



# Brookside Primary School

*Learning for Life*

**Newsletter Autumn Term 2025 - Issue 6**

**21st November 2025**

[www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to the Christmas Bazaar after school on Thursday 27th November. We hope you are able to come and take part in the activities, visit the stalls and enjoy the food and drink on sale. Thank you to all of the member of Friends of Brookside School for their hard work organising and running the event to raise money for every child at Brookside.

## **Oxfordshire Book Awards Visit**

Ten children represented the school at the Oxfordshire Book Awards Ceremony last week at Magdalen College School, Oxford. The children got to meet the authors of all of the winners and runners up. The children were particularly excited to meet Matt Goodfellow, the author of The Final Year which Y6 read every year, and also Ramzee the author of The Cheat Book. Mr Watt and Mrs Conway took the children on the train and then walked through Oxford to Magdalen College School. The children represented the school incredibly well. Thank you to Mrs Conway, who is our school librarian, for organising the trip. We will be judging again for the Oxfordshire Book Awards in 2026, please encourage your child to speak to Mrs Conway about being a judge. If you would like to read any of the Oxfordshire Book Award 2025 winners we have copies in our school library of each book. There is a list of all of the 2025 books later in this newsletter.

## **TT Rockstars Competition**

Well done to all of the children in KS2 who took part in the England Rocks TT Rockstars competition this week. Brookside finished 204th out of 4356 schools, placing us in the top 5% of schools in England. Congratulation to the winning class at Brookside—Class CC/LD. In 3rd place overall was Anmol, 2nd was Kavish and in 1st place Isaac R! Well done everybody!

## **Poppy Art**

Each class recently created a piece of art for a display in the art room as part of our commemoration of Remembrance Day. Thank you to Miss Thomson, our art leader for coordinating this project.



## **Where can science/STEM take you?**

In school, Science Council are creating a display of all the jobs in Oxfordshire which require skills and knowledge based on the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Does your job require knowledge across any of those? If so, it would be great if you could send an email to [science@brookside.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:science@brookside.oxon.sch.uk) with your place of work, job role and little bit about it, so we can add members of our school community. Thank you from the Science Council.

## **KS1 and KS2 Multi-skills**

A group of children took part in The Bicester Schools' multi-skills festival at the Bicester Leisure Centre. The children had the opportunity to develop their agility, balance and coordination through a variety of activities such as speed bounce, bean bag throws and hurdles. The children represented the school brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A fantastic event.

## **Football Report**

Brookside girls' football team took part in their first league match of the season away to Langford Village. The girls started strongly but couldn't take advantage of early pressure and were hit on the counter going down 2-0 at half time. Langford then extended their lead to make it 4-0 against the run of play. The girls continued to try their best and got a deserved goal through Hallie. Final Score: Langford Village 4—Brookside 1. Mr Harrison said that the girls were a pleasure to take and showed great determination, resilience and teamwork.

## **Children in Need 2025**

Thank you for your generous donations for Children in Need last week. We raised £595 in total from the sales of the merchandise and donations for non uniform day.

## **Safeguarding – Group Chats**

We are aware that some children are using messaging apps on phones or tablets. Please read the information below to reflect upon how you can keep your child safe.

### **The Realities of Group Chats**

Group chats may seem harmless, but they can expose children to risks that parents often don't anticipate. These digital spaces can quickly turn into environments where negative behaviours thrive without adult supervision.

Primary school-aged children, who are still developing social and emotional maturity, may find it challenging to navigate the fast-paced and often unfiltered nature of these chats.

Many parents are unaware of what can happen in group chats. Unfortunately, children may encounter:

Unkind behaviour: Teasing, exclusion, and bullying can occur more easily behind a screen.

Inappropriate content: Children may see or share unsuitable language, images, videos, or other harmful material.

Peer pressure: children might feel pressured to join conversations they're uncomfortable with.

Overuse and distraction: Constant notifications can disrupt sleep and family time.

### **How Can Parents Help?**

There are practical steps you can take to educate and monitor your child's use of group chats:

Have open conversations: Talk about kindness, respect, and the impact of words online.

Set boundaries: Create rules around screen time and appropriate online behaviour.

