



BROOKLANDS BULLETIN

Weekly Reflection

Dear parents and carers,

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming visitors from the Department for Education as well as Olivia Bailey, the recently appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Education to Brooklands. Their focus was on our fantastic Bluebells Nursery and our recently launched Little Bluebells. They were very interested in our teaching approaches, how we work alongside our families and local community and were incredibly complementary of our provision, staff, parents who came to speak with them, and of course, our phenomenal children. It was such a privilege to share our school and the important links we value with our families and local area.

We have also had a wonderful Drama workshop for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children this week; the children had a fantastic session with 'Perform For Schools'.

Our fantastic Friends of Brooklands team got together for their first meeting of the year this week; there are some wonderful events planned (please see their update in this week's Bulletin for more details). If you would like to be a part of Friends of Brooklands, please do let us know and we can share your details with the team- they are a dedicated, friendly and inclusive group who we are so grateful for.

We hope you all have a fantastic weekend,

Best wishes,

Mrs McGrath and Mrs Armstrong

UPCOMING DATES

Year 3 Chromebook meeting

Tuesday 16th September 3:30pm and

Wednesday 17th September 9am

Individual photos 8th October

End of Autumn (i) 17th October

**Secondary School application
deadline-** 31st October

A reminder that the only items that need to come to school are named water bottles, reading records and reading books. If you are in KS2, chrome books need to be brought in daily and charged. Thank you!



Office Reminders



- **Absence** – Please ensure you call the office before 9am if your child will not be in school that day. Alternatively, you can report your child's absence on Studybugs.
- All enrichment club information will be sent out next week.
- Please ensure all contacts, numbers, addresses, medical conditions and medication is up to date.
- All outstanding payment must be paid by Friday 12th September
- Bat Club
- Nursery
- Clubs
- **Punctuality** – Should a child's punctuality be identified as persistent (more than 10%) or a pattern (e.g. late on a particular day of the week), parents will be invited in to meet with leadership and/or the local authority attendance officer to discuss how the school can support the family to improve punctuality for the child.



Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>



Please sign up to our attendance app which is how we now ask parents to inform us of absence; thank you to those who have already signed up. There is also a link to the page along the top of our home page on our website.

Attendance

100

Reception	99.66%
Year 1	99.31%
 Year 2 	100%
Year 3	95.52%
Year 4	95.56%
Year 5	91.45%
Year 6	95.52%

Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school

100%

Perfection

Equates to 2 days off
school each year

99%

Excellent

Equates to 5 days off
school each year

97%

Good

Equates to 10 days off
school each year

95%

Slight Concern

Equates to 20 days off
school each year

90%

Concerned

Equates to 30 days off
school each year

85%

Very Concerned

Reading at Brooklands

We have a wonderful reading culture at Brooklands and celebrate this in lots of ways!

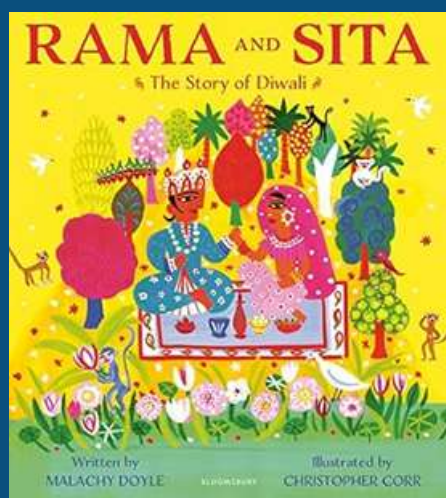


What's your favourite book?

Let your teacher know!

We would love to hear what books and stories you enjoy at home- please email in to share your favourite books, or photos of you reading together at home!

The perfect picture book to introduce children aged 6+ to Rama and Sita and the story of Diwali, with text by award-winning author Malachy Doyle and stunning, colourful illustrations from Christopher Corr.



Rama and Sita live happily in the forest – until Sita is kidnapped by the demon king, Ravana. Can Rama and the monkey king Hanuman follow the trail she has laid for them and save Sita, or will she be lost forever? Whether you're looking for a Diwali gift or a simple introduction to the Diwali story to share with your children, this beautiful book is ideal.

