enjoyed exploring our topic 'Surf, Sea and Sail'. The children have created some amazing under the sea artwork and have had seaside themed sessions including Cooking, Sensology and TacPac. Orange Class also loved joining in with Sports Day this term especially the water races.

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

Tuesday 5th September 2023.

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



Key Stage 3

The Summer term has again been full of exciting activities and learning for Key Stage 3. The pupils have all been looking at the topic of 'Heroes and Legends' focussing on the story of 'Robin Hood'. It has been lovely to walk around the Key Stage and see so much role play and enjoyment of the story. More recently we have completed a Cross Curricular Week where pupils have all taken part in many different activities planned and run by the teachers across the Key Stage. I have seen amazing creativity, cooking, gardening, drama and physical activities taking place during the week which all pupils have accessed and enjoyed. The highlight of this term for the majority of pupils has been going offsite to experience paddleboarding, it was an exciting outdoor activity which was enjoyed even more by the lovely weather we have had!

I hope you all have a fun but restful Summer holiday break and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Kirsty Simmonds, Head of Key Stage 3



Fletcher Class have really loved our topic of heroes and legends this term. Pupils have learnt all about the story of 'Robin Hood', getting to know the characters and sequencing the story through an immersive, sensory story. Pupils enjoyed using all their senses to see, smell, taste and touch their way through the story, which was lots of fun! Students have explored the story of Robin Hood further across the curriculum through participating in archery in PE and cooking some oat-based dishes, such as Banana Bread, Pear Flapjack and Cheesy Sweetcorn Bread in our weekly cooking sessions - they were all delicious! Pupils have enjoyed our weekly local community trips to the shop, focusing on handling money, road safety and communication.



Fletcher Class have also been enjoying their weekly Rebound Therapy sessions and fortnightly Swimming sessions. A highlight of this term has been our 'All About Me' cross-curricular week. Pupils had the opportunity to experience a range of activities and sports led by different teachers across the Key Stage. Everyone was involved and a great time was had by all! Thank you for your support over the last year.

Kirsty and the Fletcher Team.



For **Tarrant Class** Summer Term has been a busy term, getting out and about accessing the community as well as exploring our Topic; 'Heroes and Legends'. Cross Curricular Week was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience a range of enrichment activities, this year included Paddleboarding which all students who attended loved, this will now become a regular hobby for some as it was so popular! The end of the school year always brings a time for reflection, looking back at how much students have grown and the skills and relationships they have developed over the year. Many happy memories to treasure however, sadly this summer we say goodbye to Sammy, he will be very much missed but we wish him the very best at his new school.



We hope you all have a wonderful summer full of fun!
Jane McKay and the Tarrant Team.



Madejski Class It's been another happy and creative term in Madejski class. We have so much to celebrate! Our topic 'Heroes and Legends' has provided opportunities to explore the fascinating legend of Robin Hood. We have investigated his life, where he lived and how he survived in Sherwood Forest. We transformed our classroom into a forest, developed our outside learning area and made a life-size Robin Hood scarecrow, archery target and rustic scenery. Pupils have developed their communication skills through storytelling, role play and drama. It has been such a rich topic. We've also maximised opportunities to go off-site to the local woods and to the woodland trails at Basildon Park, investigating the natural environment. We have learnt about all things Medieval – even making Maid Marian's currant pie. We also honed our archery skills in PE, just like Robin Hood and his merry men! Through cross-curricular links pupils have brought Robin Hood to life.



During the second half of the term, Madejski Class have moved on to the legend of King Arthur. This has provided opportunities to investigate the Dark Ages and castles, knights and weaponry through the story 'The Sword and the Stone'. Pupils have again relished opportunity to dress up, act out the story, getting into character and demonstrating through role play, their understanding and interpretation of legendary events. They also particularly enjoyed our castle-building project, trying their best to work as independently as possible.



