



Brookside Primary School

Learning for Life

Newsletter Spring Term 2026 - Issue 5

13th March 2026

www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to the Year 3 and 4 performances next week. The children and staff have been working very hard over the last few weeks getting the show ready and the children are very excited to perform in front of an audience.

World Book Day

What a chapter to remember! Last Friday, Brookside was transformed into a living library as pupils and staff pulled out all the stops for World Book Day. From legendary wizards and brave explorers to creatures from our favourite picture books, the hallways were buzzing with literary magic. It was incredible to see the creativity on display, but even more heartening to hear the passionate "book talk" sparked by everyone's costumes. Thank you to all the parents and carers for your amazing efforts in bringing these beloved characters to life. World Book Day helped us celebrate the joy of reading in the most vibrant way possible.

Book Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who visited our recent Scholastic Book Fair. It was wonderful to see so many families browsing the shelves together and sharing in the excitement of discovering new stories. Your support not only helps foster a lifelong love of reading in your children but also directly enriches our school's resources by providing us with rewards to spend on brand new books for our classrooms and library. Thank you for finding the time to visit the fair.

Bicester Poetry Slam

We are incredibly proud to announce that a talented group of pupils will be representing Brookside at the upcoming local Poetry Slam competition with four other Bicester schools. Well done to:

Year 1 and 2: Bella, Beau and Violet from class EY

Year 3 and 4: Ru, Kyran and Yousef from class CC/LD

Year 5 and 6: Leanne, Sami, Maria and Zafira from class MT

These young poets have volunteered their own time at home and during lunch to learn and rehearse a poem, developing their expression and creative delivery. Taking part in such an event is a fantastic way for our pupils to boost their confidence and master the art of public speaking. Please join us in wishing them the very best of luck as they take to the stage to represent Brookside next week.

Class Photographs – Wednesday 18th March

A reminder that the photographer will be here next week to take class photographs. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform on this day.

Parent/Carer Evenings

An email has been sent today for you to book your appointment with your child's class teacher. The meetings will take place after school on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March.

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March 2026

We are looking forward to Red Nose Day next week. Official Red Noses are available to buy in school for £2 whilst stocks last. On Red Nose Day, children may come to school wearing:

Their designed Red Nose

A Red Nose-themed T-shirt

Their nose design pinned on their Brookside sweatshirt/jumper

Or simply something red or funny to make them smile!

We kindly ask for a minimum £1 donation, with all funds supporting Comic Relief's work.



FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Information for Parents

You may have noticed that the school entrance hall has had an update. Please pop in to have a look and see the information leaflets which cover a range of topics, which you may find useful. These leaflets are about support available from Brookside, Oxfordshire County Council and also other agencies.

Hygiene Bank

A reminder that Brookside is working with the Bicester Hygiene Bank to provide support to families. There are a range of products available for children and adults and this can be accessed whilst the school office is open. There are bags available to take hygiene products which you need if you are unable to fund them yourselves. If you would prefer for school to put a bag together for you, then please contact Mrs Ashcroft in the office.

Residents Support Scheme

Oxfordshire County Council has a Residents Support Scheme available for all families living in Oxfordshire. It is a local hardship fund designed to help residents in, or at risk of being in crisis; need immediate help or have no other source of financial support available.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs/residents-support-scheme>

Safeguarding

As the evenings become lighter and more children head to the park after school, it's important to help them stay safe while enjoying the extra daylight. Some children will start to go to the park with their friends by themselves. Encourage your child to stick to well-lit routes, stay with friends, and remain alert by avoiding distractions like headphones. Choosing bright or reflective clothing can make children easier for drivers and cyclists to spot in lower-light conditions. It's also helpful to remind them about basic road-safety habits such as Stop, Look, Listen and Think when crossing. For further guidance on keeping children safe when out and about, you can visit the NSPCC's advice page: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/outside-the-home/>

Foodbank

Brookside works with Bicester Foodbank to provide emergency food for families. Please speak to a member of the school staff who will be able to refer you to the Foodbank for further support, including access to food. The Foodbank staff are trained to support

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue - Footsteps: Helping Children Become Confident, Safe Pedestrians

Footsteps is a practical road-safety programme from Oxfordshire County Council designed to help children learn how to navigate traffic safely by making their own decisions while supported by an adult. Children don't automatically learn pedestrian skills at school or nursery, Footsteps encourages parents and carers to guide children during real-life walks - helping them understand traffic, practise judging safe places to cross, and build independence at their own pace. Families can access a downloadable guide packed with tips, watch short instructional videos, and even try a fun road-safety scavenger hunt together. These resources aim to build children's confidence, support healthy walking habits, and promote safer, greener daily travel. <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fire-and-community-safety/community-safety/safety-and-accident-resources/footsteps>

Printed versions of the booklet can be found in the school entrance hall for parents to access.

Diary Dates

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

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

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

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

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

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

EF EGG FREE
DF DAIRY FREE
GF GLUTEN FREE



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

The **Bounce**
Park
Reading



RIVER ACADEMY
7 RICHFIELD AVE, READING RG1 8EQ

29 TO **12**
MAR APR

WWW.THEBOUNCEPARK.COM/READING



Next Thing

EASTER
2026

The **WOW** Camp

LASER TAG

MINECRAFT

STREET DANCE

ROBOTS

VIRTUAL REALITY

ANIMAL WORKSHOPS

SCIENCE

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play

All in one camp

www.nextthing.education

HMRC
TAX-FREE
CHILDCARE
ACCEPTED

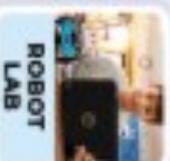
HAF
PLACES
AVAILABLE

EASTER CAMPS 2026

Tech-powered camps,
packed with **WOW** experiences!

Example camp activities

Camps run 9 am - 4 pm



★ NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES ★



Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Blending hands-on tech exploration with unforgettable WOW experiences, we inspire children to invent, create, and discover. Led by DBS-checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids build confidence while diving into exciting activities, challenges, and real skill-building adventures.

AGES 5-11, £45 PER DAY OR £162 FOR 4 DAYS

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!

www.nextthing.education T: 01442 873150

ELITE CAMPS BICESTER



30th March - 10th April



The Bicester School,
OX26 2NS

Elite Activities Include..

-  Laser Tag
-  Nerf Wars
-  Soft Archery
-  Crazy Golf
-  Mini Olympics
-  and much more..

10% Early Bird Code:

EASTER10

Code Expires 15/03/26

BOOK NOW

HAF 
Available


Ofsted
Registered


ELITE CAMPS

CAMP INFO

30th March - 10th April

Timings:

5-13 Years Old

Standard day: 9:00 - 15:30

Extended day: 8:30 - 17:00

4 Years Old

Half day session: 9:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW

-  eliteyouthsports.co.uk
-  info@eliteyouthsports.co.uk
-  01235 415846

Funded Places Available

This camp has limited funded places available through the Holiday Activities and Food scheme (HAF) for children 5-13, on benefits related free school meals. Check your eligibility and register at eequ.org

