

Brookvale Primary School

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, in my first newsletter of 2025, I would like to wish you all a happy new year and hope that you had a wonderful December break spent with family and friends. I feel now we may have broken through the icy crust of an extremely cold first week back to emerge into a fresh January start.

My first school assembly of 2025 was on the topic of new year's resolutions. Teachers and I shared our goals for the year, and they all centred around doing things to better ourselves and our happiness. Whether it be starting a new hobby or dusting off the cobwebs of an old one, they were all intent on improving our wellbeing. This ethos is something we strive to impart onto the children of Brookvale as well. I am delighted to announce that Brookvale have bought into the fantastic *My Happy Mind* programme, a revolutionary change in our Personal and Social Development curriculum, which seeks to prepare today's children for tomorrow's world by building resilient, balanced and happy minds at school and at home. You can find out more about this excellent programme at myhappymind.org.



To further develop the young minds of Brookvale, I am excited to announce our second Teacher Takeover Day of the school year. An opportunity for our Year 6 pupils to take the reigns of the school, from teaching staff to leaders and site teams, this is always a positive and fulfilling event for the cohort that we truly see as our pupil leaders. So, I will be handing over next week's newsletter item to a budding teacher of the future - I wonder who it will be?



Finally, next week also represents our first major school trip of the year, the annual Brookvale Pantomime event! Oh, no it isn't - Oh, yes it is! Plus, for all those children not attending, Mrs Carlill will be providing an exciting Movie Afternoon, complete with ice lollies - a great experience for all of our pupils!

Thank you for your continued support
Mr Mills

Weekly Attendance



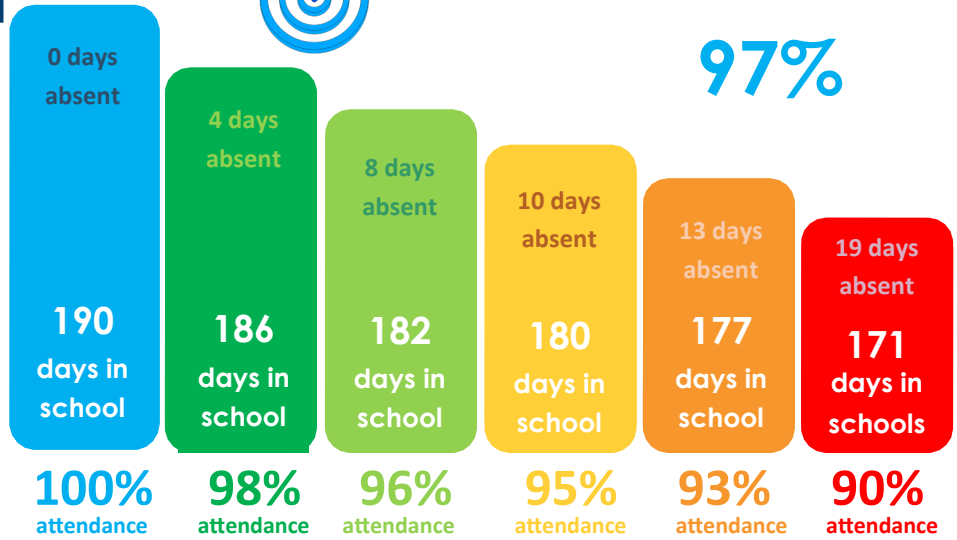
13/01/2025 to 17/01/2025

Reception	97.05%
Year 1	91.91%
🎉 Year 2 🌟	100%
🌟 Year 3	99.63%
🌟 Year 4	98.16%
Year 5	97.42%
Year 6	97.86%



Our School Attendance Target is

97%



Best chance of academic success and in later life.

Poor attendance—less likely to succeed academically/in later life.

Serious impact on education and reduced life chances

This week's Class Attendance Superstars



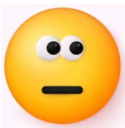
You get extra playtime!

Attendance This Week

97.49%



Attendance Year-to-Date



96.08%

This week's 100% attendance Winners:



Niamh Y1
and
Mohamed Y4



You each win a new book.

Great Job!

175 days off school per year.

Use this time for holidays, appointments etc

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Parental Safeguarding

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES



According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING



TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS



With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING



Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS



If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING



If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS



If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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Family Support

Morning Meet
Monday 20th January
9.30am - 11.30am

Our Place Community Hub
Farthing Lane, Sutton Coldfield
B72 1RN

SEND parents/carers come and join us for a coffee and chat

For more details or to book a place visit <https://www.growfamilyservices.org/morningmeets>

Dads' Group
Wednesday 22 January
7pm-9pm Four Oaks Methodist Church, Lichfield Road, B74 2UU

Join us for a night of discussion and peer support with guest speaker Al Coates

Al is a parent to six adopted children, a former foster carer, NVR practitioner and social worker with lived experience of the challenges and impact of living with children with complex needs, SEN and early adversity.

