Brookside Primary School

Newsletter Autumn Term – Issue 5

6th November 2026

www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk

Learning for Life

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. We hope that you all enjoyed the half-term holiday and the break from school. This half-term is always exciting with lots of Christmas events to look forward to.

School Council

We are delighted to announce our newly elected School Councillors for 2026-2027. Congratulations to all of the children who were successfully voted in by their classmates and will represent their classes over the coming year. Being a School Councillor is an important responsibility, and we know that these children will work hard to share the views of their classmates and help make Brookside even better.

Our elected councillors are:

- BH: Kaashiny, Jake
- TB: Mako, Jasper
- NS: Adelaide, Ted
- EY: Octavia, Beau
- CC/LD: Jasmina, Grayson
- RM/TS: Enid, JJ
- OD/RW: Bobbie, Fatima
- FH: Zayn, Connor
- MT: Maya, Grace



Well done to all of our new School Councillors. We look forward to seeing the positive difference they will make as they represent their classes throughout the year. A special thank you to Mrs Lewis for leading and supporting our School Council. We are excited to see the councillors' ideas and initiatives develop during the year.

Readathon

The sponsored read finished last week. Please can you return any sponsorship forms with the money raised by 14th November. Well done to everyone who took part. We will let you know the individual and class winners soon.

School Games Mark

We are delighted to announce that Brookside has been awarded the Gold School Games Mark, a fantastic achievement that recognises our commitment to high-quality physical education, school sport and opportunities for pupils to lead active lifestyles. This award reflects the enthusiasm and dedication of our children, who have represented the school so positively in a wide range of competitions and sporting events throughout the year.



A special thank you goes to Mr Harrison and Mr Mawn for their commitment to ensuring the highest standards of PE at Brookside. Congratulations to everyone involved. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and look forward to building on this success in the future. Well done, Team Brookside!

Football Report

Brookside took part in their first boys' fixture of the season, travelling to Langford Village. Brookside took the lead just before half time, with a goal from Isaac, to go in 1-0 up at the break. The second half was a close affair with both teams trying to score. The next goal was critical and luckily we managed to go 2-0 up through a stunning goal from Jaxon. As Langford took risks to get a goal back, Brookside completed the victory with a goal from Stanley with the game finishing 3-0. This was an excellent game of football played in good spirits by both teams.

Spooky Story Competition Success

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news from the recent Bicester Town Council Spooky Story Competition. Brookside children achieved an amazing clean sweep,

winning in all three competition categories!
Congratulations to Evie, Reeva and Myah, whose spooky stories impressed the judges and the Mayor, who thoroughly enjoyed reading all of the entries submitted. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects the creativity, imagination and writing talent of our pupils. We are incredibly proud of all the children who entered the competition and represented Brookside so well.
Well done to our three talented authors on this spook-tacular success!

Online Messaging and Chat Apps

We are increasingly aware of concerns relating to online messaging apps and group chats involving our children. While these platforms can provide opportunities for communication, they can also lead to situations where children say things online that they would never say to one another face-to-face. Unfortunately, messages can sometimes be unkind, upsetting or inappropriate, and disagreements can quickly escalate.

We would strongly encourage all parents and carers to regularly check their child's messages, group chats and online activity. Open conversations about respectful communication, kindness and digital responsibility are essential in helping children stay safe online.

Our advice remains unchanged: primary-aged children do not need a smartphone or access to social messaging apps. Many of the difficulties we support children with in school originate from online interactions that take place outside of school. Delaying access to phones and messaging platforms can help protect children from risks they may not yet be ready to manage.

Children In Need - Friday 13th November

A reminder that Children in Need is on Friday 13th November. All children can 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 are also selling Children in Need 'Pudsey' merchandise in school.

Pudsey open and close pin badge - £1Pudsey pen - £1
Pudsey wristbands - £1
Pudsey fluffy keyring - £2.0
Pudsey ears - £3

Poppy Appeal 2026

We are proud to 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.

New School Meal Menu

A reminder that the new menu starts after half term and can be accessed on our website or using this link: School Meal Menu November 2026

Supporting Children's Wellbeing

We know that supporting children's emotional health and wellbeing is more important than ever. We have been asked to share a helpful guide from Oxfordshire County Council Public Health Team, which includes practical advice for parents and carers on promoting positive mental wellbeing, building resilience and knowing where to seek support if concerns arise. The guide also signposts a range of local and national services available to children, young people and families. We encourage all parents and carers to take a few minutes to read this valuable resource. You can access the guide here.

Winter Illnesses

As the weather has not changed we thought it helpful to remind parents of NHS guidelines about common illnesses experienced by children. Please take a moment to look at this website - https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/. We follow NHS guidelines when asking your child to remain off school.

Update from FoBS

🎄 Hi everyone!

That's right, it's that time of year again… CHRISTMAS! 🎅✨

First up, Friday 27th November is Wear Your Own Clothes Day in exchange for a donation of chocolate for our Christmas Chocolate Tombola! All donations will help us get ready for our Christmas Market on 2nd December. Speaking of the market… This year, Friends of Brookside School are organising our VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS MARKET, and we're hoping to make it as festive and magical as possible for all our children and families! ❤️

✨ We're looking for donations! ✨

We're currently on the hunt for outdoor Christmas decorations and lighting to help transform the school playground into a magical winter wonderland! ❄️
If you have any decorations or lights you no longer need, or know of any local businesses or people who might be able to help, please drop us a message.
Any donations, big or small, would be hugely appreciated and will help us create a really special Christmas experience for our school community.

🎄 Can you spare some time to help? 🎄

We're also looking for volunteers who might be available on the day to help with setting up and/or running a stall.

Events like this simply wouldn't be possible without the support of our wonderful parents and carers. Whether you can spare an hour or the whole afternoon, any help would be so greatly appreciated!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Let's make our Brookside Christmas Market one to remember! ❤️🎅

Email~ chairoffobs@gmail.com
Instagram~ fobsbrooksidebicester
Facebook~ Friends of Brookside School Bicester

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 2nd December	FoBS Christmas Market 3:15 p.m.
Tuesday 8th December	KS1 Nativity 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9th December	EYFS Nativity 9:15 a.m. KS1 Nativity 2:00 p.m.
Thursday 17th December	KS2 Carol Concert 1:45 p.m.
Friday 18th December	End of Term

Best wishes,

Mr Cornell and the staff of Brookside Primary School