



BROOKLANDS BULLETIN

Weekly Reflection

Dear parents and carers,

What a term we have had! Welcoming new children in Reception and in almost every year group, amazing learning, exciting educational visits, interesting visitors, special assemblies, being awarded GOLD for TFL, having a local piece of historically important artwork installed at Brooklands, wonderful PTA events...to name but a few! And at the heart of it all, our wonderful children and families. Brooklands is such a special community and we are so honoured to serve. Our children make us proud every day, following our school values, learning from successes as well as mistakes, making progress, showing enthusiasm in their learning, growing and thriving.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our community for being a part of this success. We appreciate your support and feedback. We hope you all have a restful festive break, are able to spend time with friends and loved ones and we look forward to seeing you all back, happy and healthy, on Monday 5th January at 8:30am.

Whilst we will be monitoring school emails, we are also looking forward to a bit of a break and so responses, unless urgent, will be sent when we return in the new year.

Best wishes,

Mrs McGrath and Mrs Armstrong



UPCOMING DATES

Last day of term Friday 19th
December

Spring term begins Monday 5th
January 2026

Year 2 trip - London Archives
Tuesday 6th January

THANK
YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of Brooklands staff, from BAT club to support staff, premises, admin, catering to cleaners, teachers and volunteers, who go above and beyond every day for your children. Their dedication, conscientiousness and reflective practice is first class and we are so lucky to have them as part of the team. They have worked so very hard, particularly in the last few weeks, to bring a little bit of joy and magic to children and families. We are sure you will join us in wishing them a very restful break- they absolutely deserve it!

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 and **proof of appointments** must be provided – info@brooklands-maritime.org

MCAS – Please provide at least two contact numbers and ensure addresses, Parental consents, medical conditions and medication is up-to-date.

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.

All outstanding payments must be **paid by Friday 19th December**
Bat Club
Nursery
Clubs / trips



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

<https://studybugs.com>



Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health

See what illnesses are going around

Secure system, all communications encrypted

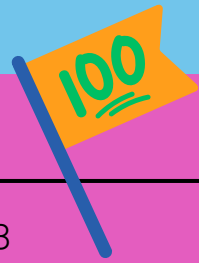


Working in partnership with:



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



Reception	94.38
Year 1	94.14
Year 2	92.78
 Year 3 	97.12
Year 4	96.60
Year 5	93.63
Year 6	91.43

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?

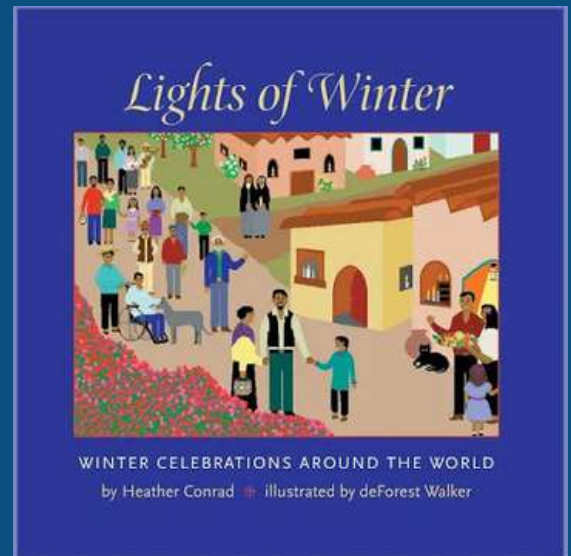
Let your teacher know!

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!



Lights of Winter: Winter Celebrations Around the World

Lights of Winter is a children's picture book about winter celebrations around the world: Solstice, Yule, Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Teng Chieh, Diwali, Soyal, Las Posadas, Zagmuk, Saturnalia. For ages 3-9. Thirteen colour illustrations.



This week, we have focused on making sure every child in KS2 has the correct banded reading book for their fluency and comprehension level.

