

Newsletter



December 2023

Headteacher's Update

As we move towards Christmas and the end of term, I would like to thank you all for your support which I have come to count on but never take for granted! This was exemplified by the incredible support we were given at the recent Christmas Fayre which raised £3,469. This is our biggest total to date. I am incredibly grateful that even when things are so hard, the community comes together to support the school, it is so much appreciated. As the term has progressed, we have also seen movement (in the right direction this time), with our subsiding buildings! Despite needing more work than was originally thought, they are now on track to be completed by April '24 which will happily give us scope to put the school back in order for September '24.

We have welcomed some new staff into the school since September; Kimberley, Fed, Lauren, Jess, Scarlet and Lindsey have all joined us over the course of the term and we are delighted that they have done so. However, an end of school term always brings change, and we are sad to be saying goodbye to Sarah Lawrence from Purple Class and Michaela Smith from Englefield Class, at Christmas. Both staff have worked all over the school and will be very much missed but we wish them well on their next adventures. Recruitment since COVID has been a priority for the school and I'm pleased to let you know of other staffing updates. Sara Avenell returns to us in January as our new Deputy Head to replace Maurice George. Many of you will remember Sara who was our Early Years Lead for many years before leaving us to join Kennel Lane SEN School as their Assistant Head. We are excited that she is returning. We are also delighted that Jane McKay will take on a role as Lead Teacher within the Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes team. Jenny Dixon (LSA) returns from Maternity Leave to join Henson Class and we also welcome Hannah and Joanne as new TAs.

Sadly, for me, I will not be in school for the last three days of term as I have been selected for Jury Service. Having deferred previously I am now anticipating spending Christmas in Court. I am not sure that they will let me wear my Christmas Tree hat, but I might be able to sneak in a deerstalker! In my absence my Deputy Head, Eleanor Bukht, will be Acting Headteacher. So, this is my last opportunity this term to thank all the school community - staff, families, governors and our wonderful pupils, for an exciting and eventful term. There have been some amazing achievements and a wide variety of experiences have also been available. It has been great to see that so many pupils have made the most of them, as is demonstrated on the next few pages. Enjoy!

Finally, I want to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, a safe and peaceful holiday and a very Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing staff and pupils back on 8th January 2024. ☺

Catherine

Catherine Bernie
Headteacher

Enrichment Strand

Green Class have been engaged with many activities this term including their Make SENSE Theatre sessions, Swimming, Rebound Therapy, Forest School, Waldon Music sessions and Tac Pac. Tac Pac is a tactile sensory experience with music, using different objects to explore, that finishes with a relaxing hand or foot massage, it is a firm favourite for all pupils! The class have now started to enjoy a range of Christmas activities including a Christmas Tac Pac, sensory exploration and crafts. Merry Christmas from Green class!



This term **Winslet Class** have been focusing on building relationships with their peers and the adults in class. The students have enjoyed a range of social activities and games, favourites include bike riding, Just Dance, football and swimming.



Winslet Class have also had the opportunity to practice, and transfer learnt skills off-site on walks around the local area, as well as on trips to the park and shops. The students are now busy enjoying lots of festive arts and crafts activities in readiness for Christmas.

Happy Christmas from all of us! We look forward to seeing all Winslet Class pupils back at school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Anna, Taylor, Lauren, Winslet Staff Team

Livingstone Class. The start of the new academic year is always a time of adjustment as staff and students get to know each other and begin to form trusting working relationships.



As these have developed, we have been able to explore this term's topic of 'Journeys,' which has provided a wonderful vehicle for Livingstone Class to explore new environments around school and in the community. Students have been developing their transition skills both on and off site to access social and learning opportunities. Students have particularly enjoyed; using the side-by-side tandem bike, a point of view ride on the bus in our interactive story as well as jetting off into space with 'Make SENSE Theatre'.



We wish you a very Merry Christmas, a lovely holiday and a happy new year!

Jane and the Livingstone Team.



