



BROOKLANDS BULLETIN

Weekly Reflection

Dear parents and carers,

We cannot believe it has come to the end of our first half term together. We have achieved so much, had so many wonderful experiences, trips, visitors, new friends to make, memories to hold dear and learning to build on. It has been an honour to be a part of it and we thank each and every one of our Brooklands community for playing their part in making our school a joy to be a part of.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff team. Every day, they come to work with your child's best interest at the core of every decision they make and are always thinking of how best to support your child to make the progress they are capable of in the safest environment for them. We are confident that you will join us in hoping they all have a wonderful break and come back to Brooklands next half term ready to go again!

If, over the half term, you have any safeguarding concerns, you are able to refer your concerns to the Multi-Agency Support Hub yourselves either by calling 020 8921 3172 or by emailing mash-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk. We will be checking the school email every few days but any communication that is not urgent will be responded to once we return on 3rd November. We hope you all have a restful, regenerative and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back for Autumn (ii)

Best wishes,

Mrs McGrath and Mrs Armstrong

UPCOMING DATES

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

**Back to school: Monday 3rd
November**

**Stay and Play & Little Bluebells
nursery official Launch - Saturday
8th November 9:30-11:30**

**Oxleas NHS Rec & Y6 Height &
Weight checks - Wednesday 19th
November**

We have had some communication from parents in recent days about parking around the local area. We know that the roads around Brooklands can be challenging to park safely and mornings can be a time of rushing and wanting to be on time for school. Please make sure you are parking safely, legally and baring pedestrians in mind. Please make sure that when you are crossing roads, that you are aware that small children may not be seen by drivers and err on the side of caution. It is a tricky issue which takes everyone being mindful and aware to ensure everyone's safety. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

Office

Reminders



- **Absence/ Appointments** - 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. Medical evidence must be provided - info@brooklands-maritime
- Please ensure all contacts at least two), numbers, addresses, medical conditions and medication is up-to-date.
- All outstanding payments must be paid by Friday 24th October
- Bat Club
- Nursery
- Clubs / trips
- **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



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 	96.88%
Year 1	94.14%
Year 2	98.57%
Year 3	96.25%
Year 4	94.29%
Year 5	90.25%
Year 6	94.62%

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?

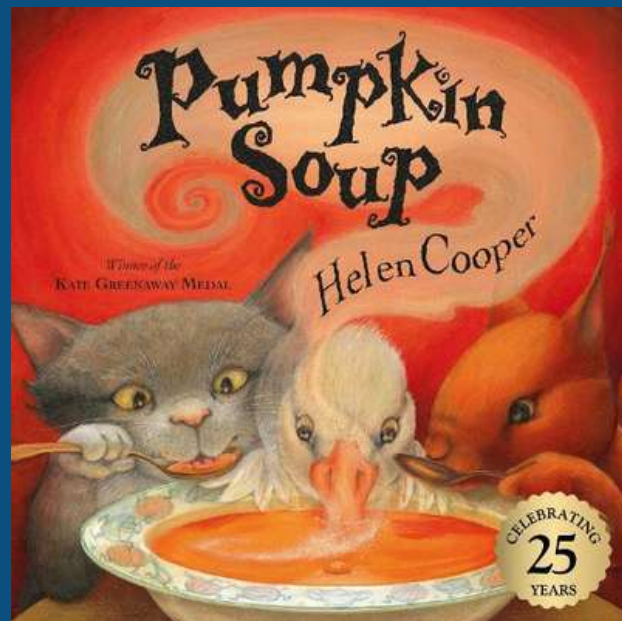
Let your teacher know!

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!



Cat, Duck and Squirrel spend their days making pumpkin soup. Cat slices, Squirrel stirs and Duck adds the salt. But, when Duck decides that he wants to stir the soup, they start to squabble . . .

A beloved, rhythmic story about the importance of sharing, this 25th anniversary edition of Pumpkin Soup belongs in every child's bedroom. Illustrated in autumnal colours, this story is the perfect bedtime read.



ONLINE SAFETY

For Parents – Roblox Age Estimation

As the most popular game in the world Roblox has come under a lot of criticism recently, particularly in regards to predatory activity on the platform. Whilst Roblox has always had fairly good parental controls in place, ages of users has always been a concern, particularly adults pretending to be younger children.

Recently Roblox have announced that they are expanding facial age estimation and ID age verification to all users who access the communication features within Roblox, as well as new systems designed to limit communication between adults and children unless they know each other in the real world.

