



Brookland Infant and Nursery School

Enjoyment of learning, achievement for all

Summer 2-May 2024

NEWSLETTER

Forest School News

Whilst Forest School provides an opportunity for tangible hands on learning, regularly reinforcing what the children have been learning in science lessons inside, it also encourages our children be physically active, responsible citizens who care about their natural world. All the while, enjoying all the health and wellbeing benefits of being outside, enjoying nature. This is really important to us at Brookland Infants and allows all children to achieve, and enjoy learning.



It's officially Spring here and Elmwood and our Forest School area is flourishing. Year 2 and Reception have had weekly sessions this half term, and have one more to finish off – Tuesday 16th (Reception) and Friday 19th (year 2). It's been SO wet! Thanks for your continued support cleaning muddy wellies at home and sending children in jackets which can stand the rain. We've put down 3 tonne-bags of mulch on the paths which has helped prevent mud baths!

Year 2 have been working hard, planting the saplings following Brookland Infants successful application to the Woodland Trust, Year 2 have planted over 50 saplings. We've been getting to know our trees – identifying them from their bark and their twigs (this is really hard to do, when the trees have no leaves!) and making clay impressions. We had lots of fun one week learning about worms, wormeries, soil and our new compost bin.

Reception have been recognising lots of patterns and expanding their vocabulary in their sessions this Spring, with beginner tracking skills – following foot prints of woodland animals (and the Gruffalo too!) and learning to identify a range of Spring plants too. We have also been playing like a butterfly too, observing the life cycle of a moth and making wildflower seed bombs to take home. If you haven't already, find a patch of soil, or a plant pot and throw those seeds to grow for the butterflies and bees! What's more, reception are also ensuring there'll be more trees for the future, having planted 30 saplings this Spring. We've been naming plants, our favourites are sticky weed, dandelion and daffodil, we used hammers to make bookmark prints of the Cow Parsley to take home. Stinging Nettles are growing fast, so we are learning to be careful and recognise them as a great habitat.

As a school, we have been coming up with a biodiversity action plan to support children to improve habitats and enhance biodiversity within the school grounds. In practice, all children have been learning to recognise habitats by surveying the grounds and identifying areas for habitat improvements.



Forest School cooking events- Year 1 and Nursery

Each week children at Forest School experience the natural world in a hands on way, whether it be mark making with charcoal from the fire, listening to the Robin singing on a branch or swinging from a rope swing in the tree.

During the next few weeks at Forest School children will have the opportunity to try some foods cooked on the fire.

These include :

- Nettle tea (cooked, nettles have no sting and have many health benefits) with honey.
- Toasted crumpets, for nursery only. Children can have butter and/or jam.
- Marshmallows – year 1 only. We use marshmallows without pork gelatine, or vegan for vegetarians, or baked apple for children who cannot have either.

Please let your class teacher know (Nursery or Year 1) if your child cannot eat any of the above, and we don't already know.

Class photograph day Monday 20th May

This Monday, Sue from Imagination photography will be coming to school to take whole class photographs. Please could we ask that children come to school wearing the correct school uniform.



Photographs will be available for Parents to purchase after half term.

Walk to School Week- 20th May-24th May

As part of our Active Travel policy we are supporting Walk to School Week again this year.

Walking to school makes children feel healthier and happier, while reducing congestion and pollution outside the school gates. So why not swap the car journey to a walk? If you live a distance away, set off a little earlier, park up safely and walk the last 5 minutes to school and enjoy some fresh air.



Holidays during term time

Sadly we are seeing an increasing number of leave of absence requests for parents who are booking family holidays during term time.

Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are very exceptional circumstances. Time out for birthday treats is not an exceptional circumstance.

Please remember:

Children only attend school for 190 days out of 365. This leaves 175 days for holidays. Please support our attendance policy and book your holidays during these 175 days of weekends and school holidays.

Diary Dates

Please note: dates below may be subject to change at short notice

May 2024

Monday 20 th May	Class Photographs
Monday 20 th May-24 th May	Walk to School week

Half Term

Monday 27th -31st May 2024

June 2024

Monday 3 rd June	INSET Day- School Closed
Tuesday 4 th June	Date revised- Reception Trip to Willows Activity Farm
Wednesday 19 th June	Year 2 Trip to Rye Meads

July 2024

Monday 1 st July- 5 th July	Sports Activity Week
Wednesday 3 rd July	Reception Sports Day
Thursday 4 th July	Year 1 and 2 Sports Day
Friday 5 th July	Nursery Sports Day
Wednesday 10 th July	Celebration Evening
Thursday 18 th July	Last session for nursery afternoon Children
Friday 19 th July	End of Term- School closes at 1:30pm