

# parents newsletter



25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents,

It won't be long before the clocks go back and we officially welcome Autumn. Warmer jackets and chunky socks come out of the cupboard as the air turns chilly, mornings glisten with frost and the evenings become darker, not to mention, the appearance of pumpkins and leaves in every corner. A number of families have already got into the Halloween spirit and gone to extra efforts this year decorating their houses for charity. What a great opportunity for our children en route to the Forest to make a difference, with a donation for a good cause.

Brooklands also gets into spooky season with our Halloween Disco. For all of us at Brooklands this is a special time, our children's excitement is palpable with zombies, ghosts, witches, wizards and endless creative costumes. Spooky adventures continue in our library with the addition of some new titles including: The Pumpkin Who was Afraid of the Dark, The Green-Fingered Witch, Peekabo Pumpkin and There's No Such Thing as Ghosts.

Our children will be visiting our Forest School site at Pattles Fen and enjoying autumnal activities from making leaf crowns to baking apples on the fire. Meanwhile, our youngest children will be role playing in their very own pumpkin patch, scooping out pumpkins and roasting them to enjoy eating.

Whatever your plans, this Autumn break, whether it's making scrummy pumpkin soup or pies, trick or treating, pumpkin carving or enjoying a wonderful Autumn walk, I wish you all lovely time.

**Christine Davy**  
Headteacher

## Supporting Neurodiversity

Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner recently published never-before-seen data from the NHS, revealing the "huge waits" children face for a diagnosis and treatment for neurodevelopmental conditions. Children wait on average two years and three months for a diagnosis, with 41% waiting over two years and 17% waiting over four.

One of our school priorities for this academic year is to support staff through training and development needs to further enhance their skills with identifying and supporting neurodiversity within the classroom.

### Speak Out Stay Safe

Over the next few weeks we will be delivering the NSPCC Speak out Stay safe programme through assemblies and face-to-face workshops.

### Odd Socks Day

Anti-Bullying Week will take place from 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November, with the theme: Choose Respect. Odd Socks Day is taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> November, with children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

### Reducing Screen Time

We have recently purchased a collection of Tonieboxes – providing screen-free songs and stories.

## Taking Our Children's Safety Seriously

School-age children are generally at higher risk of being involved in accidents and sustaining injuries. Although many of these injuries are likely to be relatively minor, in some cases a child could sustain a serious or life-threatening injury on school premises.

For this reason, Brooklands invests heavily in face-to-face training of staff with 15 of our staff being first aid trained and of those 7 also having completed a recognised two day paediatric first aid qualification.

### Congratulations To Our New Role Models

Congratulations to Bobbi Mitchell and Oscar Grimwood for being chosen to be Brooklands Heads of School. With their energy and enthusiasm we look forward to seeing them in their new roles.

Congratulations to our new Team Captains across Year 5 and Year 6. We look forward to seeing how you motivate others across the school to succeed.

### Thinking Of Brooklands

Do you have a child starting school in September 2025? If you live in Suffolk (Brantham, East Bergholt) you can already apply through Suffolk County Council. For families living in Essex (Manningtree, Lawford, Mistley) you can apply online through Essex County Council from 4<sup>th</sup> November.