For more details or to book a place visit www.growfamilyservices.org/dadsgroup

SENlegal
Thursday 23 January
7pm - 9pm

ONLINE

Join us for a presentation on the EHCP process and Q&A session

SEN Legal has been operating for over 20 years specialising in education law, in particular Special Educational Needs and Disability for children and young persons aged 0-25.

To book a place please visit <https://www.growfamilyservices.org/eveningtalks>

Morning Meet
Monday 27th January
9.30am - 11.30am
Featherstone Children's Centre
Highcroft Road
B23 6AU

STICK Team - Forward Thinking's Early Intervention Service for Mental Health will be attending to offer an overview of the service and strategies to help your child

For more details or to book a place visit <https://www.growfamilyservices.org/morningmeets>

SLEEP WORKSHOP
Monday 10 February 2025
10am - 2pm

Four Oaks Methodist Church,
155 Lichfield Road
Sutton Coldfield, B74 2UU
Opposite Four Oaks Train Station

Come and join us for a workshop on SLEEP delivered by Cerebra. This workshop is designed to help families understand and manage sleep difficulties in children. This workshop is led by a Sleep Practitioner and covers practical strategies for improving children's sleep.

To book a place please visit <https://www.growfamilyservices.org> or <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/grow-family-services/t-lingxnm>

Come along and meet Dawn, Wendy and Jo from the Communication and Autism Team (CAT). This is an opportunity for you to meet other parent carers with autistic children, or children who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

- For parent carers of children / young people of all ages
- Find out a bit more about autism
- Ask questions
- Have some time to reflect and share ideas and experiences

The session will be held at: Date and Time: Lakeside Children's Centre Friday 7th February 2025 9.30-11.30am
(Please note there are no childcare facilities at the venue.)

If you have any questions, please contact the email below:
Joanne.clifford@birmingham.gov.uk

Just turn up on the day - there is no need to book. We look forward to seeing you there!
Dawn Fisher, Wendy Peel and Jo Clifford

Walk and Talk in Sutton park
For Parents/Carers of children with SEND

Grow Family Services

Details:

- Every Friday starting 17th January 2025
- 10am - 11am
- Meeting point Visitor Centre - Towngate

No need to book just come along

www.growfamilyservices.org

In association with

Erdington Family Hub at Lakeside Children's Centre

Activity Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<p>KIDS West Midlands Referral Only 10:00am-11.30am</p> <p>Foodcycle 3:30am - 5:00pm *Bookable slots* Free 3 course meal for the whole family.</p>	<p>Breastfeeding Support Group 10:00am-11:30am Run by Birmingham Breastfeeding Network</p> <p>Stepping Stones Referral only 1:00-2:30pm Stay and play session for children with additional needs, diagnosed or undiagnosed</p> <p>Urban Devotion Youth Services 3:00pm-6:00pm *Call 0121 350 9370 for more information*</p>	<p>VITAMIN DROPS AND TABLETS AVAILABLE HERE!</p> <p>They are absolutely free and are available from all our centres</p> <p>You can see if you are eligible for the healthy start vouchers here: www.healthystart.nhs.uk</p>	<p>BCC Housing Surgery 10:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p>Are you living in a Birmingham City Council Property and need support with housing? Please pop into Lakeside to speak to a housing officer.</p> <p>Duty</p> <p>There is a worker on duty daily to help with any queries or support you and your family may need. All you need to do is call us on: 0121 752 1970</p> <p>This is for any families with children aged 0-19 or 25 with SEND.</p>	<p>Play and Learn 1:15pm - 2.45pm Come and join us for some family fun for children ages 0-5 years.</p> <p>PAUSE Drop In For more information and times please check the following website weekly: forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause</p> <p>Free Women Only Exercise 1:30pm - 2:30pm Limited Spaces Call 0121 752 1970 to book</p> <p>Free Children's Boxercise 3:30pm - 4:30pm Age 7—11 years Limited Spaces Call 0121 752 1970 to book</p>	<p>Lakeside Children's Centre Lakes Road, B23 7UH (B23 7LY if using a satnav) 0121 752 1970</p> <p>We are open Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm</p> <p>Other activities and services available at our centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 Family Support: Do you need some advice and support? Call your nearest centre to book an appointment with one of our Family Support Workers. • Domestic Abuse support • Infant feeding support • Bookstart • Wellcomm screening • Home safety assessments

ErdingtonChildren'sCentres

In the news



SCHOOL FUND

Thank you to the parents who have already paid School Fund, your support is invaluable.

So far £590 has been raised out of a possible £2110.00

At Brookvale Primary School we wish to give our children the best opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of experiences both academic and social.

Every year we ask for a voluntary contribution of £10 per child to cover curriculum enrichment (Due to the constant cuts to school funding, schools are no longer able to provide curriculum enrichment) throughout the school year.