Highlights of the term have also included tennis lessons at Purley tennis club, Paddleboarding, weekly practical cooking experiences, specialist art and music lessons, community visits, life skills, our Way to Work presentations where pupils have been able to showcase their hobbies and interests, participation in the memorable Brookfields Talent Show and a celebratory end of term trip to Beale Park. We are so proud of all the pupils in our class. They have been a delight to teach this year and we wish them well as they move on in September.



We hope that all parents, carers and pupils have a wonderful summer break!

The Madejski Team - Helen, Vicki, Wendy, Carol, Jo and Katrina

Winslet Class have had an exciting term. Our highlight was the Key Stage 3 Cross Curricula Week. All pupils engaged with a variety of activities across the department following the topic 'All About Me'. The week was thoroughly enjoyed and finished nicely with Sports Day. We want to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to the pupils in Winslet Class this year for all their hard work.



We are incredibly proud of all the pupils and wish them good luck in their next classes from 5th September 2023. We wish all our pupils and families a well-deserved summer holiday.

Emily and the Winslet Team.

Sutton Class have had a really enjoyable Summer term, pupils have enjoyed learning about the legend, Robin Hood. A particular highlight was exploring the woods at both Basildon Park and Sulham Woods, this allowed pupils to get into different characters from our story and experience what life would have been like during that period of history. Sutton Class have also enjoyed exploring individual characters through our written work and we have been challenging ourselves to write different types of sentences to communicate information.



Sutton Class have since moved onto exploring different types of heroes within society and what makes these individuals a hero, this is something that pupils are really engaged in as they are able to discuss matters of interest. Sutton Class have also had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of different sports this term, these have included off site Swimming, Paddleboarding, Tennis and Archery which have all been fantastic.



Sutton class have had a brilliant year, learning a wide range of new skills as well as developing previously learnt skills. The entire team are incredibly proud of all they have achieved this year.

Courtneay and the Sutton Team.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Update

July 2023

This year has been an exciting year for Brookfields' Duke of Edinburgh participants. It is the first time that Brookfields students have attempted the Silver level award. The Silver Award requires participants to complete four different sections. These are Volunteering, Physical, Skills and an Expedition. It can take up to 12 months to complete all four sections and demands a weekly commitment from students to attend activities in and out of school. This year's participants have enjoyed activities as varied as rugby training, musical instruments (trombone, drumming, guitar and keyboard lessons across the group), volunteering at local youth groups and ParkRun as well as Scuba Diving.

Having committed to and completed these sections individually, they are also required to complete two expeditions. These are team expeditions over 3 days and 2 nights where participants plan, navigate and camp with minimal support. They cook their own food and plan their own routes and cope with weather, fatigue **and** each other!! The 3 days requires energy, resilience, team work and determination and this was evident in abundance as they all worked through their assessment.



I am delighted to say that **Jonah, Tommy, Jack and Harvey** all succeeded in passing their Silver Expedition Section this summer; the very first students at Brookfields to achieve this. Huge congratulations to them as they continue to work through their remaining sections over the summer. I am confident they will all secure their Silver Awards in the Autumn Term. A huge well done to all involved.

Bruce Taylor, Duke of Edinburgh Programme Lead

6th Form

MacArthur Class The topic for the term has been 'Our Life Choices' and this has been very much in mind with many of our students leaving Brookfields this summer and moving on to pastures new. Some of our students have had the opportunity to spend time in local colleges and have been able to taste what life is going to be like for them. We've also had a lot of work experience placements happening in places like IKEA, Reading Biscuit Factory and Butterfly Café and two of our students have even sampled working life as mechanics in a garage (thanks to IVM Engineering). The class have enjoyed the book we've been focusing on 'The Diary of Anne Frank', have been improving their understanding of managing finances and have been interested to learn more about the Second World War.



Columbus Class started a new project this term "Columbus Garden" with the support of our Horticultural specialist Jane Stokes.

