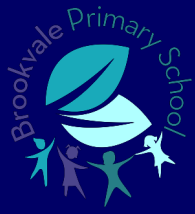


Brookvale Primary School

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move further into the Spring term, I am pleased to remain part of the Brookvale leadership team, collaborating with Mr Mills, as your Interim Head Teacher. Working with our wonderful staff and children has been incredibly rewarding, and I am committed to ensuring that Brookvale remains a place where every child is happy and successful. I thoroughly enjoy my days at school at the beginning and end of the week and look forward to continuing to support and guide the school community over the coming term.

As you are aware, this arrangement is continuing due to the ongoing absence of our substantive Head Teacher, Mr Day. Our thoughts remain with him as he continues his recovery, and we send him our very best wishes.

To ensure our staff and children continue to feel cared for and supported during this period, the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership, has arranged for an experienced Head Teacher, Mrs Kristal Brookes, to join us temporarily on the days that I am not in school. I am delighted to welcome her to Brookvale as a coequal and I am confident that together with Mr Mills, we will ensure the school continues to thrive and that your children excel in their learning and personal development.

This temporary arrangement will remain in place until the Easter break when we will re-evaluate the school's leadership requirements.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible efforts of our staff this year. Their unwavering dedication to maintaining excellent provision for our pupils has been truly inspiring. Moreover, their teamwork and care for each other has been a testament to the strength and spirit of our school community.

At Brookvale, we are proud to be part of a Trust (ATLP) that embodies the power of collaboration and harnesses the strength of being one learning family. By working together, we can ensure that the needs of every child are met and that they continue to flourish in a safe and nurturing environment. This shared vision keeps children at the heart of everything we do and inspires us to strive for excellence every day.

Thank you for your continued support during this time. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With warmest best wishes,

Dr Beth Clarke

Interim Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous, astonishing week we have had. Firstly, let me introduce myself. I am Mr Hadland and I am writing the newsletter because today is Teacher Take over Day! Year 6 pupils have taken over the school and are leading the day, whether it be class teachers, site managers or me, your acting Head Teacher for the day!

This week has been a brilliant week at Brookvale. Nearly the whole school took part in our first big trip in the year: our annual Panto trip to the Birmingham Hippodrome! Children laughed and laughed through an epic performance of Peter Pan, a great experience for everyone! Not forgetting those pupils at school, who enjoyed the exploits of Peter Pan in a popular movie afternoon, complete with Rocket ice lollies!

Next week, there will be a spectacular event taking place at the resorts World arena. Our school choir will represent Brookvale at this year's Young voices concert. A huge shout out to everyone involved, from our budding performers to our choir master extraordinaires, Miss Willars and Miss Walker! We know you will do us proud - go Brookvale!

Many thanks

Mr Hadland

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We are passionate about everything, and everyone.

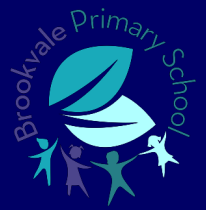
We are the authors of our own lives.

Brookvale Primary School, Mallard Drive, B23 7YB

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Weekly Attendance



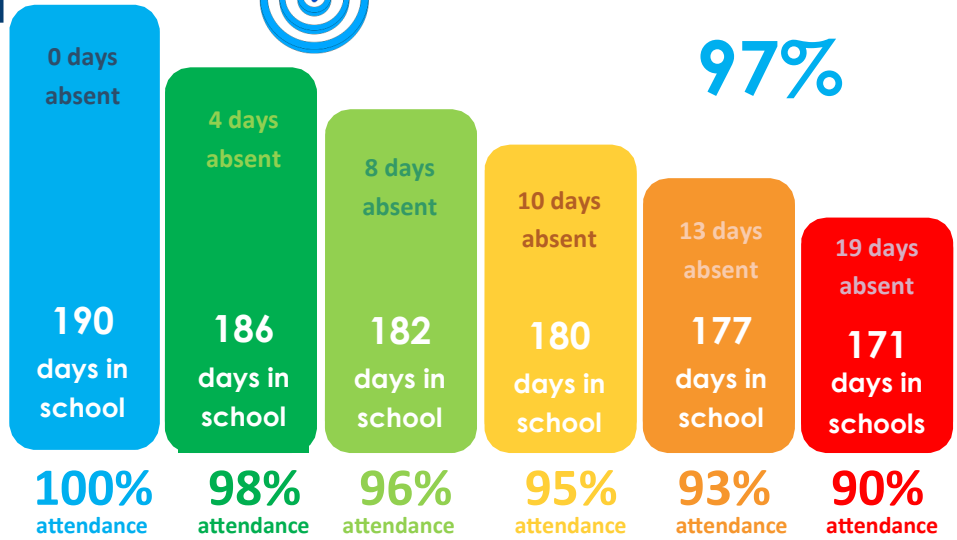
13/01/2025 to 17/01/2025

Reception	97.79%
Year 1	85.45%
🎉 Year 2 🌟	86.23%
🌟 Year 3	92.67%
🌟 Year 4	97.79%
Year 5	97.41%
Year 6	97.15%



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

Rec

&

Y4



You get extra playtime!