It has been a positive term; **Henson Class** students have all settled in well. This term pupils have been focusing on building positive relationships with their peers and staff by taking part in weekly social activities. The class have enjoyed taking part in yoga sessions, playing board games and playing Bingo. During trips to Pangbourne House Life Skills Centre, students have developed important life skills. The students have enjoyed these trips and have engaged well with the set tasks. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm to learn and how proud they are of their achievements!



Merry Christmas from Naomi and Henson Class Team.

Sharman Class has had a busy and fun Autumn Term! The pupils have enjoyed the term's topic 'All About Me.' The class has been exploring their favourite things through an interactive story and waking up their senses in our autumn Sensology lessons. Additionally, the pupils have been really enjoying their weekly Immersive Theatre sessions where they get to play the role of stars in the play! As the Christmas holiday approaches, the class has begun engaging in all things festive!

A very merry Christmas!

Sarah and the Sharman Team.



Engagement Strand

What a fantastic Autumn Term we have had within the Engagement Strand. As I have visited the classes it has been lovely to see so much engagement in our 'Journeys' topic. Pupils have explored and engaged in texts such as 'The Smed and Smoos,' 'The Colour Monster' and 'Funny Bones' all relating to the topics of 'All About Me' and 'Out and About.' Pupils have been focusing on independence within tasks whilst focusing on their Personal Learning Plan targets. I have seen amazing creativity and have particularly enjoyed seeing the brilliant interactions between the staff and the pupils. Well done to all the pupils on such a fantastic transition back to school after the summer and a lovely Autumn Term.

I hope you all have a good Christmas Holiday and look forward to seeing everyone again on 8th January 2024.

Kirsty Simmonds, Strand Lead



Sulham Class have had a busy Autumn Term exploring our topic Journeys: 'All about me' and 'Out and About.' We have discovered far off planets when reading 'The Smeds and The Smoos' and explored Pippi's adventures through our book 'Pippi Longstocking.' Pupils have been thinking about our personal journeys, growing up and were able to sequence their own lives from a baby up to now. They have also been thinking about different things they need when going out and about into the community, exploring different weathers and how they could best dress for them.

Highlights of this term have included: weekly trips to the local shops and park. Pupils have developed their independence and communication skills, collecting the items that they need to visit the shops, finding the items on their shopping list and exchanging money at the till. The class have also particularly enjoyed our weekly music sessions with Mark (his karaoke session was a big hit) and drama sessions with Make SENSE Theatre. Another highlight was our visit from the firefighters, where pupils were able to spray the hose, climb inside the fire engine and try on a firefighter jacket.



What a great first term! We hope all parents, carers and pupils have a lovely Christmas break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Melissa and the Sulham Class Team 😊

Sutton Class have had a remarkably busy time since returning to school in September. Our topic this term has been 'Journeys' both personal journeys and the journeys that we take, out and about within the community. To support our understanding of different journeys, the class have been exploring two key texts, 'The Smed and Smoos' and 'Pippi Longstocking's Adventures'. Pupils started the topic by thinking about themselves and looking at how they have changed and grown from a baby to a teenager. The class have since moved on to thinking about the different journeys they take each day within the local community, travelling to school or the shops. Pupils have practiced sequencing journeys as well as developing map skills, using a key to find specific things and places on a local map of Reading. Highlights for the entire class this term have involved accessing the community regularly through weekly class trips to the supermarket as well as a recent trip to a local café. This has enabled us to develop both our independence and social skills. Pupils have also enjoyed getting creative in weekly Art sessions, using lots of paint and glitter to create Artwork that has been displayed around the school. Sutton class have also enjoyed weekly cooking and swimming sessions, benefiting from the less structured learning environment.



We are really looking forward to welcoming pupils back after Christmas, when we will begin our new topic 'Lets Create.' Thank you to all parents and carers for your support.

Courtneay, Sara, Katrina and Louise (Sutton Class Team).