Diwali is one of the most popular festivals in India, and it is celebrated by millions of people around the world every year. Taking place in October or November, the 'Festival of Lights' celebrates the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

ONLINE SAFETY

For Parents – Talking to your Child about Online Safety

It's the area that a lot of parents struggle with yet it is the single most important aspect for any child of any age – continuing conversations with children to mitigate risk, including topics that can be very difficult to approach.

The NSPCC has some wonderful resources for parents including age-appropriate conversations and topics, top tips, quizzes and more. There's a lot of information and my tip would be to send out snippets of information, perhaps in your newsletter. For example you could say that in lessons with the children you've been having some lessons around how to stay safe online (with specific topics), then send out information just related to that topic. Parents are much more likely to read that, which in turn means they're more likely to talk to their children about it.

You can find all the resources listed [HERE](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>



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STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery	All of Nursery for another fantastic week of settling in!
Reception	Elio for making a fantastic start to the new school year. Safiya for always making the right choices and your excellent behaviour for learning.
Year 1	Nile for a fantastic start to Year 1. He has shown great behaviour for learning and settled very well. Ilgaz for a fantastic start to Year 1. He has shown real maturity and resilience. He has settled very well.
Year 2	Wren for always showing that she is ready to learn and contributing on the carpet. Shaka for always trying and persisting with his work.
Year 3	Mina-for always listening carefully, completing her work with effort and enthusiasm, and presenting it with the most amazing handwriting. Gaddiel-for always showing fantastic listening on the carpet and demonstrating brilliant engagement in every lesson.
Year 4	Livia - For settling in so well and engaging with all of the lessons!! Isabel - For pushing herself in every subject and really showing an effort
Year 5	Amirah- For settling into Brooklands and showing an excellent effort across all subjects. Jacob- For always trying his very best and displaying our school value of resilience
Year 6	Cameron - For making a fantastic start to Year 6 and showing excellent effort in both his work and participation in group discussions. Momo - For being a positive role model to everyone in the class and always showing a willingness to help.



GENTLE REMINDERS

A reminder that the gate opens for children and families at 8:30am. This is for families and children to socialise and network as well as giving children plenty of time to be on site in time. The classroom doors and main KS2 door opens at 8:40am and children need to be on site by 8:45am.

Parents on site at the start of the day

Parents are expected to remain on site, with their children, until the classroom doors open. This is for health and safety and safeguarding reasons. If children come to school alone (Years 5 and 6), they are to remain in the Early Years playground to ensure they are in sight of the school staff.

Mobile phones and smart watches

Children who walk to and from school are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school so they are able to inform parents they have arrived safely. However, mobile phones should not be used on site and so children are to take phones and smart watches to the office so they can be kept secure until they can be collected at the end of the day. Having these devices on and accessible during the school day poses a safeguarding risk, which we take very seriously. Please support the school in reminding children to only use their phones once they are off-site. Thank you.

Appropriate clothing for school

We have had a few children coming to school recently in clothing that has not been appropriate for school e.g. costumes, restrictive clothing and loose footwear. We know that being a non-uniform school is a unique feature of Brooklands and we do not wish to prevent children from expressing their individuality. However, please ensure children are dressed in clothing that does not restrict movement and footwear that is secure. We have had a few accidents at playtime recently and this is something we are closely monitoring. We thank you for your support in this matter.

This week at Brooklands...

