

parents newsletter



12th February 2026

Dear Parents,

February half-term is approaching and many of you will be contemplating going outside to explore outdoor spaces and seasonal activities available locally across Suffolk and Essex. When it's cold and wet outside, venturing out can often seem an uphill challenge but spending time outdoors during the winter months is a simple and effective way to support our wellbeing. Fresh air, movement and daylight can lift our mood, boost energy and help our children feel refreshed and ready for learning. Here are some engaging ideas to consider with your children: Keep their minds full of historical facts and their lungs full of fresh air this half term with a visit to Kentwell Hall, which has its glorious annual snowdrop days taking place from 14th – 22nd February. Baylham House Farm offers daily 'Lambing Live' events where children can watch lambs being born and enjoy a lamb cuddle. Sutton Hoo has a new trail, 'A Story of the Seasons' inspired by the book by Anna Wilson and Carolina Rabei (created with the National Trust). There's Buzzing Bees drop-in activities at RSPB Flatford Wildlife Garden from 14th – 22nd February, including planting bee-friendly seeds. At Fingringhoe Wick it's all about the birds with the Bird Box building day on 16th February, where children can build their very own box. Not overlooking our wonderful local environment that offers so many opportunities to pause, breathe, move and reconnect. By making the most of the outdoor spaces across Suffolk and Essex, families can support their children's wellbeing while staying active and creating meaningful memories together. We look forward to welcoming pupils back after half-term feeling re-energised.

Christine Davy
Headteacher

Chatta Away

We all know how beneficial a good chatta can be but, here at Brooklands, Chatta isn't quite what you might have been thinking. One of our school priorities this academic year is to weave oracy through all areas of the curriculum. Part of our strategy includes the Chatta approach. An interactive audio-visual tool that includes storyboards to support learning, breaking content into smaller, manageable chunks for our children, helping them with vocabulary use and modelled language, providing countless opportunities for oral composition. Teachers have been trained and also seen firsthand, what this new, evidence-informed approach can offer.

Snooze And You'll Miss It!

This February, we're marking Children's Sleep Awareness Month, shining a spotlight on why sleep matters for children and how schools, families and children themselves can take simple steps to improve it. Visit: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/> for guidance and support.

Plan Ahead

Visit our school website for 2026/27 term dates including PD Dates. We share these dates to help support parents and wider family in planning their diaries.

Celebrating Learning Outside The Classroom

Brooklands is proud to hold the Learning Outside the Classroom Mark which recognises our work in learning beyond the classroom. Teachers are visiting other schools nationally with accreditation to they offer children access to enriching experiences that support their learning and well-being.

In The Shade Of The Apple Tree (W.C.Bryant)

As part of our Farm School learning we have been helping our children to learn and understand where their food comes from. We are thrilled to share that we are soon to be planting a small apple orchard. The orchard includes traditional varieties of Bramley, Laxton Superb, James Grieve and Egremont Russet purchased from Barcham Tree Specialists, who previously donated two maple trees now growing in the school woodland following last year's School Farm and Country Fair.

In Appreciation Of Our Volunteers

Many of the amazing achievements at Brooklands have in no small part been helped by the hard work of our parents and volunteers. Your involvement is fundamental to the learning and experiences at Brooklands and makes a huge difference. We would like to encourage any parents interested in offering their time to get in contact with the office.