The word 'limit' has me a little concerned as there is no information on what that actually means, but regardless it's definitely a step in the right direction which I think may parents will welcome. Apparently there have been over 100 safety initiatives since January 2025 on Roblox, I wasn't aware of that, but there is lots of information for parents [HERE](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

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The National College®

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery	Phoebe, for coming back to nursery and settling in with the new children. She is a wonderful friend and role model for the class!
Reception	Nefeli.P, for being a lovely member of Reception and always having a positive attitude towards learning. Santiago, For being engaged and focused in all areas of your learning this week.
Year 1	Sophie for all your hard work and great learning this half term. You have had a great start to Year 1. Well done! Alexander for all your hard work and amazing attitude to learning. You have had a fabulous first half term in Year 1. Well done!
Year 2	Joy, for always persisting with her learning and trying her best. Sebastian, for always showing that he is ready to learn and contributing in class discussions.
Year 3	Rhahumah-has made an amazing start to Year 3! She has settled in beautifully and comes into school each day with a positive attitude and a big smile. Layan- always such a helpful and kind person in class. Her positive character and willingness to support others make her a wonderful role model.
Year 4	Matilda - For showing resilience in her learning Kai - For helping Mr Williams with handing out the books and keeping the classroom tidy
Year 5	Leonel- For a superb explanation text Frankie-Lou- For always displaying resilience and being a great friend
Year 6	Ruby - for her resilience and confidence to share her understanding with others during Maths this week. Tamara - for her resilience and perseverance during a challenging topic in Maths this week.



We are excited to announce that we have been successful in a bid for funding to replace our climbing frame system on the grass area between the Key Stage 1 and 2 playgrounds. We know the children all love this equipment and have been very disappointed that we have had to cordon off the area as parts of the existing structure has begun to fail.

We are delighted to have been successful in this bid and that we can have an exciting new space for the children to play in and around.

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	This week at Brooklands we have spent lots of time in the mud kitchen learning how to use the space and tools safely. We are becoming more independent when putting waterproof trousers on and changing into our welly boots. We really enjoyed using water to make the soil muddy, this helped to make the ground soft so we could dig holes as well! We also learnt about Diwali, and we created rangoli patterns.
Reception	It's been seven weeks of school, and the children have been absolutely brilliant! learning, exploring, and truly becoming part of the Brooklands family. This week, they have continued practising sound blending to help them read simple words and letter formation. In maths, they explored patterns, discovering how they can vary, creating their own, and spotting them in their environment. Our focus story was Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper, a lovely story about friendship, cooperation, and resolving conflicts. It inspired thoughtful discussions as the children talked about similar experiences in their own friendships. To round off the week, the children made their very own pumpkin soup and learned about the Christian festival of Harvest. Which was perfect way to celebrate the season of sharing and thankfulness
Year 1	Year 1 have continued to work hard all week and have had a fabulous first half term. We have begun to make our sock puppets from our designs this week, using different techniques to attach and join materials including some sewing. We are very proud of our finished puppets. In Maths, we have been placing numbers correctly on number lines as well as revisiting and revising our learning from this half term. Our English sessions have been focussed around writing sentences independently using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops when writing about our own and different kinds of houses across the world. During our Science learning this week, we investigated and experimented with sound and made telephones with cups to see how and the distance sound can travel. We hope you all have a well deserved rest during half term and we look forward to seeing you all after a break.
Year 2	Year 2 have had a wonderful last week before the break. They have had the chance to write an explanation text based on the book 'The Tiny Seed'. They have enjoyed learning facts about the process of a plant growing. They have also been extending their knowledge in addition and subtraction learning different methods to add and subtract numbers. In geography they consolidated their knowledge on the surrounding seas of the United Kingdom, labelling these on a map. They had a great music lesson learning to sing a song as a whole class. Another lovely week exploring the outdoors at forest school while consolidating what they have learnt in science this term. In PE they have had the opportunity to further develop their skills in being able to control a ball and passing it to another person. We are so proud of Year 2 this term and we hope you all have a lovely time off.
Year 3	It's been a fantastic week in Year 3! The children have worked incredibly hard on their newspaper reports about Mary Anning, focusing on our success criteria, including the use of direct speech with inverted commas, subordinating conjunctions, and prepositions. In maths, we tackled the challenge of adding and subtracting 1s, 10s, and 100s. Although it was tricky at times, the children showed great perseverance and did not give up! We've also completed our challenge grids in RE, Science, and History, and the class should be very proud of their achievements. In Art, the children had a wonderful time varnishing and painting the fossils they created earlier in the term. I'm very proud of Year 3 this week — their effort, determination, and positive attitude have been amazing! Next term, Year 3 will be starting an exciting DT project where we'll be designing and creating using recycled materials. To help us prepare, we would really appreciate it if the children could bring in clean recyclable items such as: Cardboard boxes and tubes, Plastic bottles and lids, Egg cartons and Small containers or packaging. Please make sure all items are clean and safe to handle before bringing them in. Thank you so much. Have a great half term!

This week at Brooklands...in photos!