Students planted a variety of plants and they took care of their garden each week.



Scott Class Here is Harvey's summary of what the students in Scott Class have been doing this term.



News Letter

During this term, we have been doing so much! We have had so much fun too whilst Learning. We had the coffee van at school where we could buy sweets hot chocolate and even coffee and tea some students even spent the day helping on there by serving the teachers and students They really enjoyed it. other activities included - Piano, Art, choir - where they sing really good! We also went to Parahourne house where we learn life skills- we clean the inside and the big gardens, we also wash the windows which we love. so many enjoyed hydro within the school ground many of us went to Dore when we do map reading and practice walking all around the woods. we also use a compass which is fun. We all have played some games and it was fun. We done dancing with music we like it. We have done Wink We spend time it is great. We have sing all of the music. we had class care we eat toast and drink it. We done daily mail walked around the track. We done pe on Friday. Today we went to far from place dishwasher sat washing windows.

Sharman Class "The Hub". This term has been very busy. As part of our 'All at Sea' topic, the students have been on a Treasure Hunt via the Resonance Boards, enjoyed 'Walking Through the Jungle' in Storytelling and shared music sessions with Livingstone Class outside which they've loved. As ever all pupils have had a great time having Swimming, Rebound Therapy and Immersive Theatre sessions.

In addition to this, we have two Sharman Class students who have had successful transition visits to Newbury College. We will miss them both but are so excited for them to move on to their new adventures!



I'd like to wish all our 6th Form leavers the best of luck in their future destinations.

You'll 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.

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

Pathway to Employment

This term 38 students have been offsite on work experience placements using 18 different venues, these included 2 new placements at IVM Engineering and Laithwaites. The students have totalled an amazing 542 hours of work-based learning between them. The placements allow the students to build on their skills, self-confidence, experiences, and provide them with a meaningful insight into the types of jobs that are available.

This year the following students have been awarded employee of the month:



Flint House





IKEA



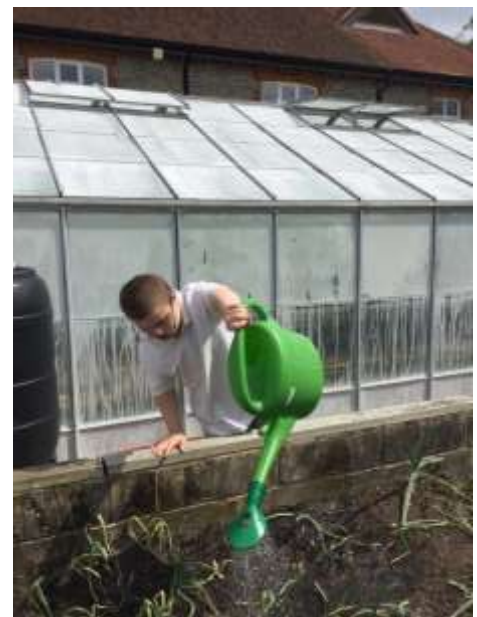
IVM Engineering



Laithwaites



We have also been very busy working expanding our Brookfields Market Garden Enterprise. Our aim is to sow and grow delicious, sustainable, nutritious, seasonal fruit and vegetables to sell to our staff, parents and local community and have recruited a new member of the sales team.





We have been busy selecting produce from our Market Garden to take along to the Thrive Garden Flower Show and plan to exhibit in the following categories. The Wonkiest Fruit or Veg, Three Vegetables on a Plate and Best Homemade Bunting created by Scott Class. We will let you know if we receive any rosettes.



We are continuing to expand and improve our allotment site and were lucky enough to have VISA staff spend the day volunteering for us. They erected a donated shed and created a fabulous pathway, helping to make the allotment more accessible for the students.