Columbus Class have had a busy and fun packed Autumn Term. Pupils have enjoyed the topic of 'All About me' and 'Out and About'. Through this topic we have accessed Pangbourne House Life Skills Centre weekly where the pupils took on cooking tasks and a large task in the garden. All pupils have been fantastic at joining in and working hard to get the garden looking much better. Amazing **TEAMWORK!** Our weekly cooking sessions have also been a huge hit with all pupils enjoying being part of these and at times tasting what they had made! Alongside these sessions the pupils have loved accessing the community on a weekly basis and can confidently tell staff the way they need to walk. At the end of the week the group have enjoyed being nice and active in PE with Matt, taking part in activities such as Wheelchair Rugby and Rebound. Pupils have also been looking at the text 'Colour Monster' and thinking about their emotions and ways in which they can support themselves with these.



We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Kirsty, Matt and the Columbus Staff Team

Englefield Class have had a great first term settling into class and building relationships with peers and staff. In the lead up to Christmas, they have been working hard on their class enterprise opportunities, making crafts to sell at the Christmas Bazaar including Christmas cards, peppermint creams, reindeer candy canes and reindeer food. The money raised at the bazaar will go towards our fund for off-site activities next term.

Enquiry Strand

White Class have had a wonderful Autumn Term. We have enjoyed building friendships through play, teamwork and curricular subjects such as Swimming, Cooking, Maths and Storytelling. Visiting the climbing centre on a Monday morning has been a highlight for the class where the pupils have been very brave. Spending time with a range of peers has developed their social skills this term. The pupils have enjoyed Explore Time with the class next door, they have shared opinions in the morning meeting and have taken part in Scott Class' Sports Leadership lessons! We wish you all a lovely time over the festive break and look forward to teaching many new topics in January 2024!

Merry Christmas!

Caroline Greenstreet, Strand Lead

Fletcher Class. We have had a positive and happy Autumn term in Fletcher class. Our topic 'Journeys' has provided cross-curricular learning opportunities and has allowed pupils to make meaningful links across subject areas. The class started their learning journey considering the question 'What makes me a me?' to highlight our similarities and differences and celebrate our unique personalities and identities. Pupils enjoyed investigating amazing facts from the Guinness Book of Records, discovering some of the incredible things humans can do! We investigated our bodies in science, learning about the skeleton, organs and senses.



We were lucky enough to go to Baylab, a trip organised by the Brookfields Way to Work team, to experience a fascinating science workshop, looking at the journey of food. The workshop was hands-on and engaging. The pupils loved it!



We have explored the importance of friendships and respecting differences by reading a story about two squabbling squirrels who ended up being the best of friends. We took an imaginary journey on a hot air balloon to the island of dinosaurs, making SOS messages in bottles, designing islands and writing our own imaginary stories. We transformed our class into a travel agency and booked some very exotic holidays having fun through role play. The theme of journeys has taken us in a range of directions.

In recent weeks, we have moved onto the magical adventures of Peter Pan, developing an understanding of feelings in ourselves and others and discussing our aspirations and hopes for the future. Pupils have enjoyed acting out the story through role-play, enjoying singing and dressing up.



Highlights of the term have also included weekly PE and swimming off-site, cooking, plenty of real-life Maths role-play - creating our own shop, cinema, restaurants and take-aways, all promoting money-handling skills. We have also enjoyed horticultural therapy and community visits which have enriched our week.



We ended the term with a winter walk at Basildon Park to round off the year positively.



We are all looking forward to the holidays and wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break!
The Fletcher Team - Helen, Vicki, Wendy, Moi, Ruhena and Amna.

Mapledurham Class have enjoyed many activities and lessons this term including Rebound Therapy, Cooking, Art and their Make SENSE Theatre sessions. The pupils have also all been working hard on developing their communication and life skills.



Scott Class have had an educational and fun packed Autumn term. Some of the highlights have been weekly Town and Travel training, cooking sessions with Steph and Community trips to Tesco. The students have also been lucky enough to represent the school at the Pentathlon Games at the London Olympic Park and visit Baylab at Green Park, Reading for an interesting Workshop on DNA. The highlight for everyone was visiting Pizza Express to learn more about the company and to also make their own pizzas to take home!



We look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 8th January.

