

# parents newsletter



17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents,

Parents, in the past, have asked me why we place a strong focus on oracy skills here at Brooklands. The answer to this question has many layers. The ability to express ourselves fluently and clearly through spoken language builds our confidence, strengthens our vocabulary, improves our listening skills, and helps us to structure our thoughts and ideas.

Helping your child to build strong speaking and listening skills supports them in boosting self-esteem and communication in social settings as well as preparing them for the world of work, enhancing their understanding across wider subjects whilst promoting the softer skills such as empathy and respectful dialogue.

Ways to support your child to build their oracy can be wide ranging from opportunities outside of school such as club and community activities, as well as nurturing oracy through fun and engaging activities be it story telling sessions at your local library, taking part in reading groups or author visits where they are encouraged to share ideas and ask questions. Drama classes are fantastic for building confidence, expression, and teamwork through speaking roles and performances. Visiting local museums, heritage sites, or science centres gives children new vocabulary and discussion points. Encouraging your child to ask questions and talk about what they learned afterwards. Spending time in nature allows children to describe what they see, feel, and discover. Team sports build communication, cooperation, whilst listening and music, dance and art clubs often include group discussions, peer feedback, and opportunities to explain choices. There are endless ways to build, and keep building, our oracy skills whatever our age.

**Christine Davy**

Headteacher

## Developments Ahead

For details of our school priorities for the year ahead we have attached a helpful summary of Brooklands' School Development Plan. This year's priorities include technology to enhance learning in all areas of the curriculum as well as weaving technology and oracy through all our subjects.

## Tables With A Difference

Brooklands has recently received grant funding to transform the way our children learn and play through the purchase of three 32" interactive tables. These tables have dynamic touchscreens designed to boost collaboration and are multi-touch with preloaded educational apps including interactive games, puzzles, maths and reading tools to support learning.

## New Adventures For Young Explorers

Our wraparound childcare provider, Brooklands Young Explorer, is soon to renovate its outdoor space. We've been working closely with them over the last few months, enabling them to extend the outdoor space they can offer the children. Recently they've made plans to invest heavily in play equipment to enhance the area. Their plans include a mound tunnel with slide, cycle and scooter track as well as a play boat to support imaginative play and a shelter.

## Farm School

Our recent PD Day linked environment and farming specialists and focused on supporting our teachers to identify farming and food production links within our curriculum. Brooklands is committed to all our children visiting a farm each year, supporting our children's understanding of the food system.

## Zones Of Regulation

Learning Together this term are focused on the Zones of Regulation and we hope the sessions will develop parent understanding of how they can support. The Zones of Regulation aims to teach children strategies to help them to identify their emotions and cope with these feelings so they can get back to feeling calm and ready to learn. These coping strategies are called 'self-regulation'

## 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.