In Early Years and Ks1, children should bring home a book that is linked to their phonics level. They should be able to read this book to you.

Please encourage your child to read and record a comment in their reading records every day. Research shows that 10-15 minutes of reading every day is one of the biggest influences on a child's life.

School adults will be checking children's reading record books weekly. Please help them to remember to bring their books and reading records to school EVERY day

In EVERY class, children should bring home at least two books- one they can read to you and one they have chosen from their book corner for you to share with them- this will not necessarily be at their reading level, but it is to support a love of reading with their home adults and families. These books can be changed as often as the children like,

ONLINE SAFETY

For Parents – Instagram AI Content PG13

Instagram have come out with their latest 'we prioritise teen safety' feature. This time they have introduced a new way for parents to manage their teens' access to one-on-one chats with AI characters. Teen accounts are now to be guided by PG13 movie ratings, which means that users should only see content that's similar to what they would see in a PG13 movie by default.

AI characters (chatbots) are a significant concern. They were introduced into many apps around 3 years ago and there continues to be reports of multiple failures of so-called safety guardrails with children being exposed to chats, advice and guidance which is entirely age-inappropriate.

The new features:

- Allow parents to turn off their child's access to one-on-one chats with AI characters entirely.
- Allow parents to block specific AI characters.
- Parents will get insights into the topics their children are chatting about with AI characters.

You can find a more in-depth explanation [HERE](#) for the AI chatbots and [HERE](#) for the teen/PG13 accounts.

Stay safe online
Remember the 5 SMART rules when using the internet and mobile phones.

- S SAFE:** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.
- M MEET:** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.
- A ACCEPTING:** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- R RELIABLE:** Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.
- T TELL:** Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Find out more at Childnet's website ...
www.kidsmart.org.uk

Childnet International © 2002-2010 Registered Charity no. 1080173 www.childnet.com

Childnet International KidSMART

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery	All of Nursery for being fantastic learners!
Reception	Charlotte- Always being kind and thoughtful to adults and peers. We will miss you. Alia- for your kindness, curiosity and beautiful imagination
Year 1	All of Year 1 for a fantastic Autumn term and for all their hard work.
Year 2	Jahyan for trying his best to always contribute on the carpet and in class discussions Artie for his amazing newspaper report based on The Great Fire of London
Year 3	All of Year 3 For demonstrating amazing behaviour on our trip. You represented the school brilliantly and made us all very proud.
Year 4	Freya - For how well she has been doing in English, her progression this term has been great to see! Harri - For showing great resilience and focusing on his work extra hard over the last 2 weeks The Whole Class - For a fabulous first full term in Year 4
Year 5	Year 5 have all earned the award for an amazing term!
Year 6	All of year 6 for their confidence and enthusiasm when leading the winter concert.

