



Learning for Life

Brookside Primary School

Newsletter Autumn Term - Issue 3

2nd October 2026

 www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was good to see so many parents and children at the recent book fair. We hope that children are enjoying the books that you bought for them. It is lovely to see children so enthused about reading and getting excited about a new book.

Bletchley Park Visit

Yesterday, children in Year 5 and 6 went on a school trip to Bletchley Park to learn about World War 2. The children experienced a guided tour, learnt about how the Enigma machine worked and took part in a scavenger hunt exploring the world famous site. They took part in a workshop which allowed the children to decipher morse code linked to D-Day. They were also given the incredible opportunity able to touch one of remaining 200 working Enigma machines, inputting a letter of their choice. All the children had a great time and learn lots of new facts about this fascinating period of history.





Healthy lunchboxes

Whether making it before the school run in the morning or the night before, preparing your child's lunchbox can be a chore. School meals are a great choice, but if you do make a packed lunch for your child please try to include a range of healthy options.

Base the main lunchbox item on foods like bread, rice, and pasta. Choose wholegrain where you can. Wraps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for children when they get to make them. Try to include fruit and vegetables in your lunch box. Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat.

Children should not have more than one packet of crisps or one chocolate biscuit in their lunchbox.

Stone Age Workshop

On Wednesday, lower KS2 went back in time and enjoyed a Stone Age Day in school. They were greeted by Bug, their Stone Age leader, who guided them through multiple activities including artifact handling, bone observation, weapon making and cave art. All the children had a great time and really got into the Stone Age time period!



Year 6 residential

Our Year 6 children are getting very excited as they prepare for their residential visit to the beautiful Peak District next week. The trip promises to be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to challenge themselves and have a great time with their

friends.

Thank you to Mrs Cooper, Mrs Taylor and Mr Harrison for giving up their time to accompany the children and make this exciting trip possible. To help families share in the experience, parents will be emailed a link to a secure OneDrive folder where photographs from the week will be uploaded and shared.



Cross Country

Well done to all the children who took part in the Bicester Cross Country competition at The Bicester School last week. Everyone who took part showed great determination and resilience, representing Brookside brilliantly. A special congratulations goes to Ru, who achieved an outstanding 2nd place in the Year 3 and 4 boys' race. This is a fantastic achievement and one to be very proud of. Congratulations to everyone involved.

A message from the Friends of Brookside School (FoBS)

Hi everyone! We thought it was time to introduce ourselves properly. Katie-Rose and Kirsty are our Co-Chairs, and Mel is our Treasurer.

We had such a brilliant end to last year with our Summer Fete, and we're really excited to keep that momentum going! We have lots of exciting ideas for the year ahead, but we would love to have more volunteers join us along the way.

We'll be hosting a **FoBs Coffee Morning** on **Friday 9th October** between **9am-10am** in the Community Room next to Reception and would love to meet as many of you as possible!

Come along for a coffee , a chat and to find out a little more about who we are, what FoBs do and how you can get involved. There will also be a pre-loved uniform sale taking place at the same time!

Can't make it? No problem! We're always happy to hear your ideas, answer any questions or chat about ways you might like to help.

Introducing Our Pre-Loved Uniform Scheme

We're pleased to be introducing a new system for pre-loved school uniform donations and sales, helping families to pass on good-quality uniform while supporting FoBS. To help us manage donations, uniform can only be donated to school on designated collection days. Our first donation day will be: Monday 5th October. Please note that any uniform brought into school outside of the designated donation days cannot be accepted. Our first Pre-Loved Uniform Sale will then take place at the FoBS Coffee Morning.

FoBs is such an important part of our school. Every penny we raise goes straight back into supporting the children — helping to create memories and opportunities, supporting the fantastic ideas our teachers have, and making a difference to school life. And we already have some exciting events coming up for Halloween and an exciting Christmas Market!

Please follow our Facebook and/or Instagram for updates on upcoming events, how to get in touch and ways you can get involved. We'd love to see you there!

Facebook: Friends of Brookside School Bicester-PTA

Instagram: fobsbrooksidebicester

Email: chairoffobs@gmail.com

Footsteps

Oxfordshire County Council offers [Footsteps](#), a free road safety programme for parents and carers of primary-aged children. The programme helps families support safe travel to and from school, as well as during everyday journeys.

Footsteps encourages adults to involve children in thinking about road safety decisions for themselves, helping them to develop the awareness and confidence

they will need as they grow older and become more independent. The programme can be used during everyday journeys, such as walking to school, and requires no special equipment or training. Copies of the booklet to share with children are available in the school entrance hall.

OxPCF Survey

Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum (OxPCF) is inviting parent carers to complete its SEND Survey 2026. The findings will help inform discussions about SEND services across Oxfordshire and provide valuable parent-carer feedback ahead of the upcoming DfE SEND stocktake. The survey closes on 7 October 2026.

[OxPCF Parent Carer SEND Survey 2026 | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

Every response will help ensure that parent carers' experiences are understood and reflected in discussions about SEND services and support across Oxfordshire.

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