

parents newsletter



12th February 2024

Dear Parents,

The American philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, said that 'The only way to have a friend is to be one.' For some of us, making new friends might feel quite natural whilst for others it takes a little work. Regardless of how easy or challenging friendship is for us, friend skills can be learned and developed, and the results are beneficial for us all. Perhaps you have friendships that have lasted the test of time and may well have been formed in your school days. Learning how to make friends is a central developmental task of childhood. Children get many benefits from interacting with their peers and forming friendships. Friends can provide emotional support and security, they can help with feelings of loneliness, and can act as an important buffer against unpleasant experiences. Having good friendships can also help children with self-esteem, confidence, and emotional awareness.

One of the many ways we encourage our children, here at Brooklands, to be good friends is through modelling. Our staff model through their interactions with each other and with visitors to the school – they greet people throughout the day with eye contact and a smile, they reach out to others needing help and support. We encourage our children to reach out and support new children to the school, showing them around and being someone they can play with in their first few days. From celebrating those special moments to improving your health and wellbeing, friendship enriches us.

Christine Davy
Headteacher

Planning Your Diary

Visit our school website for 2024/25 term dates including PD Dates designed to support family planning of holidays and extended weekends. We encourage parents to share with wider family to support term time attendance.

Exciting New Spaces

Brooklands prides itself in being leaders of outdoor learning and places a significant focus in both time and financial investment in our school environment.

Over the Easter break, in readiness for the Summer term, we have in place some exciting plans for outdoor space. We will be installing an all-weather surface in our Early Years outdoor space. The project will also see an enlarged roadway for bikes and trikes as well as new playground markings, installation of a larger sand pit as well as many other new features.

Cooking With The Stars

Brooklands is taking part in a Food Festival this week in partnership the Unity Schools Partnership. Children will be taking part in cook-along workshops, live question and answer sessions as well as live food quizzes. Guest chefs and authors include Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Joe Gaze and Richard Bainbridge.

World Book Day Goes Sustainable

We will next be celebrating World Book Day on 7th March 2024. Our children love to dress up and immerse themselves in their favourite characters and stories. Dressing up helps our children engage with their reading as well as enabling them to express their personal reading choices and share reading recommendations. To support our sustainable efforts, this year, we will be hosting a book swap on World Book Day (7th March 2024) and in the run up to the day, we will also be selling pre-loved costumes.

OMAT Spotlight

Inclusive provision is a strategic focus for the Orwell Multi Academy Trust. The proportion of children who have special educational needs at Brooklands is in line with national figures with the most common type of need for those with SEN support being autistic spectrum disorder and speech, language and communication needs. Over the next few weeks Special educational needs co-ordinators across the OMAT schools will be undertaking peer reviews to inform Trust action plan.

Welcome

We are delighted to extend a big Brooklands' welcome to Jessica Noy who joins Team Brooklands to support our Forest School sessions at Pattles Fen. Jessica has a passion for the countryside and cooking.