



Learning for Life

Brookside Primary School

Newsletter Autumn Term - Issue 1

4th September 2026

 www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year at Brookside. We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer break and were able to make the most of the hot and sunny weather.

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time, filled with anticipation, opportunity and the promise of new experiences. Across the school, children are settling into their new classes, meeting their teachers and teaching assistants, making new friends and proudly wearing their school uniforms. We look forward to seeing the progress they will make, the knowledge they will gain and all the achievements they will accomplish throughout the year.

This new year brings many exciting learning opportunities. Our staff have worked hard to prepare engaging lessons and tasks that will inspire curiosity, develop skills and help every child reach their full potential.

We would also like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all of the children and families who are joining Brookside for the first time. We are delighted that you are part of our school community and look forward to getting to know you.

We hope that this is a successful, happy and rewarding year for all of our children.

Class letters and curriculum information

You should recently have received a welcome letter from your child's class teacher, along with a curriculum map for the term ahead (EYFS letters will be sent out next week). These documents contain important information to help your child have a successful term at school.



The class letter includes key information such as PE days, homework expectations, reading routines and any class-specific arrangements. Our curriculum maps provide an overview of the exciting learning planned for your child across the National

Curriculum. They outline the topics, knowledge and skills that pupils will be developing in each subject area over the coming weeks. We hope these maps will help you support your child's learning at home and give you opportunities to talk about what they are learning in school. If you have not received these documents, or have any questions about the information provided, please contact the school office.

Playground improvements



As you may have seen, contractors have been working hard this week to complete improvements to the Year 3 and 4 playground. There is a new climbing frame on the grass for the children to enjoy. We also have a brand new area that includes an all weather surface and football goals and basketball hoops. This work has been funded through a generous donation to the school for which we are very grateful.



The importance of reading

At Brookside, we believe that reading is one of the most important skills a child can develop. Strong reading skills open the door to success across all areas of learning and help children build confidence, imagination and a lifelong love of learning.



Research consistently shows that children who read regularly at home make greater progress in school. Reading not only helps develop vocabulary, spelling and comprehension skills, but also supports writing, communication and critical thinking. Reading each day can have a significant impact on a child's achievement over time.

Parents play a vital role in developing positive reading habits. Listening to your child read, sharing stories together and talking about books helps children see reading as an enjoyable and valued activity. Asking simple questions about a story, discussing

favourite characters or predicting what might happen next can greatly improve understanding and encourage a deeper enjoyment of books.

It is also important for children to see adults reading. Whether it is a novel, newspaper, recipe or magazine, children who see reading as part of everyday life are more likely to become enthusiastic readers themselves.

We encourage all families to make reading a regular part of their daily routine. Together, we can help every child develop the skills, confidence and enjoyment that come from being a successful reader.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children become lifelong readers.

Holidays During Term Time

A reminder to all parents that holidays taken during term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. Every school day is important, and regular attendance plays a vital role in ensuring children make the best possible progress in their learning.

We encourage families to refer to the school's published [term dates](#) when planning holidays and family trips. Taking children out of school during term time can result in them missing valuable learning experiences and may affect their achievement and learning.

Please be aware that unauthorised absences may be referred to Oxfordshire County Council, which has the authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to parents in line with national attendance regulations.

Healthcare Plans, Allergy Plans and Asthma Plans

Parents whose children are already registered on Arbor with having medical needs will have received an email concerning the need to complete statutory paperwork. Please ensure that this paperwork is returned to the school office by 9am on Wednesday morning. If you have previously completed this paperwork, it needs reviewing. Please come to the school office to collect the correct paperwork for your child.

Benedict's Law

This September, in line with new allergy legislation called Benedict's Law, we are strengthening our arrangements for how we can respond to severe allergic reactions. All staff are receiving allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training to refresh their knowledge of the signs of anaphylaxis and respond quickly and appropriately in an emergency.

We now have an Emergency Anaphylaxis Kit which includes spare auto-injectors (sometimes known as epi-pens or Jext). These devices are not prescribed for a specific individual and, in an emergency, can be used on any child or adult who is experiencing anaphylaxis, helping to potentially provide life-saving treatment while an ambulance is contacted. The anaphylaxis kit is stored alongside our defibrillator. Pupils who are prescribed an auto-injector for anaphylaxis need to continue to have two in date auto-injectors in school each day.

Getting back into routine

We know that some children find the transition from a summer holiday back into school tricky. The vast majority of children have settled in well this week and are managing really well and we know this becomes easier as the weeks pass by. A couple of parents have mentioned this [BBC news article](#) which they said made them think about how they could support their child with the transition into a new academic year.

Food and Hygiene Bank

We appreciate that the summer holiday can have an impact on parental finances. As a school we are able to provide foodbank vouchers which can be used for emergency food should you need it. Please speak to any member of staff should you wish to use the foodbank. It is open Monday to Saturday from 10am until midday and is located near Sainsbury's. We also have a hygiene bank in school which parents can access at any time between 8am and 5pm. If there is anything you need which is missing, then please speak to someone in the school office as we have some more items which we do not have space to put out. We also have a number of packs of nappies for younger children.

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome several members of staff to Brookside this term. A warm welcome to Miss Swan, who joins us as a class teacher in The Canopy, and Miss Felman, who joins our support staff team as a Teaching Assistant. We would also like to welcome Mrs Baker as a class teacher and Miss Welby, who has recently returned from maternity leave.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 23 rd September	School Photos
Thursday 24 th - Tuesday 29 th September	Book Fair
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 2nd November	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Friday 18 th December	End of Term

Best wishes,

Mr Cornell and the staff of Brookside Primary School