



Brookside Primary School

Learning for Life

Newsletter Spring Term 2026 - Issue 1

9th January 2026

www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and the break from school and work. The children have made a good start to the new term and have been enjoying their learning and starting new topics across the curriculum. Today, you will have received a letter from your child's teacher along with a curriculum map. These documents provide essential information about what your child will be learning this term and outline ways you can support their learning at home. We kindly ask that you support your child in completing their homework—especially reading. Regular reading practice is vital for educational success and helps build strong literacy skills that benefit all areas of learning. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child thrive!

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome new staff to Brookside. Miss Daulton, has joined as a Year 3 teacher. On Monday, Miss Byrne will start as a teaching assistant. We are excited to have both new staff on board and know they will be a fantastic addition to our team. Next week, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Mason and Mrs Thorne. We want to thank them both for their hard work and dedication to our school community. A special mention goes to Mrs Thorne, who has been part of Brookside for 30 years.

A message from the School Council

Brookside School Council would like to raise money to purchase additional bins to help keep our playground areas tidy. To support this, we will be holding a second-hand toy sale and are asking for donations of clean, good-quality toys, games, puzzles, and books that children have outgrown. If you are able to donate, please drop items off at the school office or the EYFS by Friday 30th January. Once all donations have been collected, the School Council will organise the toy sale. Further details, including the date of the sale, will be shared soon. Thank you for your continued support -Brookside School Council

Nurturing Programme – Parent Group

Would you like support to help create a calmer, happier family life? Our 10-week Family Links Nurturing Programme offers a friendly, relaxed space to explore parenting challenges, understand children's behaviour and looks at strategies and resources to support your children.

Where: Brookside Primary School, Bucknell Road, Bicester, OX26 2DB When: Tuesdays from 24th February to 19th May 2026 1.00pm for a 1.15pm start, finishing at 2.45pm (No session during the Easter holidays or on 5th May)

This course is for parents of pupils attending Brookside, Launton and Longfields Schools. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Partners are welcome to attend.

To sign up or for more information: email our home school link worker Mrs Swinburn at familylinks@brookside.oxon.sch.uk

Why Routines Matter After the Holidays – looking after your child's mental health

Returning to school after Christmas can feel like a big shift. Routines bring back structure and predictability, helping children manage transitions, reduce anxiety, and rebuild independence. When children feel supported, they're more confident, calm, and ready to thrive—both at school and at home.

Talk, Listen, Reassure

Post-holiday emotions can be mixed. Regular check-ins help children feel heard and valued. Try asking:

"What was something good that happened today?"

"Did anything feel tricky?"

Let them share at their own pace. Behaviour changes - like clinginess, tiredness, or mood swings - are common in January. Patience and connection go a long way.

Get Outside – Even in Winter

Short days and dark mornings can make us want to stay indoors, but fresh air and daylight are powerful mood boosters. A quick walk, a play in the garden, or a trip to the park helps children reset, improves sleep, and supports emotional wellbeing.

Five-Minute Habits That Matter

A morning hug or quick chat

A speedy bag check with praise

A bedtime moment to reflect on the day

A short burst of outdoor time—even 10 minutes counts

Small, consistent actions build strong emotional resilience over time.

Supporting Our Families – Hygiene Bank Available

Our Hygiene Bank is located in the school entrance hall and is available for parents to use whenever the office is open. Please feel free to take any items you need - no questions asked. This service is here to support our families. A huge thank you to Bicester Hygiene Bank for continuing to provide these essential items.

Digital Lives—A parents' guide

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has recently published a new guide, [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#).

'Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play. This guide was written with the direct involvement of children in England. It is a reflection of their views. When I speak to children about what they would do differently when it comes to being online, with the benefit of hindsight, I ask them: would they give a smartphone to their own child? Almost unanimously, they tell me no. They want to be protected from it as long as possible. Children are clear that they value firm, informed and protective boundaries when adults have concerns about the content they are accessing online'.

Diary Dates

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half Term

Friday 27th March - Last day of term

Best wishes,

Mr Cornell and the staff of Brookside

Your School Lunch

Let's Eat
• TOGETHER •

WEEK ONE 3rd November, 24th November, 15th December, 19th January, 9th February, 9th March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Margherita Pizza (Cheese & Tomato) (V, EF) Spinach & Potato Curry (VG) Egg Mayo & Lettuce Bap (V, DF) Sweetcorn & Baked Beans Shortbread (V, EF, DF) & Raisins	Pork Sausages (EF, DF) Veggie Sausage (VG) Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Mashed Potatoes, Carrots & Green Beans & Gravy Chocolate & Mandarin Brownie (V, DF)	Roast Gammon (GF, EF, DF) Vegetarian Quorn Roast (V, GF) Rainbow Rice Salad (VG, GF) Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Curly Cabbage & Peas Cinnamon Cookie (V, EF)	Chicken, Tomato & Pepper Pasta (EF, DF) Pizza Pinwheel (V, EF) with New Potatoes Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Carrots & Sweetcorn Vanilla Sponge Cake (V, DF)	Fish Fingers (DF, EF) Veggie Samosa's (VG) Tuna & Sweetcorn Bap (DF, EF) Chips or Pasta Peas & Baked Beans Vanilla Ice Cream (V, GF, EF) with Peaches