Monitor group chats: Regularly check your child's chats and discuss any concerning messages.

Teach privacy awareness: Encourage your child to think before sharing personal information or images.

Promote reporting: Let them know they can come to you if they feel uncomfortable or witness inappropriate behaviour.

Use parental controls: Utilise built-in tools on devices and apps to limit access and monitor usage.

## **Friends of Brookside School (FoBS) Updates**

### **Christmas Bazaar – Wednesday 27th November**

Join us from 3:30pm for an afternoon of festive fun! There'll be games, stalls, and plenty of Christmas cheer. We're looking for volunteers to help out on the day, so if you can spare a little time — or know someone who might like to run a stall — please get in touch at [chairfofobs@gmail.com](mailto:chairfofobs@gmail.com)

### **Christmas Wreath Making – 4th & 5th December**

Get creative and make your own beautiful Christmas wreath!

Cost: £35 (includes all materials, nibbles, and a festive drink) Arrive at 6:00 p.m. for a 6:30 p.m. start

Spaces are limited, please see link below to secure your spot:

<https://friends-of-brookside-school.sumupstore.com>

Thank you, as always, for your amazing support — these events wouldn't be possible without our wonderful Brookside community.

### **Support in the run up to Christmas**

Should you be concerned about your financial situation in the run up to Christmas, please speak to Mr Watt or Mrs Swinburn (Home School Link Worker) as they can both support you.

They are also able to refer you to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) who are now working with Bicester Food Bank. CAB are able to offer a confidential meeting to ensure you are using money wisely and can also support with Universal Credit applications. This is a new service which is being run by the north and west Oxfordshire Foodbanks and is different to the service offered by Bicester CAB.

We know that Christmas can be a challenging time for some families and therefore please speak to Mrs Ashcroft, Mr Cornell or Mr Watt if you need to access the Foodbank. The Foodbank is available Monday to Saturday for families in need of emergency food. We continue to be able to offer families access to hygiene products such as nappies, shower gel, and toothpaste - please come and collect what you need from the school entrance hall. You are welcome to come at any stage during the day to access this.

### **Diary Dates**

Thursday 27th November 3:30 p.m. - FoBS Christmas Bazaar

Tuesday 9th December 2:00 p.m. - KS1 Christmas Production

Wednesday 10th December 9:15 a.m. - EYFS (Class EC) Christmas Singalong

Wednesday 10th December 2:00 p.m. - KS1 Christmas Production

Thursday 11th December 9:15 a.m. - EYFS (Class VL) Christmas Singalong

Wednesday 17th December 2:15 p.m. - KS2 Carol Concert at St. Edburg's Church

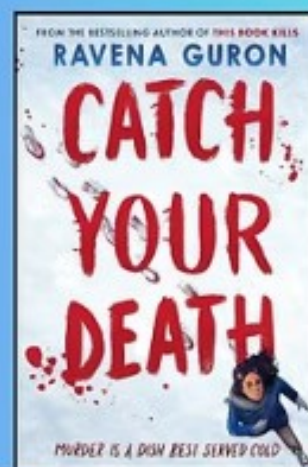
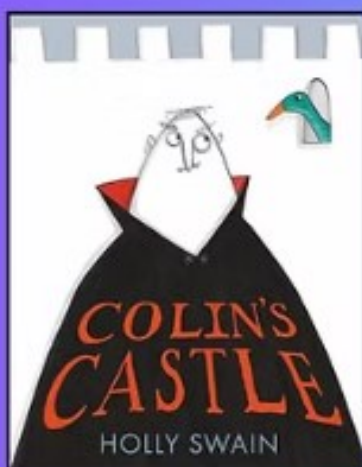
Friday 19th December - Children's Christmas Dinner (children can wear Christmas jumpers on this day) and last day of term