Jess and the Scott staff Team



MacArthur Class had a fantastic breakfast morning on 4th December raising money for their enterprise project. Students were kept busy with orders from staff and other students throughout the morning. MacArthur Class set up the 6th Form Hall to make it look like a café using blue and white check tablecloths and serving each customer with a smile! The MacArthur students made and sold Bacon Rolls, Egg Rolls, Beans on Toast, Sausage Rolls, Toast with Jam and a variety of hot drinks. It was lovely to see so many pupils and staff enjoying their breakfast together. The total raised was £125.

One of the customers, Dominic, rated the service highly giving the café a 5 out of 5 review and two hands up!

MacArthur Class would like to thank everyone who took part by purchasing something from the menu. Thank you!

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2024 from all the students and staff in MacArthur Class.



Pathway to Employment

Since September 2023, 34 students have had work-based placements at 9 different venues totalling 522 hours between them.

This term we have had placements at Laithwaites, Westwood Farm School, Butterfly Café, Little Robins (Forest School), Flint House dining room, Flint House polytunnel, Berkshire Maestros and Newbury Community Furniture project.



Learning from Employers first-hand about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace is so invaluable. It allows the students to start to build on their employability and communication skills and self-confidence. This provides them with a meaningful insight into the types of jobs that are available.

Market Garden

The students started by planting the pumpkin seeds in their classes back in March 2023, as the seedlings grew the Brookfields Market Garden students were able to pot on the pumpkin plants and watch them grow, making sure they were watered and cared for. By May the plants were large enough to be planted out into the pumpkin patch at the allotment. The students visited regularly to make sure the patch was well watered and weeded throughout the summer months. Measuring the growth of the pumpkins and squashes and observing



the changes in colour as they ripened. Finally, the pumpkins were ready, and a group of students visited the allotment to harvest them and bring them back to school freshly picked for the pumpkin sale.



Students have been busy working on expanding the Brookfields Market Garden Enterprise making Spring Bulb Lasagnes to sell at Christmas events and harvesting, preparing and cooking the home-grown vegetables to make delicious homemade chutneys.



Employee Encounters

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

- Theale Fire Station – onsite visit
- Metro Bank - Budgeting, saving and banking.
- Watermill Theatre – Developing life skills workshop through drama
- Pizza Express - Different job roles in a Pizza restaurant
- Baylab - What is DNA and where is it found? and the digestive system workshop
- Reading Buses - Different job roles and a visit to the control room
- Newbury and District Agricultural Society - Where our food comes from
- Health Reach - Looking at some of the 350 different roles
- Thames Water – Live interactive virtual tour in the new super sewer
- Talentino Conference - Two of our 6th Form students presented



The following students have shown real enthusiasm during their placements and have been awarded 'Employee of the Month' certificates by our Pathway to Employment team.



It just remains for us to thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you all again next year. If you would like any further information or have any innovative ideas on how we could work together, we would love to hear from you.

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

Julie Grant and Lucy Bellman, Pathway to Employment Team

Independent Travel Training

I am looking forward to next term to see more students spreading their travel wings! In the meantime, I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas.

For more information about Brookfields School Travel Training, please contact

cgingell@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

Cathy Gingell, Preparation for Adulthood / Travel Training Specialist

Youth Club

The students have had another great term at Youth Club. They enjoyed a Youth Club trip to KFC to celebrate Michael's birthday and have had great fun taking part in Archery and playing Pool together.



We are finishing this year with our annual visit to McDonalds looking at the Christmas lights on the way back, which is an old-time favourite for the students (plus Kerrie and Darren!!!)



"Youth Club is a safe place to play Xbox One, Wii, PlayStation, Xbox 360 or use an iPad, watch TV or do Arts and Crafts activities. Youth Club is also a great place for the older Brookfields students to just hang out with their friends. We also always have a tuckshop for the students to buy goodies!"