We also joined VISA at the **Power House Games** celebrations, taking 12 students out to Bisham Abbey. The students competed in mixed teams comprising of a student from Brookfields, The Wren and Bradfield College, 2 employees from VISA (the sponsors) and a sportsperson. The students took part in six rounds of sport including Boccia, Curling, Goal Ball, Sitting Volley-ball, Walking Football and Touch Rugby. Great fun was had by all!





Employer Encounters



This term some 6th Form students visited Laithwaite's Offices and helped to create a giant cork board to be used in the office. The students worked as a team supporting each other to sort the corks and arrange and glue them in a specific pattern.



5 students were invited along to VISA's Reading office to meet the professionals and attend a mock interview day. The students were interviewed by staff and provided with feedback on their techniques. It was a positive experience for the students and a great success, which we will build on next year.



A group of Key Stage 4 students attended a pizza making workshop at Pizza Express and learnt about all the different job roles involved in a running a successful pizza chain.



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

igrant@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk orbellman@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

Maths News

We celebrated National Numeracy Day (17th May 2023) at the end of last term. There were various games and activities including archery which enabled pupils to use all their mathematical knowledge in a practical way.

The “feely boxes” full of interesting challenges hidden in slime, jelly and goodness knows what else were particularly fun!

We have been so lucky with the weather this term which has enabled us to get out and enjoy lots more mathematical challenges outside.



Throughout the school there has been a huge variety of cognition activities taking place such as sequencing using the Waldon technique, learning about capacity through asking for “more”, indicating “too much” and playing with sand and water containers, using symbols to sort and match, exploring cause and effect.



Madejski class have also enjoyed exploring the capacity of water containers in the very hot weather, organising a water carrying challenge and measuring how much water each team successfully got in the bucket!

Fletcher and Purple Classes have been practising their counting, ordering and shape skills through all sorts of games outside, inside and on the smartboard and all learning to take their turn fairly.



Pupils in Sky class have been working with money this term. They practised counting, recognising coins and ordering them by value.

Key Stage 3 had great fun during their Cross Curricular Week – exploring gardening and cooking and applying some of their mathematical skills in different contexts through pattern making, measuring and following instructions in sequence.

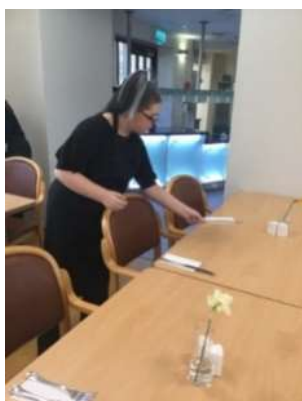


Sutton students have been exploring multiplication and division through grouping and sharing activities. They are also beginning to look at how bus timetables work and how understanding this helps to plan a journey.

Sulham students explored mass and learned to read scales. They used the skill to follow a recipe accurately to make pizza dough - and delicious pizzas of course!



Various work experiences were arranged for 6th Form and Key Stage 4 students in Horticulture, The Biscuit Factory, Sainsbury's, Flint House and many more. Here, students learned the significance of some maths concepts, such as time keeping and suddenly all became very real!



We look forward to welcoming the pupils back on 5th September 2023.

We hope that all parents, carers and pupils have a wonderful summer break!

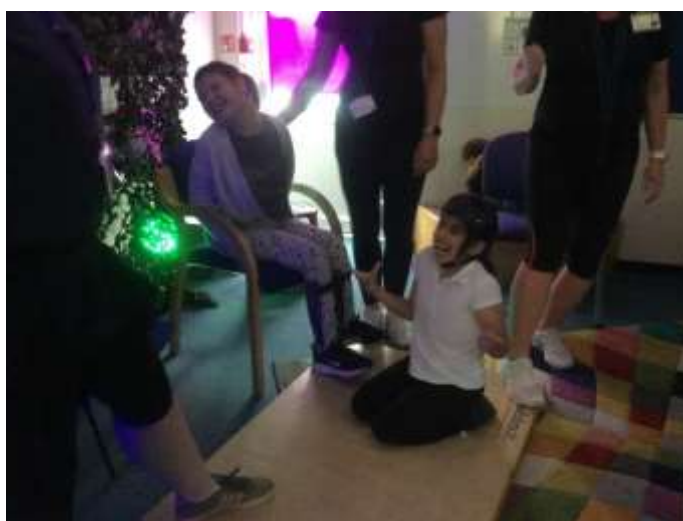
Gilly Cummings, Head of Numeracy and the Maths Team.