Year 4	Wow! Autumn 1 is complete! I honestly don't know where the time has gone! What a term it has been! In our learning we have worked on the Anglo-Saxons History, then going on to write a period adventure story. The children seemed to enjoy this scheme of learning and seemed to be interested in what life would have been like for an Anglo-Saxon person. We also have gone over the Anglo-Saxon King. Next term we will be learning more about the Anglo-Saxon women who were pioneers of their time. I can't wait to get cracking with that in the new year. In Science we have been learning about the states of matter and the water cycle, having just this week also used this learning in our English lessons to write an explanation text, where we have been able to describe the different phases of the water cycle. RE has been a pleasure to teach and it has been lovely to get the whole class involved in group discussions on why peace is so important to all religions. In particular we have spoken about the amazing impact that Martin Luther King Jr and Gandhi had inciting change in a peaceful/non-violent way. This particular topic seemed to strike a chord with the children which was fabulous to see!
Year 5	What a fantastic half term we have had in Year 5! We have certainly made a flying start to our learning this year. In English, we have finished our explanation text on the four Ashramas, or Hindus' stages of life. In maths, we have started our learning on factors and multiples. In Science, History, Geography, RE and PSHE we have consolidated our learning by recapping everything we have learned this term. Keep your eyes peeled for our new topics' learning overviews and knowledge organisers which will be sent home with your child to read over the half term. In PE, we played some small-sided games of tag rugby to put our learned skills into a competitive situation. During Autumn 2, our PE day will also be on a Wednesday. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a restful and happy half-term break.
Year 6	We have had another great week in Year 6. In English, the children have created their own imaginative stories based on the book Journey to the River Sea. It's been wonderful to see both their creativity and their understanding of our success criteria, particularly in their use of semicolons, relative clauses, and subordinating conjunctions. In Maths, our focus has been on long division, a challenging concept that the children have tackled with resilience and growing confidence. They have also demonstrated their understanding by explaining the method to their peers, helping to support both their own and others' learning. In PE this week, the children concluded their cricket unit by putting all the skills they've learned into practice during a game. It was great to see their teamwork, coordination, and understanding of cricket really shine through. In Dance, the children finalised their street dance routines and brought fantastic energy and creativity to their dance battles! We have also continued completing our challenge grids across all wider curriculum subjects this week. This has provided the children with the opportunity to revisit and consolidate key knowledge from their learning this half term.

This week we said a huge 'Thank you!' to Petra who has worked with our youngest children at Brooklands for 22 years! The children made some special momentos, Petra read a lovely story for us all and we regaled our memories of our time together. We have been very lucky to have Petra with us for so long and we wish her lots of happiness in her retirement



Our first **Shared Stories** of the year...thank you to everyone who came along!





It was lovely to see so many at the coffee morning after Shared Stories as well!

This afternoon and evening has seen our Autumn discos, starting in Nursery where they had a delicious snack and a boogie altogether before KS1 and KS2 got down with the beats after school. We cannot thank the staff and Friends of Brooklands team enough for organising and staying to supervise this very popular, well attended and 'lots of fun' event!



LIVING

STREETS

LET'S
WALK TO
SCHOOL

2025/26

WOW the WALK TO SCHOOL challenge

WALK WITH JOY

livingstreets.org.uk/wowlaunch

IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH,
PROTECT THE PLANET,
WALK TO SCHOOL WITH WOW

Get involved on social media: #WALKTOSCHOOL

X @LIVINGSTREETS



LIVINGSTREETSUK



LIVINGSTREETS

LivingStreets(ThePedestrians' Association)isaRegisteredCharityNo.1108448(EnglandandWales)andSC039808(Scotland),
Company LimitedbyGuarantee(England&Wales),CompanyRegistrationNo.5368409.



This poster is produced with vegetable-based inks and made of material from well-managed FSC®-certified forests and from recycled materials.

SHAPE SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN GREENWICH

Big changes are coming to the way families are supported across the country – and here in Royal Greenwich too. Every young person has a story, and yours can help shape the future of support in Royal Greenwich.



The council is asking children and young people to take a short survey and to tell them:

- What's working well for you
- What feels like a struggle
- What kind of support would really make a difference

Your voice will help shape the council's local services through the Families First programme so that services truly support children, young people and families across the borough.



**SCAN THIS
QR CODE TO
HAVE YOUR SAY**

Deadline: 13 October 2025

The Joy of Singing

ENGLISH CHOIR

Now
preparing
the Christmas
programme!

For Adults:

Date: *Every Saturday
starting 25th October*

Time: *12:30 – 14:00*

Location: *Kidbrooke village
Community Hub*

For Children:

Date: *January 2026*

To learn more:
complete the online form:





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_fob

friendsofbrooklands@gmail.com



Friday 10th October 2025

(Brooklands School PTA)

Friends of Brooklands

2025/26 Events Calendar

**We have an exciting year of events planned
to bring our school community together:**

Friday 17th October

Autumn Disco -School hall

*KS1 (Years R-2): 3:30-4:30pm

*KS2 (Years 3-6): 5:00-6:00pm

Friday 5th December

Winter Fair, including Santa's Grotto

School hall, 3:30-6:30pm

Saturday 31st January 2026

Yoga and Sound Bath

School hall, 2-4pm

Friday 6th February

Family Bingo Night

School hall (time TBC)

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day Bake Sale

School playground (time TBC)

Friday 24th April

Spring Disco

School Hall (time TBC)

Saturday 4th July

Summer Fair

At the School (time TBC)

Plus - Wreath Making Workshop

(date to be confirmed)

All events are opportunities for families to connect,
have fun, and support our school -
we'd love to see you there!

**Please note that all events for children are free for
families receiving Pupil Premium.**

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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and you'll raise donations for
Brooklands Primary School



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