Last year SCHOOL FUND was used for:

- Prizes
- Class Parties
- Carol Concert and Summer Concert
- Gifts for children
- Art week resources
- Cooking in school
- Additional resources for topic work
- Workshops and Clubs

Again, we have plans this year to create enjoyable experiences for children and families. Unfortunately, without the support of your donations, we will be unable to meet our ambition of providing memorable experiences for the children for this academic year.

To make a contribution please log onto your MCAS and Clubs, if you need support with this please call the school office.

Please sign up and support Brookvale

You can support Brookvale Primary School every time you shop online? We've partnered with easyfundraising – an amazing platform that lets you raise free donations with every purchase you make.

With over 8000 participating retailers, you can do everything from your Christmas food shop at Tesco, to booking holiday plans with Booking.com, ordering festive takeaways with JUSTEAT, and more!

Here's a special bonus: for the next two weeks, every supporter who signs up to support Brookvale Primary School through easyfundraising will trigger a ****£1 bonus donation**** for us!

It only takes a few minutes to join and help us make a difference! Sign up here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brookvale-primary-school/>



As a reminder to all parents and carers,



Mallard Drive is CLOSED
to non-resident vehicles between;

8:15am – 9:00am
3:00pm – 3:45pm

During the restricted times, driving in the zone is a moving traffic offence, with the Police as the enforcing body. They are able to issue a £50 fixed penalty fine to anyone caught driving in the zone without permission when this restriction is in place.

Brookvale Foodbank

All families

are welcome to visit the Brookvale Foodbank
every Friday 3pm – 3.25pm

Please bring your own carrier bags.

If you need further support please contact the
school office

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Fundraising



Class currently in the lead to win a Movie afternoon is

Y2

Rec	0 bags	
Year 1	0 bags	
Year 2	11 bags	
Year 3	0 bags	
Year 4	5 bags	
Year 5	0 bags	
Year 6	0 bags	

Please send all donations in to class

Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

WE ACCEPT CLEAN, GOOD QUALITY, DRY, REUSABLE CLOTHING

- Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing
- Jewellery and Accessories
- Paired Shoes and Footwear
- Belts and Handbags

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website
www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk



WE DO NOT ACCEPT

POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED CLOTHES. PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS, BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM

Please use the clothing bag provided.
You can also use any additional bag if required.

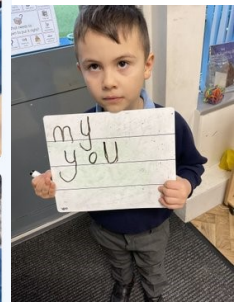
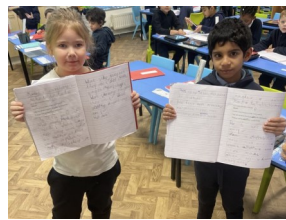
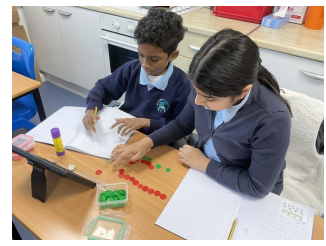
Collection Date:

Monday 3rd February 2025

Please remember - NO UNIFORM



Our Week in Pictures



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* **NEW EVENTS ADDED**—Spring Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 22nd January	Panto 25 Trip
Thursday 30th January	Young Voices Performance
Friday 7th February	Y1 Black Country Museum Class Trip 3.30pm—Work Share Evening in class Brookvale Foodbank and uniform Swap Shop in the Hall
Friday 14th February	Y4 Class Assembly 9am—families are welcome to attend Awards Assembly and Young Voices Performance 2pm Parents invited to attend Break up for Half Term
Monday 17th— Friday 21st February	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM
Monday 24th February	Back to School
Tuesday 25th February	Y2 and Y5 Open morning—Parents are invited to attend at 9am only The session will end at 10.50am
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day—details of the event to follow
Friday 7th March	Y3 Class Assembly 9am—families are welcome to attend
Thursday 20th March	SEND Coffee morning with Marie Smith 9—10am
Tuesday 25th March	Y1 and Y3 Open morning—Parents are invited to attend at 9am only The session will end at 10.50am
Wednesday 26th March	Y2 Sea-life trip
Friday 28th March	Family Lunch (This lunch is in replacement of Mothers and Fathers Day lunches) Details of the event to follow
Wednesday 2nd April	Y2 Class Assembly 9am—families are welcome to attend
Wednesday 2nd - Thursday 3rd April	Parent Consultation Appointments—Look out for the announcements of when this is available to book via MCAS
Tuesday 8th April	Y6 Open morning—Parents are invited to attend at 9am only The session will end at 10.50am Easter Lunch for Phelps and Cadbury at 11.30am
Wednesday 9th April	Easter Lunch for Zephaniah and Lewis at 11.30am
Thursday 10th April	Y3 Egyptian Class Trip
Friday 11th April	Awards and 100% Attendance Assembly Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Monday 28th April	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR TEACHER TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 29th April	All children back to school