Literacy and News from The Library

At the start of this term, we started our immersive storytelling project. Pupils have gone on a journey to the jungle to discover the animals who are hiding in the rivers and trees. The story is told with a mixture of music and sensory exploration. The bananas from the monkeys have proved very popular.



Classes joined us for the story over five weeks and after each session they have an activity which they can take back to class. These activities have included making face masks of the animals in the story, learning the Makaton signs for each animal and using pictures to remember the sequence of the story. It has been amazing to watch each student's anticipation grow each week as they are remembering what is coming next. The 'Go Away' song has been very memorable with students. Feedback from the sessions has been positive. Staff have enjoyed the story as much as students and found it a useful tool in practicing communication.



In September 2023 the project will return with a space theme.

'Sing and Sign' has continued to be popular with classes. Tarrant class have been learning the song and signs for 'Three Little Birds'. It has been exciting this term to see classes remembering the signs for each of the songs. Primary Adventurers learnt a new song this term from 'The Gruffalo'. It has been great watching the number of people who now know all the signs for the song.

The library is having a little makeover during the summer holidays. We are currently working hard behind the scenes to make sure everything is ready to welcome classes back in September.

Clare Hook, Curriculum Resource Manager

Brookfeast News



'Brookfeast' is a staff-led, pupil-run sandwich enterprise within the school where pupils prepare and produce a variety of filled sandwiches, wraps, baguettes and salads for staff across the school.

Whilst working in the kitchen, pupils gain experience working in a professional catering environment, giving them the opportunity to gain personal, social and professional skills leading them on to wider employment opportunities for when they leave Brookfields Specialist SEN School.

We have had a very busy year, preparing and producing hundreds of staff lunches, with 30+ Key Stage 4 and 6th Form pupils working in the kitchen, enabling them to gain many valuable life skills!

Brookfeast has been a great success, with high engagement levels from all the pupils involved, and we have had great feedback from staff who have ordered the products from the kitchen.



A great big THANK YOU to those involved throughout the year, for all their hard work and commitment and for becoming part of the Brookfeast Team.

Have a great Summer break.

Mel Kemp, Specialist Teaching Assistant

PE News

Swimming. This term Englefield and Sutton classes have been to the Meadway Sports Centre and have been learning life-saving skills and putting these into practice in the pool. Here are some lovely photos of some of our leavers who love swimming!



Football.

Our Green and Amber football teams represented the school at the Reading Football Club SEN Tournament. It was a very hot day and lots of football was played, particularly by the Amber team.



The pupils all enjoyed the experience and are determined to improve their position next time!





Panathlon 2023

Sutton Class had the opportunity to participate and compete in a Swimming Panathlon as part of the West Berkshire School Games in Maidenhead in June. The Brookfields students competed against other schools in a series of different challenges that involved floating, sinking and retrieving different items from the water and throughout each challenge, pupils were encouraged to work together to achieve an overall goal. Sutton Class returned to school with the 1st place trophy which was a brilliant achievement. Well done!

Sports Days June 2023

Primary and Secondary Sports Days were both a huge success this year, with pupils having huge achievements not only in the sporting activities but also in how they coped with a very different day with lots of new people and transitions around the school. The races were hotly contested in the afternoons, with most of the primary pupils doing every race and secondary pupils using the opportunity to have some friendly and fun competition. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped! A huge THANK YOU to the Denefield PE GCSE students for helping to set up the activities and for leading them on both days. They were great role models. Well done to all Primary and Secondary pupils!