Powell Stars Ltd distributing foods to the local community



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	We have really enjoyed the last week of the Autumn term. The children have settled into nursery life beautifully and we are really enjoying seeing the progress they have made. This week has been full of festive fun sprinkled with some rain and cold weather! We have explored playing with snow, making Christmas cards and decorations and counting Christmas objects. Next term our learning will be centred around traditional tales and we are looking forward to making porridge, building houses for the 3 little pigs and role playing our favourite stories.
Reception	We have been helping Santa's elf count and check all the gifts for Christmas, practicing writing our numbers and counting skills. We have made our own abstract Christmas trees by cutting and sticking triangles to create our perfect tree. We have been doing cosmic yoga to help with our breathing and movements and enjoying some stories from "The jolly postman" Next term we will be looking at fairy tales and creating our own endings.
Year 1	Year One has had a fantastic last week of the Autumn term. They have enjoyed lots of Christmas activities during Busy Learning time. They have made and written cards to their friends and families, created Christmas decorations, iced and decorated a Christmas biscuit, made paper chains, completed some Christmas maths and problem solving, written questions they might like to ask Santa and watched a Christmas movie with a popcorn treat. They are well ready for a rest and a chance to relax. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.
Year 2	Year 2 have had an amazing last week of the full term. In English they have had the chance to write their newspaper reports based all around The Great Fire of London. These have all been amazing and we are so proud of them. They also drew some amazing pictures for their newspaper reports. In maths they have been ending their topic on addition and subtraction and will be moving onto shape after their well deserved break. In DT they have been continuing their building of the tudor houses; these all look amazing (thank you so much for all of the boxes!). In geography they have continued looking at their local area and have learnt what a physical and human feature is and have even been able to give examples of both of them. They have has an amazing half term and we all hope you have a lovely and restful break, they all deserve it after all the hard work they have done. Miss Sheppard!
Year 3	This week in Year 3, we had an amazing trip to the Cutty Sark. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring a range of ideas linked to landscapes, materials, and design, bringing their learning to life through real-life experiences. I was extremely impressed with Year 3's maturity, excellent behaviour, and enthusiastic involvement throughout the trip — they represented the school brilliantly and should be very proud of themselves. Back in class, in Maths, we focused on the 8 times table, developing fluency and confidence through a range of activities. The children also worked hard to complete sections of their challenge grids, revisiting and consolidating learning from across the term. In DT, Year 3 successfully completed their project by finishing and making their final building designs, showing great creativity, teamwork, and perseverance as they applied the skills they had learnt throughout the unit. As part of the festive season, the children have also been preparing for the KS2 Winter Concert. They worked extremely hard practising their songs and performances, showing commitment, confidence, and teamwork. I am incredibly impressed with their effort and enthusiasm, and they are all very excited to perform and share their hard work. Year 3 have worked so hard this term, and we hope they and their families enjoy a magical Christmas, a well-deserved break, and a very happy New Year.

This week at Brooklands...in photos!

Year 4

As we head into the Christmas break, Year 4 can reflect on a wonderfully productive and engaging term, full of curiosity, hard work, and impressive progress across all areas of learning. In Science, the children have thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in two exciting topics. Their investigations into Sound helped them understand how vibrations travel, how different materials affect what we hear, and how instruments create a range of tones. They also explored States of Matter, carrying out practical experiments to observe how solids, liquids, and gases behave and change, always with plenty of enthusiasm and thoughtful questioning.

In RE, pupils have taken part in meaningful discussions about the importance of peace within various religions, recognising how shared values bring communities together. They have also been introduced to the foundations of Christianity, building their knowledge of key stories, beliefs, and traditions. These lessons have encouraged empathy, reflection, and respect for others.

Geography lessons have taken Year 4 on a tour of Europe, where they learned about different countries, landscapes, cultures, and landmarks. The children especially enjoyed comparing life in various European nations and discovering what makes each one unique. Meanwhile, History has been a real highlight this term, with a deep and captivating dive into the world of the Anglo-Saxons. The class explored who they were, why they settled in Britain, how they lived, and the lasting impact they had on our country. Their curiosity shone through in every lesson, from analysing artefacts to learning about Anglo-Saxon kings, warriors, and everyday life.

It has been a fantastic term filled with energy, teamwork, and a real thirst for learning. Year 4 should be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth and excitement in the new year.

Year 5

This week in Year 5 has been a busy one!

We performed to our parents on Tuesday at the KS2 Winter Concert with incredible gusto.

We have finished our stories this week in English. In History, we considered how the Mayan civilisation has changed to the modern day and completed our challenge grids.

In maths, we consolidated this term's learning by becoming detectives and finding out which one of Santa's elves had disappeared through problem solving in addition and subtraction, Roman numerals and decimals.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Year 5!

Year 6

We have had a great final week of term in Year 6. The children really enjoyed rehearsing and performing their winter concert for their families. We were all impressed with their enthusiasm and their confidence in learning lines and leading the performance.