Best wishes,

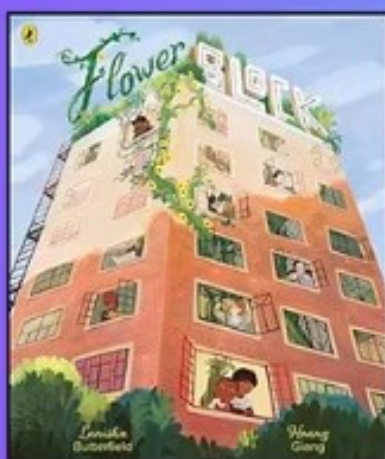
Mr Cornell and the staff of Brookside

# OXFORDSHIRE BOOK AWARDS 2025

**AND THE WINNERS ARE...**



**HIGHLY COMMENDED  
BOOKS ARE ...**





# Your School Lunch

Let's Eat  
• TOGETHER •

## WEEK ONE 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 9<sup>th</sup> March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Margherita Pizza</b> (Cheese & Tomato) (V, EF) Spinach & Potato Curry (VG) Egg Mayo & Lettuce Bap (V, DF)  Sweetcorn & Baked Beans  Shortbread (V, EF, DF) & Raisins	<b>Pork Sausages</b> (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)	<b>Roast Gammon</b> (GF, EF, DF) Vegetarian Quorn Roast (V, GF) Rainbow Rice Salad (VG, GF)  Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Curly Cabbage & Peas  Cinnamon Cookie (V, EF)	<b>Chicken, Tomato &amp; Pepper Pasta</b> (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)	<b>Fish Fingers</b> (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 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 16<sup>th</sup> March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Margherita Pizza</b> (Cheese & Tomato) (V, EF) Rustic Tomato Pasta (VG) Cheddar Cheese & Lettuce Bap (V, EF)  Sweetcorn & Baked Beans  Cherry Biscuit (V, EF)	<b>Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce</b> (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)	<b>Roast Chicken Breast</b> (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	<b>BBQ Pork</b> (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)	<b>Chicken Nuggets</b> (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 17<sup>th</sup> November, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Margherita Pizza</b> (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	<b>Sausage Plait</b> (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)	<b>Roast Loaf of Pork</b> (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)	<b>Cottage Pie</b> (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	<b>Flippin' Dippers</b> (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



# Treasure Island

A traditional family pantomime

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> to Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2026**

Date	Performance Times			Adult (18+)	Child (1-17)
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb			7:30pm	£12	£7
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:30am*	2:30pm		£12	£7
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£8
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£8

**\*Relaxed Performance**  
Thursday  
at 10:30am

In Cooper School Performance Hall, Bicester, OX26 4RS  
Suitable for the whole family to enjoy!

Tickets available from  
**[www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp)**  
(or call 07864 715708 for assistance)

**Family Discounts**  
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all shows!

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for  
tickets!



Book by  
30<sup>th</sup> November  
and use the code  
**EARLYBIRD**  
to save 10%

All profits donated to:  
Dementia Active and  
Dementia Oxfordshire

[www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk](http://www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk)





## Visit us

There is often a regular gardening session all year round on a Wednesday morning, or on other days ad hoc. Whenever the gate is open you are welcome to drop in and join with whoever is there. Tools are provided. We hope the garden can be opened safely year-round for people to just drop in unsupervised for some cultivation or recreation, but for now it is by arrangement and once we know you are keen to come, you will be added to the contacts list and kept in the loop.

There are seats and tables for picnics.

Children are very welcome to come in and interact with the garden so long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult.

We also hope to have the garden open for publicity and fun days, and other events as requested.

*Please be aware there may be uneven surfaces, making it difficult for wheelchair access.*

**Everyone is welcome!**

## CONTACTS

Email:

[grassrootsbicesterag@gmail.com](mailto:grassrootsbicesterag@gmail.com)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3250221528549847>

## How to find us



Please try and leave the car behind, as there is limited parking, but if on foot, access the garden via Piggy Lane or Cemetery Road.

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# Bicester Community Wellbeing Garden



via Cemetery Road  
Bicester  
OX26 6BB



*Early days – a blank canvas*

Access to green space has become increasingly important as more is lost to development and fewer people have their own gardens and live such stressful lives.

The Garden was created in 2018 by Grassroots Bicester at the invitation of OYAP (Oxford Youth Arts Projects) in the grounds of the old St Edburg's School. It serves as a space so members of the community can meet to relax, work, learn and socialise together in nature.