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

Brookfields Youth Club

"We have had another great time at Youth Club this term and are finishing up with a trip out to MacDonald's. We had a great evening in the Brookfields



swimming pool where we enjoyed playing games. Even the staff had fun too. The evenings have been lighter, so we have been spending more time outside playing tennis and football. Someone kindly donated a flying car to Youth Club and Darren and we have had a great time flying it".



Unfortunately, we have to say goodbye to Matty, Gemma and Mark as they are all moving on.....we wish them all the best in the future.

Verity is also moving on to start a new job after working at the Youth Club for many years...we will all miss her. Thank you for everything you have done for the club Verity and Good Luck in your next adventure.



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



We hope you all have a lovely Summer break.

From Kerrie, Darren and all the Youth Club staff.



Fundraising Update



One of our biggest projects this year was the redevelopment of the Key Stage 2 playground. The photos show the before and after. The dated equipment, mesh fence and concrete floor have been replaced with colourful surfaces, a new fence and exciting new equipment including a stage area and alcove with musical chimes. We are very grateful to the Bernard Sunley Foundation for an incredibly generous donation of £5,000 towards the project. Thank you!

We were also supported with a fantastic donation of £1,500 from one of our parents, which was matched by their employer BP as part of the BP donation matching scheme, raising a grand total of £3,000 towards the playground. Thank you!



As we mentioned in the Easter newsletter, one of our courageous parents, Stuart Matthews, was going to run in the Reading Half Marathon on Sunday 2nd April 2023. Stuart ran a great time and raised an incredible £1,545. Stuart's employer, Investec, very generously made a further donation of £515, which took the grand total to £2,060. The money has been spent on outdoor toys for Early Years. Thank you!



Continuing the running theme, we were absolutely thrilled when local running club Reading Joggers chose us as their charity partner for the coming year. They have already made a phenomenal start to supporting the school. A quiz night at Double Barrelled brewery in May kicked off the campaign and made £232 for the school. We are in awe of 2 amazing runners, Jasmine and Jason, who ran 100k in one day in the Race to the King event in June. Their dedication and stamina earned a combined total of £1,288 of donations. We look forward to working with the club over the coming year and would be happy to hear if you have any fundraising ideas that we could undertake together.

Pangbourne Dragon Boat Race

A team from Brookfields took to their dragon boat on one of the hottest days of the year to participate in the dragon boat race at Pangbourne Village Fete on 10th June. The team put in a huge amount of work and effort and finished in a very creditable sixth place against some very strong teams. Thank you to everyone in the team and their supporters who gave up their day to represent Brookfields.



Thank you also to ORH Reading for their very generous sponsorship of our very smart T-shirts.



Pangbourne Rotary Club gave us a fantastic donation of £1,000 as a result of the event. We are very grateful for their support for the school.

Tesco blue tokens - please vote for Brookfields!

We are delighted to let you know that Tesco has selected Brookfields to benefit from its blue token scheme in a number of different stores. The collection of tokens will run from July until the end of September 2023. We have been nominated for the collection on behalf of our Early Years allotment project in the following Tesco stores:

Superstores

- Reading Extra Napier Road RG1 8DF
- Reading West Extra RG30 1AW

Express stores

- Reading Market Place RG1 2EG
- Reading Crown House RG1 2SE
- Reading London Road RG1 5BA
- Reading Oxford Road RG1 7LA
- Oxford Rd Reading RG1 7PX
- Tilehurst Road RG1 7TN
- Reading Whitley Street RG2 0EG
- Reading Shinfield RG2 8HA
- Southcote RG30 2EU
- Tilehurst Knowsley Road RG31 6FA
- Caversham RG4 8AU
- Emmer Green RG4 8RZ
- Reading Silverdale Road RG6 7NG
- Burghfield Common RG7 3JB



In addition, we have been nominated for the garden at our Pangbourne House Life Skills Centre in the following store:-

- Newbury Extra RG14 7HB

We would be grateful if you could pick up a blue token at the checkout whenever you shop in Tesco and put it in the Brookfields collection box. Please feel free to spread the word to your friends and family. Thank you so much for your help.