For further details please email office@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

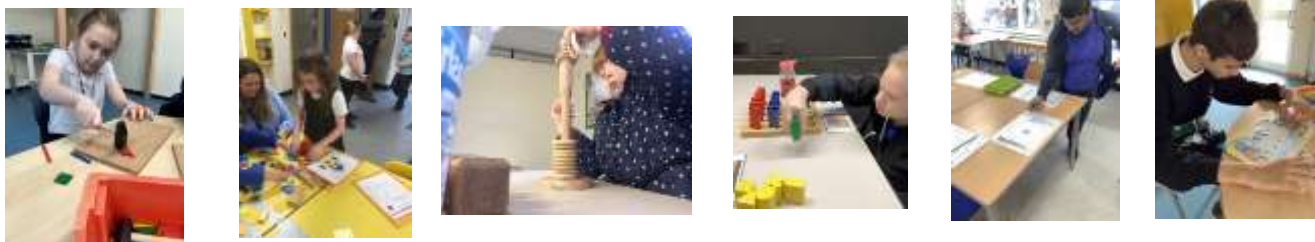
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Kerrie and Darren.



Maths News

Once again we have had a full and enjoyable term exploring Maths and cognition skills. Many classes have been out and about in the community practising reading bus timetables, budgeting and paying for shopping, using directional language to get about and finding banks, libraries and other public spaces. Great activities to practise Maths skills and independence skills in context. We have also been raising money in different ways for Children in Need, shopping and measuring ingredients for making cakes and then selling them as part of their Enterprise projects. In the classrooms, as always, there has been a great deal of hard work building on number skills, measures including money and time, space awareness and shape.

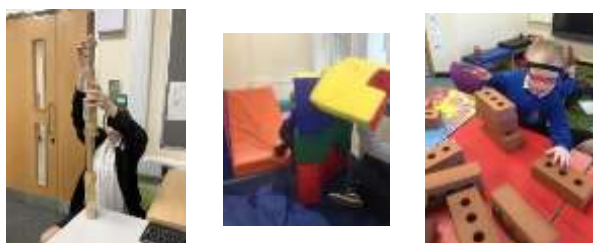
Exploring space and shape: How does it fit? Is it in the right order? Problem solving



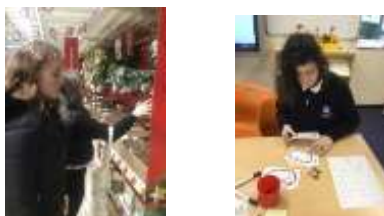
Looking for number patterns and counting: Singing "Five Currant Buns", Keeping track of a score, How many cups? How many sugars for Leanne's tea?!



Building up and knocking down: balance and awareness of shape, positional language such as "up", "down", "tall", "taller", also building to keep the big bad wolf at bay then asking for "more"!



Using money: in the community using a Club Card to get a bargain, role play selling cinema tickets.



Using Measures: Cooking



Gilly Cummings, Head of Numeracy

Literacy and Communication News

Over the summer holiday the library had a revamp. The old library shelving was replaced with new bookcases which allow us to display the books front facing. The new design also means we can remove the bookcases when we want to run storytelling sessions. It has been wonderful to see classes enjoying the adapted space this term. Each Strand has an allocated day to visit the library which has meant we have been able to showcase books of interest to each group. The new layout is popular. We have seen many more books being borrowed and enjoyed in class too.

Along with the contemporary furniture we have updated the range of non-fiction books available. We receive a regular donation of car magazines which have been very well received by the students. A request board is available in the library for students to give us suggestions of other books they would like to see. We are exploring the addition of Graphic Novels for our older users.



During this term we have celebrated the changing seasons, Bonfire Night, Black History Month, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Anti-bullying Week and Hanukkah with displays and books. The feedback received has been positive; "The books on offer are excellent and I think not only are the pupils inspired by the books but it's an inspiring place for staff too".

This term we welcomed Lauren to the Literacy and Communication team. Lauren is our new Specialist Literacy Assistant supporting classes with their learning including 'Read, Write, Inc'. Lauren has been enjoying getting to know pupils across the school.

