



Brookside Primary School

Learning for Life

Newsletter Autumn Term 2025 - Issue 4

17th October 2025

www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Next week we will be holding the first parents'/carers' evenings of the academic year at Brookside. This is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's learning and progress with their class teacher. There will also be time for you to see your child's books and look at the work they have completed so far this term. If you have any problems booking an appointment then please contact the school office. We look forward to seeing you next week.

INSET Day

A reminder that Monday 3rd November is an INSET Day so Brookside will be closed to pupils. The children will return to school after half term on Tuesday 4th November.

Year 6 Residential

The children who went to Abernant Lakes in Wales had a great time last week. They enjoyed taking part in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities. Thank you to Mrs Cooper, Mrs Taylor and Mr Harrison for ensuring the children all had an enjoyable week away.

Supporting Remembrance Day – Poppy Appeal

In support of the Royal British Legion and Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11th November 2025, our school will be taking part in the annual Poppy Appeal.

Over the next few weeks, children will have the opportunity to purchase poppy-themed items to help raise money for the Royal British Legion. All donations will go directly towards supporting serving and ex-service personnel and their families.



Healthy Me Week

All children across the school have taken part in Healthy Me Week, exploring ways to look after both their bodies and minds. Children in Key Stage 1 and Year 6 learned about the importance of brushing their teeth twice a day. Year 6 pupils watched a powerful video showing the effects of not brushing for just two days, and discovered that they should now be using adult toothpaste to keep their teeth healthy. Children in KS1 and KS2 also enjoyed a high-energy basketball taster session with Mr Chilongo, a Brookside parent and coach of the Bicester Badgers Basketball Club.

In Reception, children took part in calming mindfulness walks around the school grounds, tuning into the sights and sounds of nature. On Wednesday, the Smokefree Oxon bus visited, and Year 6 explored the impact of smoking and passive smoking on lung health through interactive activities. All children made a dove inspired by Michael Pendry's Les Colombes (The White Doves). These will form a beautiful art installation on display from Friday until the Christmas lights go up – we warmly invite you to visit and view it with your child. On Monday, KS1 and KS2 attended an assembly focused on how to support a friend who may be feeling sad or worried. Please take a moment to talk with your child about what they learned.

We also marked World Mental Health Day with a splash of yellow across the school – thank you to everyone who decorated their own t-shirts, and congratulations to our prize winners!

A big thank you to all our teachers for planning such a thoughtful and engaging week of activities and to Mr Chilongo for running the basketball sessions. The children have had a wonderful time learning how to care for their minds and bodies.

Bicester Badgers Basketball

Mr Chilongo runs an afterschool basketball club on a Wednesday at Brookside.

More details at – [Bicester Badgers](#). If your child wishes to attend the club please contact Mr Chilongo directly.

Safeguarding - Helping Children Use WhatsApp Safely

As children begin to connect with friends online, many turn to messaging apps like WhatsApp. These platforms can support positive social interaction, but they also carry risks that younger users may not fully understand.

WhatsApp is rated for ages 13 and up. If your child is in primary school and using the app, it's important they have close parental supervision and clear guidance. Keep in mind that the age rating doesn't guarantee that the content shared on WhatsApp will be suitable for children. The app does not have moderators reviewing messages, so children may be exposed to inappropriate material.

To support your child's safe use of WhatsApp, explore this detailed [WhatsApp safety guide for parents from Internet Matters](#). It includes practical tips on privacy settings, chat controls, and how to talk to your child about their online activity.

FoBS

A huge thank you to our wonderful Friends of Brookside for organising this year's Halloween Disco! The event was a fantastic success, with children enjoying sessions full of dancing, games, and spooky fun. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of FoBS and all the volunteers, not only did the children have a brilliant time, but the event also raised valuable funds to support our school. Every pound raised will go towards enriching the learning experience for all our pupils.

We're so grateful for the continued support from FoBS and the school community. Events like these wouldn't be possible without you.

New Menu

A new menu starts after half term and will run until March 2026. A copy is attached to this newsletter and can also be found on our website. [Menu November–March](#).

Football Report

Brookside Year 5/6 girls took part in The Bicester School's football tournament. The girls competed in 5-a-side matches against girls from the other schools in the Bicester area. The girls showed great co-operation, determination and resilience and managed to win 4 games finishing 4th out of 8. Special mention to Hallie-Mai and Ellie for top performances with Ruby holding the fort in goal. It would be great to see the girls playing in local football teams. A real pleasure to take them, perhaps a future Lucy Bronze and Alessio Russo in the making. (Mr Harrison)

Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st/Wednesday 22nd October—Parents' evenings
Monday 27th—Friday 31st October—Half Term
Monday 3rd November—INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 27th November—FoBS Christmas Bazaar 3:15 p.m.