Easyfundraising



Sadly the Amazon Smile fundraising 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 PTA. There is no charge for this and you just need to shop as usual but go to the retailers via the easyfundraising website or app.
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account/>

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. As you can see from a couple of the activities above, it's a great way to raise funds for the school.



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

We were delighted to welcome Maddie Forbes to the Brookfields Governing Board. Maddie brings a wealth of experience in customer service, regulatory affairs and project management and will be a great addition to the governing board.

The following policies were approved during the summer term; Behaviour (Therapeutic Thinking), Careers, First Aid, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions, Early Career Teachers, Premises Management and Teacher's Pay. These policies will be available on the school website.

The governing board has been investigating a plan for Brookfields School to join a proposed new Multi Academy Trust (MAT) of Berkshire Specialist SEN Schools. The governing board has considered what this will mean for pupils, staff and the school and has agreed in principle, to the proposal which was recently communicated to staff and parents. A final decision about progressing to the next stage will be made at the end of August 2023.

Governors would like to extend their thanks to the entire staff team for their incredible hard work during a very challenging time for the school. The teamwork has been fantastic and the governing board is very grateful for the dedication and commitment of everyone. We wish you all a well-earned summer break.



Tom McAuslin has taken over the role of Safeguarding Governor at Brookfields School. 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 he introduced the successful work placement scheme for Brookfields students which is ongoing and continuing to develop. In addition to covering safeguarding Tom is also the careers link governor and is a member of the finance standards committee.

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. Here are more details:-

Engage, Empower and Inspire



Brookfields
Specialist SEN School

**BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL IS
LOOKING FOR GOVERNORS**

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

Step into Special Education

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

The Governing Board is responsible for:

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

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

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



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

www.brookfieldsschool.org

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
Thank you for your support.

The Governing Board of Brookfields School

Support for Families during the holiday

Ashley Sayer, Senior Family Support Worker is on call for advice and support during the holiday from Monday to Friday between 10am to 4pm.

Please feel you can contact Ashley 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

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 315999

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>

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.
- 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!

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 from September 2023

'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 **£2.73** per day and **payments must be made 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

PTA – Parent Teacher Association Update

It has been a quiet few months for the PTA but we are starting to plan some events for the autumn term.

Please save the date for our ever popular Quiz Night on **Friday 10th November 2023** and the Christmas Bazaar on **Saturday 9th December 2023**.



We are delighted to announce that parent Keith Shaw has agreed to become Chair of the PTA. Keith brings a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm to the role.

We are still looking for a PTA Secretary and new members and helpers so if you could spare a bit of time or would like to find out more information do email us at:

brookfieldspta@gmail.com

Thank you for your support.

Brookfields PTA



WHY IS THE PTA SO IMPORTANT?



01

IT RAISES
MONEY FOR
THE SCHOOL

Over the last 6 years the PTA has earned £167k for the school. This pays for goods and services that the local authority does not provide

This allows us to access grants and funding, such as matched funding, which would not be available to the school as it is not a charity

02

IT IS A
REGISTERED
CHARITY

03

IT RUNS EVENTS
FOR OUR
COMMUNITY

The PTA organises and runs the Christmas Bazaar, summer BBQ, quiz nights and Christmas shopping nights. All provide entertainment and raise funds for the school

Being part of the PTA allows you to support your child's learning by helping to raise money for equipment and activities

04

IT'S A CHANCE
TO GET
INVOLVED

05

IT'S FUN

The events are fun and they are a great way of meeting other members of the school community

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 | |
| 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

www.brookfieldsschool.org