Nursery	Nursery have had a fantastic week, which was the first for our new children! They have done so well settling into their new classroom, exploring the different activities and beginning to make friends. We enjoyed our first Forest School session which the children thoroughly enjoyed. They demonstrated fantastic independence and curiosity and were so excited to have found a frog! We have shared snack and story time together each morning and afternoon and the children have been so brilliant at listening and joining in with familiar parts of the story. Well done nursery on such a lovely week of playing and learning together!
Reception	This week, Reception have been busy settling into their school routine and have done so seamlessly. They enjoyed their very first Forest School session, which was a huge success, and welcomed a special visitor from a musical theatre group. The children loved taking part in lively movement activities and imaginative play. Phonics lessons have also begun, and the children are starting to explore their first few initial sounds. In Literacy, our focus book was All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold. This wonderful story celebrates diversity, kindness, and the power of community, linking beautifully to our term's topic, "All About Me." It also offered plenty of opportunities for speaking and listening, which was a delight to watch.
Year 1	Year 1 has had a great week and have adjusted to Year 1 routines and learning really well. We are all very proud of them. They have started the Maths and English Curriculum this week. We have been writing sentences about things we can do and also been thinking about using question marks in our writing. This has been based on the book, Head to Toe by Eric Carle. This writing linked to our Science learning where we have been naming and labelling different body parts. In our History lesson this week, we began to explore toys from the past and how they look and are different to toys today. We also had a PE lesson this week and visited Forest School! They have also continued to explore and investigate both inside and outside the classroom through our Busy Learning sessions. It's been a fun packed first full week and the children might need a rest at the weekend.
Year 2	The first full week has been great!! The children have settled in really well to year 2. We are very proud of them. In English we have been looking at the story of Rama and Sita and have explored writing our own stories using noun phrases and past tense verbs. Being able to recall what happens in the story of Rama and Sita. In Maths they have shown a really great start into exploring place value. They have even been exploring this through problem solving. In Geography they enjoyed exploring the 7 continents and the 5 oceans of the world. Even pinpointing these on a world map. In RE they have discussed what symbols are and how they are used. They have also been exploring why light is important in many different religions. They have been doing some great learning this week. All of the children have had a great start back to a new year at school.
Year 3	This week in Year 3 has been full of energy and engagement. The children have shown great focus in following routines and working together as a team. In English, we explored fascinating facts about fossils and practised writing amazing sentences using adverbs, prepositions, and time adverbials. In Maths, the class worked hard on understanding place value up to 100, showing confidence when representing numbers in different ways. Science was especially exciting as we carried out an experiment to test the properties of rocks, investigating permeability, hardness, and texture. An amazing individual this week shone through their enthusiasm, positive attitude, and brilliant contributions across all subjects.



This week at Brooklands...in photos!

Year 4	The first full week back has been brilliant! The children have shown real responsibility for their learning and now have a clear understanding of what lies ahead in this year's curriculum. In Geography, we enjoyed exploring Europe by pinpointing different countries on the map. It was wonderful to hear some children share stories about places they have visited, a lovely way to bring learning to life. In History, we have begun our topic on the downfall of the Roman Empire and why the Romans left Britain. The class is already showing great excitement and curiosity, which is fantastic to see! This week also saw our first swimming lesson, which was a real highlight. I was so impressed by the children's enthusiasm, effort, and confidence in the water. I was so impressed that I think some of the children might be part fish!
Year 5	As part of our topic on the Maya, Year 5 have been writing character descriptions based on our core text, The Chocolate Tree. We have learned what relative clauses and parentheses are, and used them in our descriptions of the Mayan gods from our core text. In mathematics, we have started our topic on place value. The children have managed to write, both in digits and words, numbers up to 1,000,000 and have solved problems involving this. In history, we revisited our prior learning on the Anglo-Saxons in readiness to compare the farming methods employed by the Maya. In Geography, we have been developing our map skills and building on our knowledge by locating all major oceans and continents of the world. We kicked off our science topic this week by looking at our Solar System: the children interpreted data to come to conclusions about the mass, orbit times and number of moons of various planets. Our PE day will be on a Wednesday from next week.
Year 6	This week in Year 6, the children have been using their knowledge from our R.E. topic in English to write detailed fact files about Mecca. They have worked hard to include complex sentence structures, making use of relative clauses, subordinating conjunctions, and semicolons to extend and improve their writing. In Maths, we began our new topic on Place Value. The children have been developing their understanding of numbers up to 10,000,000, with a focus on identifying, reading, and writing large numbers accurately. They have also been working on comparing and ordering numbers and understanding the value of each digit. In History, we revisited our prior learning on the Anglo-Saxons and began to explore the reign of King John in more depth. The children discussed the controversies surrounding his rule and what events led to the creation and signing of the Magna Carta. In Science, Year 6 explored how scientists classify living things using a fun and hands-on activity involving liquorice allsorts. The children practised sorting and grouping the sweets based on observable characteristics such as colour, shape, size, and number of layers. In Art, the children used line drawing to replicate artwork by Henri Rousseau, Pablo Picasso and Charming Baker.