WEEK TWO 10th November, 1st December, 5th January, 26th January, 23rd February, 16th March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Margherita Pizza (Cheese & Tomato) (V, EF) Rustic Tomato Pasta (VG) Cheddar Cheese & Lettuce Bap (V, EF) Sweetcorn & Baked Beans Cherry Biscuit (V, EF)	Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce (GF, DF, EF) Veggie Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce (V, EF, DF) Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Pasta, Vegetable Medley & Broccoli Chocolate Cornflake Cake (V, DF, EF)	Roast Chicken Breast (GF, DF, EF) Vegetarian Quorn Roast (V, GF) Tuna & Sweetcorn Pasta Salad (EF, DF) Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes & Gravy Carrots & Cauliflower Strawberry Jelly (V, GF, DF, EF) with Peaches	BBQ Pork (GF, EF, DF) with Rice Mac 'n' Cheese (V, EF) Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Peas & Green Beans Lemon Drizzle Cake (V, DF)	Chicken Nuggets (EF, DF) Crispy Veggie Dippers (VG) Breaded Salmon Bap with Mayo & Lettuce (EF, DF) French Fries or Pasta Baked Beans or Sweetcorn Shortbread (V, EF, DF) with an

WEEK THREE 17th November, 8th December, 12th January, 2nd January, 2nd March, 23rd March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Margherita Pizza (Cheese & Tomato) (V, EF) Bean & Vegetable Fajitas (VG) Cheddar Cheese & Tomato Pasta Salad (V, EF) Sweetcorn & Carrots Golden Cornflake Cookie (V, EF, DF) with Mandarins	Sausage Plait (DF) Veggie Sausage Roll (V, EF) Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Oven Baked Potato Wedges, Peas & Baked Beans Iced Sprinkle Cake (V, DF)	Roast Loaf of Pork (GF, DF, EF) Vegetarian Quorn Roast (V, GF) Tuna & Cucumber Bap (DF, EF) Roast Potatoes & Yorkshire Pudding with Gravy Savoy Cabbage & Carrots Sultana & Syrup Cookie (V, EF)	Cottage Pie (GF, DF, EF) Veggie Cottage Pie (V, GF, EF) Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Broccoli & Vegetable Medley Melting Moment (V, DF, EF) with Pineapple	Flippin' Dippers (DF, EF) Vegetable Spring Rolls (VG, GF) Cheese & Cucumber Bap (V, EF) Chips or Pasta Peas & Baked Beans Iced Fruit Smoothie (V, GF, EF, DF)

Available Daily – Fresh bread, Salad Bar, and lots of Fresh water, as well as a choice of natural yoghurt, or fresh fruit as an alternative to dessert

Allergy advice – All our food is prepared in a kitchen where any of the 14 Allergens may be present, and our menu descriptions do not include all ingredients. If you have an allergy, please let us know before ordering. Full allergen information is available from your school. Any fish we serve will vary depending on availability.

We only select fish from sustainable sources.

Suitable for vegetarians or vegetarian option available.

Our fish and chicken dishes may contain bones.

VEG
V VEGETARIAN
VG VEGAN

GF
GF GLUTEN FREE
EF EGG FREE
DF DAIRY FREE



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Does your child still need a Flu Vaccination?

We are still vaccinating!



**Follow the QR code / link
to consent for your child and make a
community clinic appointment**

*If you've already filled in the consent form,
please book your appointment using the
reference number that was emailed to you from
school.immunisations@nhs.net when you consented*

**For more information visit
www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms**

Volunteer Opportunity!

Next training course starting soon

- Could you brighten families' lives with your support and reassuring smile?
- Are you looking to gain new skills while making a difference to your community?
- Do you have parenting experience and would like to spend 2-3 hours a week engaging in something meaningful?
- Full training provided and expenses paid.



'Volunteering has been incredible for my own mental health. When you are praising and encouraging another person it's difficult not to recognise your own self worth.'

- Volunteer


**HOME
START**

Applicants will be subject to a DBS check and references will be required.

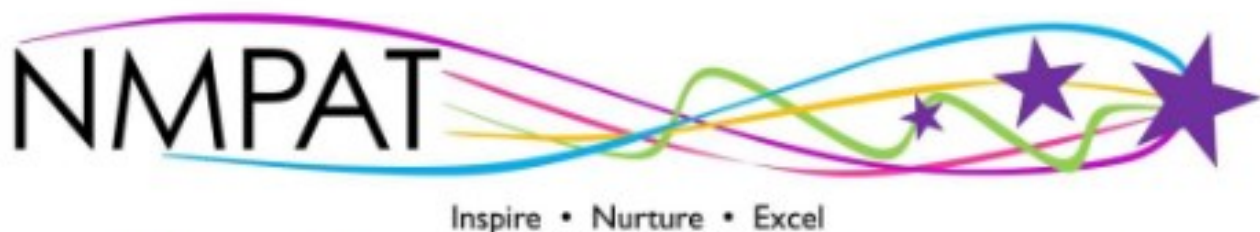
Find out more here



**Banbury, Bicester &
Chipping Norton**

 info@home-startbanbury.org.uk

 01295 266358



Brackley and Cheney Music and Performing Arts Centre

Happy New Year!

