

# parents newsletter



8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents,

The physical location of a school and the community surrounding it plays a pivotal role in shaping the learning experiences we have. From access to resources to cultural exposure.

Located close to the River Stour and the border with Essex. Our school logo is informed by our surroundings - 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. Ten minutes' walk from the school is Pattles Fen, a Woodland Trust woodland, where our children enjoy exciting and memorable Forest school visits whilst a short drive takes us to Manningtree and a small manmade beach on the south bank of the River Stour. Here our youngest children enjoy Beach School visits. Farming also forms an integral aspect of our life in the region and this is also reflected in our commitment to all our children experiencing a farm visit each year as they move through the school from visits to Boxford Farm, a fruit growing farm in Ardleigh to Home Farm, an organic vegetable farm in Nacton.

Over the next few months our children will be working with Colchester and Ipswich Museums to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Suffolk artist, John Constable. In collaboration with Manningtree Museum and Library, our Year 5 children will be taking part in a creative and cultural project entitled 'Culture of Manningtree' learning more about Manningtree's rich cultural past and present through hands-on creative exploration.

If you have ideas and suggestions on further ways we can engage we'd love to hear them.

**Christine Davy**  
Headteacher

## **From Food To Thriving**

Learning Together this term will be farm themed in recognition of the emphasis Brooklands places on the importance of agriculture, the role of farming in delivering food to our tables and the role wildlife and conservation plays in building and maintaining a thriving countryside.

Throughout 2026 our children will be visiting farms in the area. Our Learning Together will connect learning to these visits through a range of activities from making wool felt, producing butter and exploring foods with the LEAF Marque logo, which identifies products produced sustainably and responsibly.

## **How Much?**

Our Year 4 and Year 6 children will soon be taking part in a financial education programme delivered by Money Ready. Workshops will include activities that will allow our children to experience earning, saving and budgeting money for themselves. As well as discussions, in which our children will be supported to know how to prioritise financial needs and wants.

## **Big Garden Birdwatch**

Linked to our owl themed class names this year, we are encouraging families to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Get your note books ready to count the birds you see in your garden for one hour between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## **Safer Internet Day 2026**

Everyone's talking about AI, and with many children hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology. This year's Safer Internet Day will be February 10<sup>th</sup> where we will be celebrating and learning around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. We will be helping our children to use new technology in safe and responsible ways as well as providing parents with advice on how to talk about AI with your child.

## **Bett UK 2026**

Bett is the world's leading EdTech event, bringing together over 30,000 educators, policymakers, EdTech pioneers and industry changemakers. Members of the leadership team will be attending the BETT Conference in London this month to get inspired and spark ideas to keep Brooklands moving forward.