



Learning for Life

Brookside Primary School

Newsletter Autumn Term - Issue 4

16th October 2026

 www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Next week is our first parent/carers' evening of the academic year. During your meeting teachers will discuss how your child has settled into their new year group and the progress they have made in their learning. There will also be an opportunity to look at your children's work and ask any questions you may have.

This is the last newsletter before half term. We hope that you all have a good break from school and enjoy the week off (26th - 30th October). A reminder that Monday 2nd November is an INSET day and the school is closed to children.

Children In Need - Friday 13th November

This year, BBC Children in Need is celebrating the theme 'by the side of every child', reminding us of the importance of the people who support, encourage and care for us. Children in Need Day is Friday 13th November. On this day we invite all children to come to school dressed as someone who is 'by their side'.



This could be someone who helps them, inspires them or supports them, such as a family member, a friend, a teacher, a doctor or nurse, a sports coach, a favourite book character or any positive role model who makes a difference in their lives. We would be grateful if parents could support their child in creating or sourcing a simple costume linked to their chosen person.

Costumes do not need to be expensive or elaborate; creativity is encouraged and homemade costumes are very welcome. Throughout the week, children will have the opportunities to reflect on the people who help them and how we can all be 'by the side' of others through kindness, friendship and inclusion. We would welcome a minimum donation of £1. We will send a further reminder after half term, but wanted to give you advance notice should you wish to prepare a costume over half

term. We will also be selling a number of Children in Need 'Pudsey' merchandise after half term in the run up to Children in Need.

Residential Visit

Year 6 children who went on the residential last week thoroughly enjoyed their time in the Peak District. They took part in lots of exciting activities and had a great time. Thank you to Mrs Cooper, Mrs Taylor and Mr Harrison for leading this trip.





Poppy Appeal 2026

After half term, we will be supporting the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** by selling poppies and a range of fundraising items in school. These include wristbands (£1), reflectors (50p), pencils (50p), stickers (20p) and poppies (20p), with all donations helping the Royal British Legion provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces and their families.



If your child would like to purchase a poppy or other item, please send the cash donation into school. Thank you for your continued support of this important cause and for helping us remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country. We would encourage as many children as possible to wear a poppy in the run up to 11th November.

Items will go on sale on Monday and be available until Wednesday 11th November.

WhatsApp

Please remember that **WhatsApp has a minimum age of 13** and is not intended

for primary-aged children. Messaging apps can expose children to inappropriate content, group chat issues and online safety risks. We encourage parents to check age ratings, monitor online activity and discuss safe and responsible use of technology with your children.

New School Meal Menu

A new menu starts after half term and can be accessed on our website or using this link: [School Meal Menu November 2026](#)

Flu Vaccinations - Thursday 22nd October

Thank you to those parents who have completed the consent form, in order for your child to have the flu vaccination next week. If you have yet to do so and want your child to be vaccinated please complete the [consent form](#).

Five reasons to have the flu vaccine ([from UKHSA](#))

1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family.

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have.

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record.

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare.

Online Gaming Safety

Many children enjoy gaming online. We encourage parents and carers to read this helpful guide from LGfL, which includes practical advice on age ratings, online safety, screen time and in-game purchases. It is a useful resource for helping children stay safe while enjoying online games:

<https://safeblog.lgfl.net/helping-parents-navigate-online-gaming-guidance-and-advice-for-schools/>

Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh)

Brookside has worked with the charity ARCh for a number of years and we are lucky enough to have six wonderful volunteers based at Brookside. They give up two afternoons a week of their time to read with children and complete word games. Rena, one of our volunteer readers, has recently received a certificate for reading at Brookside for over 5 years. Janice has also completed over 10 years of reading with pupils at Brookside. We are really grateful to all of the volunteer readers who give up their time to support our pupils.

Get active as a family with "Let's Move!"

Being active is an important part of helping your child feel happier and healthier. You do not need lots of time, space or expensive equipment to do this. Starting with just 10 minutes can make a difference, and small amounts of movement all add up. "Let's Move!" is here to help you and your family find simple, fun ways to move more together every day.

🌐 Get active as a family with "Let's Move!" - Healthier Families

A visit from Perform

EYFS and KS1 were very pleased to receive a visit from Perform on Monday. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of Superheroes using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills. To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of Superheroes. It contains fun games, creative tasks, songs and dances. Click [here](#) to download it free.

Perform run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering **a special introductory discount** to all parents of Brookside Primary School if they come along for a free trial session before Tuesday 1st December. To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting **BRKS011226** or book a Free Trial Session online at perform.org.uk/try.

[Perform Bicester](#) is on **Wednesdays at 4.15pm at the** West Bicester Community Centre, Bowmont Square, OX26 2GJ.

Click [here](#) to find other venues in Oxfordshire.



Requests for information from school

We would like to inform parents that should you ask staff to complete forms with information about your child, then we will aim to return these within 15 school days. At some times of the year we receive a considerable number of requests for information and time for the teachers to complete these need to be scheduled. We will continue to aim to return phone calls and emails within 72 hours. If it is deemed that a more immediate response is required, for example if there is a safeguarding concern, then we will respond the same day.

Update from FoBS

🎃 Get Spooky for Christmas – Halloween non-uniform day 23rd October

Hopefully, you should all have received an email with all the details, including your child's year group colour for our Christmas hampers. Posters showing each year group's colour are also displayed on your child's classroom windows, so please do have a look!

🍫 Chocolate Tombola – Non-uniform day 27th November

We will be having a non-uniform day in exchange for chocolate donations for our chocolate tombola for our Brookside Christmas Market on 2nd December! 🧑🏻‍🎄 ✨

🎄 **Volunteers Needed!**

We would absolutely love some extra help on the day of the Christmas Market. Whether you can spare a couple of hours to help set up, run a stall or lend a hand wherever needed, every little bit makes a huge difference!

These events can only happen if we have enough volunteers, and we really want to make this Christmas Market something special for the children and families. If you can help in any way, please get in touch with us. We would be so grateful! ❤️

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a lovely half-term break! FoBs

Instagram: @fobsbrooksidebicester Facebook: @fobsbrooksidebicester

Or email chairoffobs@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

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