It attracts a wide variety of animals, insects and birds and is the starting point for the Wild Bicester nature walks and the Cherwell Swift Conservation Project summer evening walks.

The sensory features include wind chimes, moving water, the scrunching of gravel underfoot, and the fragrances and textures of the different plants.

## Creating and sustaining green spaces for nature and people

The Garden contains an extensive variety of flowers, fruit, vegetables, trees, and shrubs that provide year-round colour and food sources for nature.



The plants are a mixture of those inherited with the site, ones donated by businesses and individuals, and ones bought or sown on site. The variety is such that there is usually at least one plant in bloom throughout the year and plants are chosen to suit the condition of the site. They are organically raised using home produced compost and liquid plant food made on site using comfrey and nettle. Habitats, water features and paths have been made from reclaimed materials.

## What to see in the garden

- Wild flower meadow
- Raised vegetable beds
- Our resident robin
- Butterflies



The Community Wellbeing Garden has seen a range of visitors over the years:

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers with their leaders have learnt practical gardening skills enabling them to earn badges by weeding, planting, and composting.

Muddy Feet and Homestart have organized family visits for children to learn about playing out in wild places where they can get muddy.

The garden has also provided an exhibition space for Bicester sculptors and a space for quiet worship for the Bicester Quakers.



CHRISTMAS  
2025

TOWN  
CHURCH  
BICESTER

You're invited to...



# Christmas

AT TOWN CHURCH BICESTER.



## CHRISTMAS CRAFT NIGHT

Thursday 4th December, 7:30pm  
Esquires Coffee Shop, 3 Graven Hill Road,  
Bicester, OX25 2DR

Enjoy a relaxed and fun evening making Christmas crafts with nibbles & drinks and hear a short talk on the message of Christmas.

Booking required. 12+ only, under 18s with parental supervision. Suggested donation £5 per head - pay with card on the night.

## CAROLS AT THE PUB

Friday 5th December, 7:30pm  
The Angel Pub, 102 Sheep Street,  
Bicester, OX26 6LP

Join us for a relaxed evening under the marquee at the Angel listening to Christmas Carols and singing a few ourselves, to celebrate Christmas.



## FAMILY CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

Sunday 14th December  
3:30pm start with refreshments served afterwards  
Longfields School, OX26 6QL

Step into the Christmas Story with a family-friendly retelling of the nativity, followed by a fun walkthrough adventure and delicious festive refreshments. Feel free to come dressed as your favourite nativity character!

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 21st December  
3:30pm for a 4pm start with refreshments afterwards  
Longfields School, OX26 6QL

Join us to sing traditional Christmas Carols and hear a short talk about Christmas with festive refreshments and Christmas activities for children.

## CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday 25th December, 10am start until 10:45am  
Longfields School, OX26 6QL

A Christmas Day all age celebration with refreshments on arrival.



For full details and to book tickets go to:  
[townchurchbicester.org.uk/christmas](https://townchurchbicester.org.uk/christmas)

Join us at our Sunday Gatherings every Sunday at Longfields Primary School from 3:30pm from 4th January 2026.

 TOWN  
CHURCH  
BICESTER



# Fully Funded School Support Course

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SMART**

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**Fully  
Funded  
Course**



**[www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online)**

We are looking to fill 150+ School Support vacancies in local schools (e.g. SEN Support, Behaviour Mentors, 1-1 Classroom Support, Cover Supervisors etc). These roles are available in both full time and part time positions.

Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.

This is a 6 week course, full time, intensive course, with online guided learning sessions within school hours.

If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.





TEENS AGED 11-16

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TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY

EST. 2024

# CHRISTMAS

# DATES

## OXFORD &

## CHELTENHAM

SWIPE FOR DATES, TIMES & SIGN UP  
INFO ...







TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY

EST. 2024

# OXFORD

**2<sup>nd</sup> January** - 1:1s available

9-10am

10-11am

12-1pm

1-2pm

2-3pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> January** - CHRISTMAS CAMP

09:00-15:00pm

10-14yrs

£50pp

**SIGN UP LINK IN BIO OR  
EMAIL US!!**

[targetnetballacademy@gmail.com](mailto:targetnetballacademy@gmail.com)

07469196478



**First come first serve basis...**