

parents newsletter



12th December 2024

Dear Parents,

Fundraising is often a theme that comes to the fore at Christmas especially as our thoughts turn to others. Increasingly, however, financial pressures on families can also be a strain. We have all seen a rise in expenses, such as energy and Brooklands is no different. At the same time, demands on schools continue to grow. What has happened is that we've found solutions through investigating and applying for funding opportunities in the form of grants to help us.

For those less familiar with grants, these are sums of money given by an organisation for a specific purpose. Usually, there will be an application process for a grant so that the would-be beneficiaries can make a case for why they need the money. There is always a great deal of competition for these small pots of funds and they often require considerable work to meet the application criteria. This said, Brooklands is delighted to have had several recent successes with a number of its grant applications and I thought you might be interested to hear a little bit more about some of them and how we are putting these awards to effective use.

We are extremely grateful to all those organisations who have awarded us funding and extend a huge Brooklands thank you. With their support we have been able to provide opportunities for our children to experience and learn in new and innovative ways as well as developing the schools' facilities in ways that we would not have been able to do without their generosity.

Christine Davy
Headteacher

So Much More Than Relaxation

Brooklands' Sensory Room (and children) have benefited significantly from The Toy Trust's £2500 award which has enabled us to buy items including: weighted animals, interactive wall panels, sensory swings, bubble tubes and tactile flooring.

Additionally, Universal Music UK Sound Foundation have funded us with a further donation towards our Sensory Room to help us purchase musical resources including a guitar wall board and a chimes wall board.

Bringing Science & History to Life

Funded by a £600 award from the Armourers and Brasiers' Gauntlet Trust. Networked (VR) headsets will bring the science curriculum to life in an immersive learning experience.

Our Year 5 children will be experiencing the wonders of Ancient Greece thanks to Virtual Reality workshops funded by a £300 award from the Hellenic Society.

Along The River Stour

With the support of grant funding from the Dedham Vale National Landscape Sustainable Development Fund our Year 4 and Year 5 children recently visited Flatford Mill to take part in river fieldwork along the river Stour.

Support Comes In Many Forms

We have been lucky to secure £1600 funding from The Asda Foundation to provide weekly animal-assisted therapeutic sessions across the Spring and Summer term for selected children with wellbeing and emotional needs.

What Can You See?

Sea-Changers, a marine conservation charity, recently awarded us £400 to support marine wildlife identification. With this funding we have been able to purchase binoculars and wildlife identification guides. Our children will have the opportunity to use these new items during their Beach School sessions at Manningtree and along the Stour estuary.

A National Landscape grant of £650 has also enabled us to fund an additional teacher to complete Wild Beach training.

Snap!

As a result of a further successfully won National Landscape grant our Year 4 children recently took part in an exciting walking photography workshop in the picturesque Constable Country with a photographer.

More To Come

With twenty more applications in process, we are hoping to share more successes with you in 2025.