Are you ready for some

BIG NEWS?

The Greenwich Maritime Skills Academy is moving to Hook Lane in October - and it's going to be better than ever!

It's a 10 week course of fun activities for children aged 7-11, every Saturday morning, from 10am-1pm.



We're talking sports, robotics, art and drama - oh, and we haven't told you the best bit yet...

It's completely **FREE!**



Look out for more details and information on how to sign up in September. We can't wait to get started!...

Engineering
Minds





(Brooklands School PTA)

Coffee Morning
Friday 19th September
8:40am, School Hall

Friends of Brooklands

Meet the team



Laura
(Chair)



Jenny
(Treasurer)



Aisling
(Secretary)



Luba
(Social Media)



Sally
(Comms)



Rachael
(Emails)



Katie
(Committee)



Clive
(Committee)



Emma
(Committee)



Laura
(Committee)



Jet
(Comms)

Feedback

We'd love to hear your thoughts about the entrance fee for our Summer & winter fair.



For the chance to win a £20 Amazon voucher, scan the above fill out our survey...

Welcome

Welcome to Brooklands!

A big hello to new families and a warm welcome back to everyone returning.

We're **Friends of Brooklands (the PTA)**—parents and carers who help build our school community and raise funds for essentials and fun extras.

Come to our Welcome Coffee Morning:
Fri 19 Sept, 8:40am, school hall—a relaxed chance to meet and chat.

Also save the date: **Community Social – Fri 3 Oct (details soon).**

Everyone's welcome—we'd love to meet you!

Coming soon...

Look out for our Welcome Pack next week, we'll be sending home a **Friends of Brooklands** welcome pack.

It'll have a bit more about who we are, what we do, how you can get involved (in big or small ways!), and a calendar of events for the year. Whether you've got loads of time, the odd half hour or are looking for alternative ways to support, there's always a way to join in – and we'd love to have you on board.

Let's make it a great year together!

If you want to send us your views, questions or would like to join the committee, please drop us an email **friendsofbrooklands@gmail.com** or ask your class rep.

Apply for Free School Meal eligibility
You'll be helping the school with funding and
may qualify for money for the holidays for
your child too.



What have you got to lose?

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this then the school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. This is in addition to the funding we receive for your child towards meals. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school - which benefits your child's experience of school

Did you know that qualifying parents receive money from Greenwich each school holiday - got to be worth checking if you're eligible too, surely?

To check your eligibility using the checker system linked to local government go to this link:
Entrust
https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/o_fsm/link2ict

How do I check
if my child is
eligible?

Alternatively click on the QR Code
which will take you to the website:



Or provide your NI Number and
your date of birth, along with your
child's details to the admin team
and we'll do it for you!





Greenwich has a critical shortage of foster carers, which is significantly impacting our children's well-being and stability. When local children cannot be placed with Foster Carers near their existing support networks, they face additional emotional challenges. We are reaching out to educational professionals who understand these children's complex needs.

By becoming a foster carer, you can provide a nurturing and safe environment that keeps children connected to their schools, friends, and communities. You can still work and be a foster carer.

Our comprehensive support package includes 24-hour support, excellent training, mentoring, council tax exemption, a generous, competitive financial allowance, support groups, counselling services, the innovative Mockingbird Family Model, The Fostering Network membership, and a calendar of engaging events. Your commitment can change a young person's life trajectory – helping them feel secure, supported, and empowered during critical developmental years.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in speaking with us about starting your fostering journey, please don't hesitate to contact us via:

Email: fostering-recruitment@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Phone: 0800 052 1499





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Brooklands Primary School



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