'Sing and Sign' has continued to grow in popularity. The Primary Enquiry group have been learning two pop songs; George Ezra's 'Shotgun' and the Foo Fighters 'Times Like These'. The pupils have been amazing at learning a section of the songs each week and are now

performing the songs with confidence. I am excited to see their song choices for next term! With Christmas approaching the pupils have been learning some festive songs and we launched this year's 'Sing and Sign Advent'. A selection of the songs included this year are 'Feliz Navidad', 'Jingle Bell Rock' and 'I Wish it Could be Christmas Every Day'.

As part of our festive celebrations, we had a visit from Father Christmas who joined Sky Class and White Class for a festive themed Sing and Sign session. The students had plenty of questions for Father Christmas including where had he parked his sleigh? Everyone joined in to sing and sign 'Jingle Bells,' 'Christmas Pudding' and 'Sleeping Reindeer.'

We are looking forward to seeing all the classes back in The Library for the Spring Term.

Clare Hook, Curriculum Centre Manager



PSHE (Personal Social Health and Economic Education)



This has been a busy term for PSHE, involving spots, baking and paperchains!

Pupils across the school participated in making a paperchain using words or symbols linked to being tolerant for International Day for Tolerance. The paperchains are currently up in Reception for any visitors to see and as a reminder to our pupils. This coincided with Anti-Bullying Week when some classes made posters featuring Anti-Bullying Superheroes!

The week ended with Children in Need! We celebrated with a “busathon,” cake sale, spotty outfits, a sensory massage story and a Pudsey Hunt – amongst many other activities in class. We raised an amazing **£638** in total so thank you to all who donated!



Rhian Jeffreys, Head of PSHE

PE News

Team Events

Some of the pupils from Fletcher Class attended the Theale Green Alternative Olympics event held in November. They were all extremely excited to be going to Theale Green Secondary School. They listened to instructions and competed in the games excellently. They played against other local schools in different activities which included Archery, Kurling, Boccia and Seated Volleyball. They played all the games with great spirit, they particularly enjoyed competing in seated volleyball which none of them had tried before! All the pupils received a bronze medal at the end of the games which they were very proud of.



Scott Class had a trip to the Olympic Park Swimming Pool in London. The class participated in the National Special Schools Final. It was a long journey, but the students were fantastic. They competed in the races trying their best and demonstrating some excellent swimming techniques, determination and resilience. All the pupils listened to and followed instructions from the organisers and the day was a great success. The students came 6th which was a massive achievement, they were an absolute pleasure to take to London.



Well done to all the pupils who participated!

Climbing



This term we have finally got the climbing wall up and running, 12 members of staff have been trained to use the equipment and lead the climbing sessions. It has been great to see pupils enjoy getting harnessed up and climb the wall. The best part is jumping off! Many pupils will have the opportunity to have a go on the wall throughout the year.



Sensory Circuits

We have just started to introduce sensory circuits on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning when the pupils arrive at school. This activity will help regulate emotions and in turn will hopefully improve behaviour. We have been thinking carefully about the sensory system and have

introduced activities that will alert, organise and calm the brain and body. This is going well and will continue next year.

Sports Leadership

Some pupils from Key Stage 4 and 6th Form have been working on their sports leadership skills in their PE lessons. Here is Maizy teaching a primary pupil from White Class the game she made up to develop throwing and jumping skills. It was lovely to see the older pupils using their leadership skills to instruct the younger children. The students communicated, demonstrated and motivated the primary pupils so well. The pupils from White class were a pleasure to teach and they all participated and enjoyed the activities!



Football

We have introduced a Girls Football Club this term on a Wednesday lunch time which has been going well. Girls from across the Secondary school have joined and are keen to participate each week. It has been fantastic to see them enjoying the sport and learning how to play football.

Swimming

A group of pupils from Key Stage 3 have been attending offsite swimming sessions at the Meadway Sports Centre, they have been working hard on improving their swimming technique and have also been learning water safety skills. All the pupils have been very sensible offsite and have shown maturity when they have been out and about in the community.