Best wishes, Mr Cornell and the staff of Brookside

Your School Lunch

Let's Eat
• TOGETHER •

WEEK ONE 21st April, 12th May, 9th June, 30th June, 21st July, 1st Sept, 22nd Sept, 13th Oct

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Margherita Pizza (Cheese & Tomato) (V, EF) Spinach & Pepper Pasta (VG) Cheddar Cheese & Lettuce Wrap (V, EF) Sweetcorn & Baked Beans Vanilla Sponge Cake (V, DF)	Creamy Garlic Chicken with Pasta (EF) Mac 'n' Cheese (V, EF) Oven Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Carrots & Peas Flapjack (V, EF, DF) & Raisins	Pork Sausages & Gravy (EF) Veggie Sausage & Gravy (VG) Rainbow Pasta Salad (VG) Mashed Potatoes, Curly Cabbage & Green Beans Sultana & Syrup Cookie (V, EF)	Chicken & Leek Pie (EF, DF) with New Potatoes Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry (V, GF, EF) with Rice Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Broccoli & Sweetcorn Strawberry Jelly (V, GF, DF, EF) with Peaches	Fish Fingers (DF, EF) Veggie Samosa's (VG) Cheddar Cheese & Tomato Bap (V, EF) Chips or Pasta Peas & Baked Beans Iced Fruit Smoothie (V, GF, EF, DF)

WEEK TWO 28th April, 19th May, 16th June, 7th July, 8th Sept, 29th Sept, 20th Oct

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Margherita Pizza (Cheese & Tomato) (V, EF) Cheese & Potato Pie (V, GF) Egg Mayo & Lettuce Bap (V, DF) Peas & Baked Beans Shortbread (V, EF, DF) with an Orange Wedge	Beef Bolognese (DF, EF) Veggie Bolognese (V, DF) Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Pasta, Sweetcorn & Broccoli Melting Moment (V, DF, EF) with Pineapple	Roast Chicken Breast (GF, DF, EF) Vegetarian Quorn Roast (V, GF) Breaded Salmon Wrap with Mayo & Lettuce (EF, DF) Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes & Gravy Carrots & Cauliflower Chewy Vanilla Cookie (V, EF)	Sticky BBQ Pork (GF, EF, DF) with Rice Veggie Sausage & Tomato Pasta Bake (V, EF) Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese & Coleslaw (V, GF, EF) Peas & Green Beans Iced Sprinkle Cake (V, DF)	Flipper Dippers (DF, EF) Veggie Nuggets (VG) Tuna & Sweetcorn Wrap (DF, EF) French Fries or Pasta Baked Beans or Sweetcorn Cinnamon Swirl (V, DF, EF) With Peaches

WEEK THREE 5th May, 2nd June, 23rd June, 14th July, 15th Sept, 6th Oct

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Margherita Pizza (Cheese & Tomato) (V, EF) Bean & Vegetable Chilli with Rice (VG, GF) Cheddar Cheese & Cucumber Bap (V, EF) Sweetcorn & Baked Beans Lemon Sponge Cake (V, DF)	Chicken Korma (GF, EF) with Rice Cheese & Red Onion Pinwheel (V, EF) with New Potatoes Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Broccoli & Vegetable Medley Chocolate Cornflake Cake (V, DF, EF)	Roast Loin of Pork (GF, DF, EF) Vegetarian Quorn Roast (V, GF) Tuna & Cucumber Pasta Salad (DF, EF) Roast Potatoes & Yorkshire Pudding with Gravy Savoy Cabbage & Carrots Cranberry & Oat Cookie (V, EF)	British Pork Hotdog (EF) Veggie Burger in a Bun (V, DF, EF) Baked Jacket Potato with Cheese (V, GF, EF) or Baked Beans (VG, GF) Potato Wedges, Sweetcorn & Green Beans Ginger Biscuit (V, EF) with Melon	Fish Fingers (DF, EF) Veggie Sausage Roll (V, EF) Egg Mayo & Lettuce Bap (V, DF) Chips or Pasta Peas & Baked Beans Vanilla Ice Cream (V, GF, EF) with Mandarins

Available daily – Natural yogurt, fresh fruit, fresh bread, salad bar and lots of fresh water!

Allergy advice – all our food is prepared in a kitchen where nuts, gluten and other ingredients are 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.