In English this week, Year 6 finished writing their non-chronological reports on adaptation and evolution. In maths, we concluded our measurement topic by comparing and converting between imperial units of length, volume, and weight. In P.E., the children applied the skills they have learned this half-term in a final hockey game. Finally, Year 6 were excited to catch up with Mrs. Orford, who moved to Yangon, Myanmar over the summer. The children enjoyed asking her questions and hearing all about her new life in Yangon, including the similarities and differences between living there and in the United Kingdom.

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this term and we hope they (and their families) enjoy a well-deserved, restful break and a happy New Year!





(Brooklands School PTA)

Friends of Brooklands

RAFFLE

A huge thank you to the amazing local shops and businesses in our village who so generously donated prizes for our Winter Fair raffle.

15 Grams
Blackheath Halls
Blackheath Conservatoire
CW hair
Cook
Devernois
Ellis Butcher
Madeleines
OneTwoFive
Lark
Pets at Home
Pizza Express
Postmark
Rockpool
Vintners
Butcher Curnow

Please do support these brilliant businesses whenever you can. Thank you for helping make the raffle such a success! 

SAVE THE DATE

★ Something a little different this winter... ★

Our next event is one for rest, relaxation, and a reset after the busy festive season  

Join us for a Yoga & Sound Bath
in the school hall on
Saturday 31st January 2026
 2-4pm

More information and details on how to buy tickets will be coming in January, so keep an eye out!

We can't wait to share this calming afternoon with you 

A HUGE THANK YOU

What an amazing December!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support our Winter Fair and Parent/Carer Wreath Making Workshop.

It was so special to see our school community coming together, getting festive, and enjoying time with one another.

This was the first time we've held the Winter Fair on a Friday after school and what a success it was!

The turnout was fantastic and the atmosphere was full of Christmas cheer.

We're incredibly grateful to our wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to help make both events run so smoothly, and to everyone who came along to join in the fun.

A special shout-out to our brilliant Year 6 children for volunteering to run stalls (you were amazing!) and to the school choir for their beautiful singing, such a festive highlight.

Thanks to your generosity and support, we raised over £2,500, a record!

As a direct result, we were able to fund a visit from a theatre company so all the children could enjoy a pantomime at school, we hope they all enjoyed the experience.

Thank you for helping make these events so memorable 

UPCOMING EVENTS

A full list of events is on the **next page**. You can also keep up to date by following our Instagram page @brooklands_fob



@brooklands_fob

friendsofbrooklands@gmail.com



Friday 19th December 2025

(Brooklands School PTA)

Friends of Brooklands

2026 Events Calendar

**HAPPY
New
Year**

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

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)

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.

Yoga & Sound Bath

Saturday 31 January

Join us for an afternoon of gentle movement & a restorative sound bath. Come along and unwind whilst fundraising for

Friends of Brooklands

Everyone welcome inc. beginners.

2.00-4.00 pm | Saturday 31 January | Brooklands School Hall

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

What to expect: 75 mins of gentle yoga & 45 minutes sound bath. You will be guided by experienced teachers Sarah Hanks & Jo Llewellyn

This is an event for adults in the Brooklands community and beyond.
Please invite your friends and family along too.

What to bring: It is essential to bring your own yoga mat. Wear warm layers inc. jumper and socks. Bring a blanket, cushion and anything else for warmth and comfort during the sound bath.

How to book: email friendsofbrooklands@gmail.com

The standard ticket price for the event is £40 per person. In the spirit of inclusivity & accessibility we are offering tickets on an integrity basis, allowing you to select a price between £25-40 according to your financial means. Please pay what feels right to you. Your honesty helps us continue to make these experiences available to everyone.

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.

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





Shop with your favourite brands
and you'll raise donations for
Brooklands Primary School



TESCO

Etsy

 trainline

M&S

MONEYSUPERMARKET

Booking.com

ASDA

 TUI

 JUST EAT

SCREWFIX