Tor Parnell, Head of PE

Onsite Swimming

The pupils have had another great term in our hydrotherapy pool, it has been wonderful to see the progress shown by the pupils who are new to Brookfields School. Their confidence has improved over the term. One pupil has gone from needing physical support from an adult to using floats to now only using one shark fin floating device.

Another pupil is now joining his classmates in the pool. As he has become more confident and independent in the water he is able to move around the pool with his peers which is excellent progress.

6th Form students are also enjoying their swimming sessions especially when they play ball games in the pool.

Karen Withers, Swimming Instructor



Fundraising Update

Thank you to everyone who put their blue tokens in the boxes at Tesco to vote for Brookfields in the Tesco Stronger Starts programme. We were thrilled to hear that we won £1,500 towards the Early Years allotment project and £1,000 to develop the garden at our Pangbourne House Life skills Centre. We are looking forward to starting work on both projects as soon as the weather improves.

Stronger Starts.



We are really enjoying our collaboration with Reading Joggers who are supporting Brookfields as their charity of the year. We are working together to support a Reading College enterprise scheme and will be co-judging the final projects. Brookfields will benefit from a share of the profits made from the students' projects. We are also incredibly grateful to the Joggers for donating some wonderful raffle prizes and for being very enthusiastic helpers at our PTA Christmas Bazaar. The Joggers hope to continue into the New Year with some gardening work and other activities. The Club is always delighted to welcome new members and, for any of you who are thinking of taking up running, they are starting a Couch to 5k programme in January 2024 and are happy to welcome new participants.

Full details are on the website: <https://www.readingjoggers.org/>

We continue to benefit from easyfundraising. It works in the same way as Amazon Smile but covers 100s of retailers (including Amazon) so it is a fantastic way to raise money just by doing your shopping. This term we raised £179 for the PTA at no cost to shoppers.



It's easy to set up, you just need to register with easyfundraising 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 is a terrific way to raise money for the school. As you can see from a couple of the activities above, it is a fantastic way to raise funds for the school.

Some of the companies offering matched funding



PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Update

We have had a busy term with the Quiz Night in November and the Christmas Bazaar on the 9th December. As you will see below we have raised a huge amount of money this term.

We are incredibly grateful for all your support, donations and buying and selling of raffle tickets. Some of the money raised has been donated to the school to buy a new bench for the sensory garden. We will be working with the school to support other projects which benefit the pupils.

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



Brookfields School Association

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VERY GENEROUS SPONSORS WHO DONATED AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL



RESTYLED BY SLC

Pet Portraits by Jane



If you have any ideas for events that could raise money for the school we are always happy to hear from you. If you would like to find out more about the PTA and the work we do, please contact us

You can email the PTA direct on brookfieldspta@gmail.com

Thank you for your support.

Keith Shaw, Chair of the Brookfields PTA



Governor Update

We were delighted to welcome Keith Shaw to the governing board as Parent Governor. Keith brings a lot of experience to the board from both his professional and voluntary roles. The following policies were approved during the autumn term: Child Protection and Safeguarding, Children Missing Education and Admissions. These policies will be available on the Brookfields School website www.brookfieldsschool.org We would like to thank Katie Gray, Assistant Head, for all her work on the school's policies. We would also like to welcome incoming Deputy Head Sara Avenell who will join in January 2024.

The governing board has been continuing to work on the proposal for Brookfields School to join a proposed new Multi Academy Trust (MAT) of Berkshire special schools. The governing board is reviewing plans on a regular basis and is working closely with the school team as the plan progresses. Further information will follow next term once the school has obtained agreement from the Department for Education (DfE) to move into the next stage of the plan.

We would also like to thank the whole staff team for their incredible work this term, particularly given the difficulties caused by staff illness and staff shortages. Their teamwork and dedication are amazing and governors are incredibly grateful for their support.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone in the Brookfields School community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you have any questions about the governing board, please do not hesitate to contact Charlotte Wilshire, Clerk to the Governors.

cwilshire@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk

The Governing Board of Brookfields School



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 cwiltshire@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

Charity Days

Thank you for supporting our Children in Need Day on 17th November. Many thanks to those of you who kindly donated money, baked or sent in items for our Cake Sale. The total raised for the charity was an amazing **£638.**



Save the
Children

Thank you for also supporting our Christmas Jumper Day on 13th December. The school raised **£56.50** for The Save the Children Charity.