KEY:
V VEGETARIAN
VG VEGAN

EF EGG FREE
DF DAIRY FREE
GF GLUTEN FREE



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

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	Flippa 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
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VG VEGAN

EF EGG FREE
DF DAIRY FREE
GF GLUTEN FREE



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Free Stop Smoking Support for Oxfordshire Residents

Smokefree Oxon, provided by Solutions4Health and OCC, offers a free and confidential service to help anyone who lives or works in Oxfordshire to quit smoking. Whether you're just thinking about quitting or ready to take the first step, expert support is available to guide you through your journey.

What's on offer:

- ☒ **12 weeks of personalised support** from a specialist stop smoking adviser
- ☒ **Free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT)** and stop smoking medications
- ☒ **Support via phone, text, video chat or face-to-face**
- ☒ **Drop-in clinics** in community settings like GP surgeries and supermarkets
- ☒ **Home visits** for people with mobility issues
- ☒ **Vape starter packs** available through the "Swap to Stop" scheme
- ☒ **Quit with Bella** – a 24/7 AI stop smoking coach
- ☒ **Support for parents, carers and families**

How to get started:

- ☒ Visit: www.smokefreeoxon.co.uk
 - ☒ Call: 0800 772 3673
 - ☒ Text: **QUITOXON** to 66677
- ☒ Email: smokefreeoxon.s4h@nhs.net

You're **three times more likely to quit** with expert help – and it's all **completely free**

Ready? get set, go!

17 October – 2 November 2025

Hello Brookside Primary School

Oxford science and Ideas Festival starts today!

Try out hands-on experiments, come to thought-provoking talks and performances, and meet extraordinary people across the city and beyond

Discover something new at family-friendly interactive zones, in a lunar music concert or during conversations that encompass lego, discovery and Taylor Swift, or the vastness of space.

Most events are free so you can **Pay What You Decide (PWYD)**, visit:

Book now: www.if-oxford.com

**meet scientists
up close**



Explorazone — Hands-on family fun

Try experiments, meet real scientists and engineers and explore a world of discovery.



 **Sat 18 October, 11am–5pm (you pick)**
New Road Church, Bonn Square, OX1 1LQ

ZONE ONE — Hands-on family fun

Visit a new part of Oxford and go on a voyage with Creation Theatre.



 **Fri 24 October, 4–8.30pm (you pick)**
2 Fallowe Street, Oxford North, OX2 5GE

Once Upon a Time in Space

Discover the human story behind journeys to the stars in this captivating book talk.



Tue 28 October 2025, 7.30-8.30pm
Caper Books, Magdalen Road, OX4 1RE



Geology in a Cemetery Near You

Explore the secrets of Oxford's stone in a surprising setting with a geological twist.



Sun 26 October, 11am-12pm
Headington Cemetery, Oxford OX3 9BY



Whose IP Is It Anyway?

A smart, funny night exploring innovation and imagination.



Sun 26 October 2025, 7-8pm
The Bullington, Cowley Road, OX4 1UE



Marin Macecki — Piano Concert

A performance inspired by 17th Century lunar maps and mysteries of the Moon.



Wed 29 October 2025, 7-8pm
University Church, High Street, OX1 4BJ



Download the programme, designed for mobile device (16MB, 80 pages)

[https://if-oxford.com/event/
download-the-2025-programme/](https://if-oxford.com/event/download-the-2025-programme/)



The Festival runs throughout October with hundreds of events across Oxford — from talks and tours to art, comedy, and discovery for all ages. Browse, filter, search and book online now to get planning your Autumn leisure time.

Browse and book Festival events

<https://if-oxford.com/events/>

Join In solo, bring your friends or come along with family

Whether you're new to the Festival or if it's a mainstay of your year, IF Oxford is that familiar safe place to discover something new.

Our Festival is built on the energy of the community — please help spread the word and catalyse someone's curiosity.

Changing the world starts with discussing Ideas

If you're not yet following the Festival on social media, you can subscribe to [@oxford_if](#) to get the latest updates on #IFOx2025 via [Instagram](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Eventbrite](#)

 **Share**  **Comment**  **Like** and create your own posts  

Ideas for a wonderful world, for everyone

We're looking forward to seeing you this October!
Best wishes

IF Oxford Team 

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



The October half term is coming to life in a park near you! Join our Youth Activators for free sports and games.

The sessions are inclusive and suitable for kids aged five and over. They are drop-in, so you can come and go as you like.

WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE FUN

BANBURY

Tuesday 28 October:
11am - 12pm

Chandos Park

Multi Skills

Tuesday 28 October:
1pm - 2pm

Princess Diana Park

Multi Skills

BICESTER

Wednesday 29 October:
11am - 12pm

**West Bicester
Community Centre park**

Multi Skills

Wednesday 29 October:
1pm - 2pm

**East Bicester
Spider Park**

Multi Skills



FREE!



Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

YOU MOVE



**THE BOO CLUE!
HALLOWEEN
TRAIL AT**



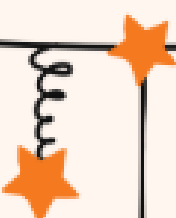
STOWE HOUSE

OCTOBER HALF TERM

DAILY 10.30AM-3.00PM

**INCLUDED IN THE PRICE
OF ADMISSION**

STOWEHOUSE.ORG



once upon a SCREAM



Ghouls, games & giggles at
STOWE HOUSE

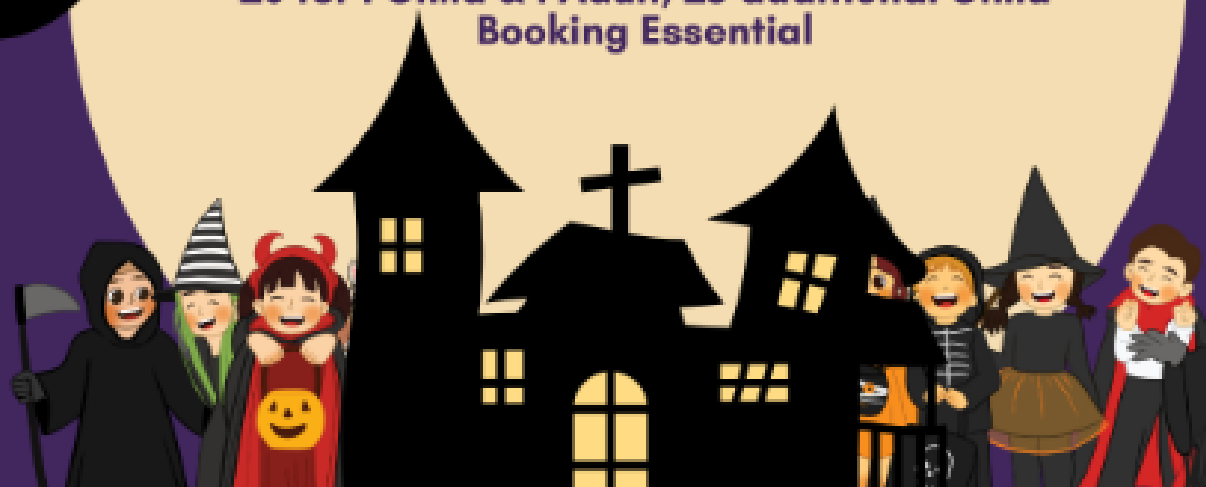
Thursday 30 Oct

3.30–4.30pm (5–7yrs)

6.00–7.30pm (8–12yrs)

Dig out your best Halloween costume and join us for an evening of frightfully good fun! There'll be not-so terrifying tales, games and activities to get you in the spooky mood.

£8 for 1 Child & 1 Adult, £5 additional Child
Booking Essential



STOWE HOUSE

www.stowehouse.org



October Half Term

 **The North Wall**
Arts Centre



*"I learned to
express myself"*

**Ages
8-11**

NW Inventors

Musical Theatre - Sing, Dance, Act!

27 - 29 Oct

9am - 12pm

Join us this October half term to explore fun-filled storytelling and characters as you combine acting with singing and movement for an upbeat, musical workshop that's a 'triple-threat'!

Tickets £60 for 3 half days

Double the Drama, Double the Fun!

SAVE when you
£15 book both
workshops!

Stage Combat

27 - 29 Oct

1pm - 4pm

Dramatic combat is all about angles – find out how to create effective combat moves at a completely safe distance for scenes that pack a punch!

Tickets £60 for 3 half days



*"Really fun and interactive,
highly recommend"*

Book now: thenorthwall.com/type/workshop
Full bursaries available

To Apply: Email Laura on howellsgreenl@thenorthwall.com

FESTIVAL — OF — THE GIRL 2025

Sat 18 / Sun 19
OCTOBER

Business Design Centre,
London

For 7-11 year old girls and their families



Activities and workshops range from:

Engineering to gaming,
Sports to aviation,
Experiments to activism,
Production to sustainability,
Politics to friendships,
Banking to farming and much more.

Although aimed at girls everyone is welcome!

Tickets via our QR code or website
www.festivalofthegirl.com

Pay-what-you-can and SEND options available





Girlguiding
Oxfordshire
county




Rainbows

For ages 4 to 7

Rainbows welcomes all girls to come together to laugh, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space. It's a wonderful world of adventure, week after week, just for her.



Scan the QR code to register your daughter or to Volunteer