

Issue 1
June 2018

Friends of Brookside (FOBs) Newsletter

KEEP CALM

and

JOIN FOBS

*"Great things are brought
about and burdens are
lightened through the
efforts of many hands
anxiously engaged in a
good cause"*

Elder M. Russell Ballard

Welcome to the first addition of the Friends of Brookside (FOBs) newsletter. Firstly we must start by saying a huge thank you to the outgoing FOBs chair, vice chair, treasurer and committee members for all their hard work and the amazing passion they had for raising much needed funds for the school. Together they have enabled many fantastic projects, school trips and school equipment to become a reality for all children at Brookside Primary School.

Meet the new team

Ami Holder - Chair

"I have three children here at Brookside, one in year 5, one in year 3 and one in Nursery. I'm a full time Portfolio Manager at Oxford Brookes University, and have worked there for 8 years.

I joined FOBS because the old committee was leaving, and if new committee members weren't found, the whole charity would have to close! I figured that I could have a go and try to give something back to the school, seeing as I have 3 children here!! I was shocked to find out just how much money we need to make and donate to the kids here, all the projects that happen and I never noticed, and just how great the whole educational experience is here at Brookside and how we can all work together to make it even better.

My aim is to grow the PTA and get parents to realize that if they just offered to help with one event each year for maybe 2 hours, what a brilliant set of events we could put on for our children. Volunteering isn't just turning up at events; there are so many different things we do!!"

Nikki – Vice Chair

"I have two children at Brookside Primary School, Theo in year 3 and Alanna in Nursery. I used to attend Brookside as a child so the school means a lot to me. I am on FOBS because I think its very important to get involved in fundraising for the school, to subsidise trips and provide new equipment – and in any school the PTA knows what is happening all around the school!"

Melanie Roberts – Treasurer

"I've been coming to the school for the past 7 years on school runs and will for another 11 years! Have Maximo in Year 5 and Isla in year 2. Outside of FOBS I work for child services and have a very active life with my 9 month old Olivia. We enjoy plenty of family time but I also have the screen time battle with the kids! I joined FOBS as I wanted to show my own children that doing something for others is worth while. Going the extra mile to make others happy. I love that FOBS provides all those little extras the school can't afford to enrich the kids learning. Also it's a good laugh and I've made some great friends who I may not have spoken to otherwise!"

We are always keen to see new faces at our committee meetings and we'd love any offer of help for the many upcoming events in 2018. To contact us head to the FOBs Facebook page or contact us by email at chairoffobs@gmail.com.

Letter from Kids of Brookside (KOBs)

We are KOBs, the Kids of Brookside School. At the moment we are working on being Eco friendly and helping the wildlife because Tory Manning one of our campaigners says "because our environment is dying". To help this issue, Year 5 and 6 have just finished their 'Planet Peril' topic. This has led to more of their age group joining our committee meaning many more jobs meant for responsible young adults can be allocated. Furthermore, we have already made progress by making hedgehog houses, bird feeders and bird food. We have seized control of the 'Gallery of the woods' with some help from Mr Ford to turn it into a wildlife nature resort.



We also have monthly meetings with other schools pupils who think like us. Please feel free to send your child(ren) to KOBs each Wednesday (unless notified by Miss Wise our supervision adult who helps us dearly) – although please bear in mind your child still attends Brookside – if they so then I'm looking forward to hopefully seeing them there.

Yours Sincerely Ruby Holder (Chair of KOBs)

Brookside Site Update from Mr Ford

When you thought he was a traditional 'school caretaker' and realise what that ACTUALLY means

We are currently working on a number of projects all around the school site here at Brookside. A massive focus is now, and has been, trying to conserve and increase the amount of wildlife we have at the school. For the kids to understand, not only how big issues affect the world, the oceans etc, but also how to take care of our very own community too. We have had a number of donations from parents and family members which have allowed us to put up 3 new nest boxes (all of which are now full with resident birds) in all areas (EYFS, and both Key Stage areas) – we hope in the future to get a LIVE STREAM CAMERA inside them, which will link across to EYFS and Reception, so that the children can watch baby birds hatch and feed next spring.

We are also in the process of making and hiding a number of hedgehog boxes, for our spiky friends – using recycled materials. We meaning, myself, Miss Wise and a LARGE number of children who are members of KOBs.

With the help of our willing KOBs members, we have most recently started developing the Wildlife Area in the corner of the big sports field (where all the tree's are) and they have been working hard to clear the footpaths, which have lain un-used for the last 10 years. This was they know they can walk safely around the Wildlife Area without disturbing all the creatures we are trying to get to come and live with us! We have also been making some HUGE bug hotels, and Wyevale have donated a number of plants to brighten up the place – using recycled tyres and pots that have had hanging around.

I am trying to teach the children the importance of using what we have, and with some effort, you can make wonderful things, which don't always have to be brand new!

FUTURE HOPES?

We have had 60 trees donated by the Woodland Trust – due to **be delivered in November** – we are going to try and organise a planting event for children and parents who would like to help us. **GET YOUR WELLIES AND SPADES READY!**

We are hoping to have more nest boxes and also bat boxes donated or made too (so if you have any hanging around your home, please feel free to bring those in at any time!) One big project we would like the children to help start is to create a wildlife map of Brookside, which would be a trail which aims to help children of all ages, to identify all the tree species, plants and animals which we have here. This tie in with the children's themes of conservation, looking after our planet and recycling too.

There are also another 2 Wildlife Areas being planned for Key Stage 1 and the EYFS children.

Upcoming Events

Summer Fete 2018

After such a fantastic response to the recent Bingo night and the Father's Day Gingerbread men event we are now looking forward to and preparing in earnest for the Brookside Summer Fete on Saturday 7th July. Look at for our posters for more information and make sure you join us for what promises to be another fantastic school event.

100 Club

Don't forget you still have the chance to sign up to be part of Brookside's first FOBS 100 Club. For just £24 for the whole year you are in with a chance of winning a number of monthly cash prizes. We draw numbers randomly each month with the winner receiving a £50 cash prize and 5 runners up receiving £10 each. All numbers are entered into the draw each month so if you're lucky you could be a winner many times over throughout the year! So if you're tempted you can find the forms in the school reception.

Thank You

We just wanted finished off this first addition of our newsletter with a massive thank you to you all. We have been overwhelmed by the fantastic response we have had to the events that FOBS have put on this school year. We spend many hours brainstorming new ideas and rethinking old ones and many more hours preparing and making these ideas a reality. It makes all the effort put into these events truly worth it when we have such fantastic support from all of the parents at Brookside. We have raised a total of £ £2,837.55 so far this year due to your generosity. So thank you. Please keep it going. We hope to see many of you at the Summer Fete to finish our efforts for this school year off with a bang!