

# parents newsletter



29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents,

A school may be just a building with classrooms, but it is one of the most memorable and eventful places a person goes through in life. A place where we find friends, people we grow, laugh and cry with. Where we are encouraged to find passions. Where we meet our first teachers. Whether it is from home to nursery, pre-school or childminder, family member to primary school. Each transition brings elements of uncertainty; the evolution of friendships and relationships, different routines, new environments to navigate and for some, from being the oldest in one setting to being the youngest in another. With each of these evolutions also comes excitement and the promise of new beginnings. Here at Brooklands, we have been expertly managing these changes for years and as we prepare our children starting Early Years in September we know that it important to build their confidence and excitement as well as recognising and supporting them to take part in the process.

For our children starting school we plan a number of memorable activities, from afternoons in their new classroom with their new teacher, a family Forest School session, collecting their backpack and receiving letters and cards in the post. All these elements have become a rite of passage for our children over the years and over the coming weeks if you have a child starting school this September take a moment to notice how little their hand was when you held it for the first time. Get ready to hold that hand again as you drop them off at school for the first time and celebrate their next steps.

**Christine Davy**  
Headteacher

## Limited Spaces Still Available

Following the recent expansion of Brooklands, we still have a limited number of spaces for children starting school this September. If you know someone looking for a school place, please ask them to get in touch with the school office.

Our class structure will be as follows for 2025/26:

Early Years	Early Years
Year 1	Year 1
Year 2	Year 3
Year 3/Year 4	Year 4
Year 5	Year 6

We will be notifying families of their child's class next half-term.

## Introducing Rucksacks

Each year children starting school receive a bookbag containing items to support them. Inside you will find several carefully considered surprises including a card from their first teacher to a teddy bear. This year rucksacks will be replacing the old familiar bookbags. These rucksacks also come with water bottle holders.

## A Trip To The Forest

A great way for our new Early Years parents to get to know one another is by attending our family Forest School session on 8<sup>th</sup> June (10.00 -12.00) at Pattles Fenn, Brantham.

## Are You School Ready?

What does my child need to be able to do to be school ready? The "Starting Reception" definition of school readiness provides a list of suggested skills and activities for parents to support their children ahead of starting school. From growing independence, building relationships, physical development, and healthy routines, the list includes skills like using the toilet independently, talking about feelings, using cutlery and much more. To explore further, visit <https://startingreception.co.uk/>

## A Noble Palfrey

Why does Brooklands logo have a horse? Brooklands is located on a hill overlooking the Stour Estuary. The horse in our school logo represents the palfrey horses, which, during the Middle Ages, occupied the land upon which the school is now built. Palfreys were the most expensive and highly-bred type of riding horse.

## Website FAQ's

A recent addition to our website is our FAQ page. Designed to provide answers to common questions, they aim to make the start of school smooth and support you in offering reassurance and guidance on everything from where to buy uniforms to how we handle lunchtime. If you have any further questions, please do get in touch.