Brackley and Cheney Music and Performing Arts Centre will re-open in full on January 10th 2026.

If you would like to register your child/children, please use either of the following links to complete the registration form, or simply bring your child/children along on any Saturday morning during term time to try out the Centre with no obligation.

The first term is also completely free of charge for any new students currently having instrumental lessons with an NMPAT teacher.

Links to the registration form: <https://bit.ly/BrackleyCheney2526>



For more information about the Centre, please contact Janine Mold – Centre Head via email at brackleycheney@NMPAT.co.uk, or visit the website at www.NMPAT.co.uk/brackleycheney.

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust
Brackley and Cheney
Saturday mornings from 9.15am-12.15pm
We look forward to seeing you at
Brackley and Cheney Centre!
We offer a wide range of instrumental groups for all standards, plus art,
drama and Early Years. How about joining one of our Rock Bands?
Find out more and sign up here:
NMPAT Brackley and Cheney Centre
Brackley and Cheney Primary School, NN13 6JF
Centre Head: Janine Mold, brackleycheney@nmpat.co.uk
www.nmpat.co.uk/brackleycheney



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

NMPAT Brackley and Cheney Centre Timetable of groups 2025-26

9:15 - 10.15	10.15 - 11.00	11:00	11.15 - 12.15
Senior Orchestra ■ HALL NP	Junior Orchestra ■ HALL NP	B R E A K	Chamber Ensemble ■ COLONY JH
Junior Strings ■ COLONY JH/JM	Senior Strings ■ COLONY JH/JM		Senior Jazz ■ EVRIE MG
Junior Woodwind & Brass ■ DREY MG	Senior Woodwind & Brass ■ EVRIE MG		Senior Drama ■ CAVE JM
Beginner Woodwind & Brass ■ EVRIE JB	Art ■ AQUARIUM SC		Junior Drama ■ HALL SC
Recorders ■ AQUARIUM SC	Ukulele ■ AVIARY SHu		Percussion ■ NEST BW
Little Stars Musical Mayhem! ■ DEN/LODGE CL/LL	Little Stars Instrument Bonanza ■ DEN/LODGE CL/LL		Little Stars Drama Fayre ■ DEN/LODGE CL/LL
Rock! ■ SETT/WEB/NEST Sha/BW	Rock! ■ SETT/WEB/NEST Sha/BW		Senior Guitar ■ WEB Sha
PIANO/SEND LESSONS - MUSIC ROOM FS			
OFFICE/FIRST AID - RECEPTION SW			



■	No experience required
■	Suitable for beginners up to Grade 3 standard (approx.)
■	Some experience required
■	Grade 3 standard or above (approx.)
■	Reception and Key Stage 1
■	Pre-school

JM	Mrs Mold - Centre Head
JH	Mrs Hubble
MG	Mrs Griffiths
JB	Mr Blake
FS	Mrs Skinner
SC	Mrs Conway
NP	Mr Planas
CL	Mrs Limb
LL	Miss Limb
SHu	Mr Humphries
Sha	Mr Hancock
BW	Mr Wade
SW	Mrs Watton

Do you play...	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Do you play...	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Piano, sing or have no experience of playing an instrument	Recorders Ukulele Beginner Woodwind & Brass*	Art	Junior or Senior Drama Percussion	Guitar (beginner - intermediate)	Recorders Ukulele	Junior Guitar Art	Percussion Junior Drama
	Junior Strings	Junior Orchestra Art	Junior Drama Percussion		Rock!	Rock!	Senior Guitar Percussion Junior or Senior Drama
	Strings (beginner - Grade 2)						
Strings (approx. Grade 3+)	Senior Orchestra	Senior Strings	Chamber Ensemble Percussion Senior Drama	Percussion	Rock! Recorders Ukulele	Rock! Art	Percussion Junior or Senior Drama
Brass (beginner - Grade 2)	Junior Brass	Junior Orchestra Art	Percussion Junior Drama	Ukulele	Ukulele	Art	Percussion Junior or Senior Drama
Brass (approx. Grade 3+)	Senior Orchestra	Senior Woodwind & Brass	Senior Jazz Percussion Senior Drama	Are you...	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
				Pre School (1 session only)	Little Stars Musical Mayhem!		
Woodwind including recorder (beginner - Grade 2)	Junior Woodwind Recorders	Art	Percussion Junior Drama	Reception/Yr1-2 (all 3 sessions)	Little Stars Musical Mayhem!	Little Stars Instrument Bonanza	Little Stars Drama Fayre