THANK YOU for all your donations.

Support for Families



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



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

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

Support for Families during the holiday

Ashley Sayer, Senior Family Support Worker and, Wendy Rosser, Family Support Worker, are on call for advice and support during some of the holiday. Please feel you can contact Ashley or Wendy to discuss concerns. 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

Wendy Rosser

0746 965 0696

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 351999

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!



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



The forums aim to support parents/carers to participate and have a voice in how services for disabled and special needs children are shaped and delivered locally. But together, we can make changes. Contact us now, we value your call. We are here for you and your family.

West Berkshire:-

Phone: 0730 555 1082

Email: [Info@West Berks PCF](mailto:Info@WestBerksPCF) or contact our Chair at dawnwbpcf@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westberksparentcarerforum

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

Reading:-

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

Phone: 0751 618 5380

email: fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com



Reminders to parents and carers

Uniform

Primary Jumper Secondary Jumper

Uniform can be purchased through Price and Buckland and can also be bought reasonably priced, at large supermarkets and from other online retailers.



To order Brookfields School uniform with the school logo: -

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

- Secondary pupils can wear either a black school jumper with the school logo on, or a plain black one. Please be advised that this must be a jumper or sweatshirt, hoodies will not be allowed as part of the school uniform.
- Primary pupils' uniform is a royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan.
- 6th Formers can wear their own smart but casual clothes.

School Meals

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



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

If your child is in Key stage 1 (Reception, Year 1, Year 2) they will receive a Universal **free** meal each day. This will automatically be set up on your SchoolGrid account as free. If your child is already eligible for Free School Meals this will also be set up on your account. The cost of a school meal from Year 3 to Year 14 if your child is not entitled to Free School Meals continues to be **£2.73** per day and **payments must be made in advance online**. Thank you.



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

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

Keeping in Touch by text and email



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

You can also download the *School Gateway App*

Apple iPhone users, download the app

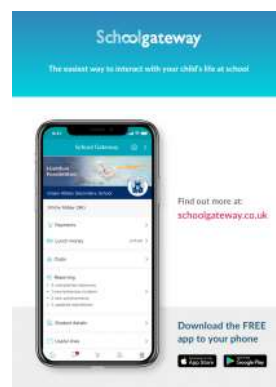
here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android phone users, download the app

here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

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

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>



Brookfields School Term Dates January 2024 – July 2024

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>	28/03/24 – 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 for academic year 2023 - 2024	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

**We look forward to
welcoming pupils
back to school on
Monday
8th January 2024**



NEXT YEAR Brookfields School Term Dates and Inset Days 2024 / 2025

Term 1	Wednesday 4 th September 2024 – Thursday 24 th October 2024	37 days
<i>Holiday</i>	25/10/24 – 1/11/24	
Term 2	Monday 4 th November 2024 – Thursday 19 th December 2024	34 days
<i>Holiday</i>	20/12/24 – 3/01/25	
Term 3	Monday 6 th January 2025 – Friday 14 th February 2025	30 days
<i>Holiday</i>	17/02/25 – 21/02/25	
Term 4	Monday 24 th February 2025 – Friday 4 th April 2025	30 days
<i>Holiday</i>	7/04/25 – 22/04/25	
Term 5	Wednesday 23 rd April 2025 – Friday 23 rd May 2025	22 days
<i>Holiday</i>	27/05/25 – 30/05/25	
Term 6	Monday 2 nd June 2025 – Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	37 days
Total		190 days total

Public Holidays	
25 th December 2024	Christmas Day
26 th December 2024	Boxing Day
1 st January 2025	New Year's Day
18 th April 2025	Good Friday
21 st April 2025	Easter Monday
5 th May 2025	May Day Bank Holiday
26 th May 2025	Spring Bank Holiday

Staff Inset Days

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Friday 25th October 2024