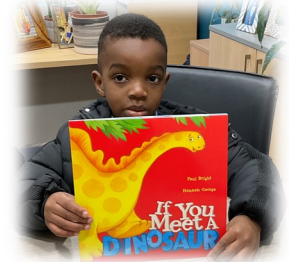
This week's 100% attendance Winners:



Blessings Y6

&

Jayden Rec



You each win a new book.

Great Job!

Attendance This Week

92.77%



Attendance Year-to-Date

95.21%



175 days off school per year.

Use this time for holidays, appointments etc

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Parental Safeguarding

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

Physical wellbeing apps are useful tools for monitoring and improving our health. They allow us to balance nutrition, set goals, track our activities and sleep patterns, and motivate us to exercise. Nonetheless, there have been some reported drawbacks; this guide outlines some of these concerns and explains how to use fitness apps safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children: a 16-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 10. This can create unrealistic expectations and set exercises which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.

NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but a concerning number of them aren't. As such, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or might include age-inappropriate content which would clearly cause more harm than good.

REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical exercise can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, at the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally dislike this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather exercise in the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.

DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Fitness and wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users, including name, location, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some of these apps may sell this data to third parties. We'd advise that any apps young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more helpful content (such as new workouts, nutrition advice or a personalised plan) by signing up to a subscription or paying for extra features. This can incentivise users to spend money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.

DEPENDENCY ON THE APP

While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to manage their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being sent frequent rewards and reminders – children could start to lose their natural drive to be active. Young people may also become obsessed with tracking their exercise, health and eating habits; this can have negative effects on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE

Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends, rather than always exercising alone. Emphasise the fun they can have by interacting with others rather than solely relying on an app to maintain their regime. Remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.

PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin take things too far. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's vitally important for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.

REVIEW THE APP FIRST

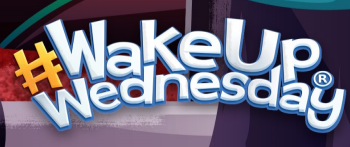
Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its reviews and scroll through its data policy, to ensure its suitability for younger users. You could also try it yourself, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with them using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these on a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – these will relate to screen-time limits, disabling or capping in-app purchases, and managing social aspects or features which aren't age appropriate. By utilising these controls, you can help to ensure a child is getting a safe experience.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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Parental Safeguarding



Birmingham and Solihull

Child Death Review Team Comms

The Child Death Review Team (CDRT) Newsletter is circulated to all partners within Birmingham and Solihull to highlight campaigns and share learning from local child death reviews.

Childhood Head Injuries

Following the recent death of a child who sustained a head injury the CDRT would like to highlight the importance of following the NHS Guidelines in relation to seeking medical advice if they have any symptoms.

Children are incredibly active, and they have little sense of danger, so it is not surprising that they are prone to head injuries. In addition, their heads are large in proportion to their bodies and therefore more vulnerable to damage than adult heads. Head injuries may involve the scalp, the skull, the brain, or its protective membranes.

Most head injuries are not serious, but you should get medical help if your child has any symptoms after a head injury.

[Head injury and concussion - NHS](#)

Preventing head injuries in children

Falls are the most common cause of accidental injury to children. While most falls aren't serious, active children often fall over and some falls can lead to death or long-term disability. So it's important to get the message across about the simple things that parents and carers can do prevent serious falls.

How many children are injured in falls?

- Every day, 45 children under five are admitted to hospital following a serious fall. Stumbles are to be expected, but more serious falls which lead to head injuries can have a life-long impact.
- Falls are one of the most common causes of childhood accidents.
- Falls are also a serious risk for older children. Each year, around 27,000 children aged 5-14 are admitted to hospital after a fall.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has some useful resources on preventing falls in children.

[Falls | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

[falls factsheet 2024.pdf](#)

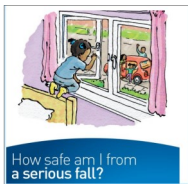
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Free from falls

“A preventable accident ends up with a shattered family. And that’s just very tragic.”

Paediatric Neurologist (a doctor who specialises in child brain injury)

Scrapes and bruises are a part of growing up. But even a fall from a highchair can cause a bad head injury. That’s because babies’ heads are much heavier than their bodies, which makes them top-heavy. And when they land, their head takes much of the impact.

It doesn’t make sense trying to stop all falls. But there are some serious ones you can easily stop once you know how and why.

👉 Cots, beds and changing tables – now I can wriggle and roll!

- Even small babies can wriggle off a bed or changing table – change their nappies on the floor if you can and keep them in arms reach on a raised surface
- As soon as your baby can stand, remove any large toys they might climb on to get out of their cot, preventing serious falls.

👉 Stairs – I can shuffle and I’m off!

- Even before they’re mobile, babies are injured when the person carrying them falls. So keep a hand on the rail going up and down stairs
- As soon as your baby starts moving around, fit safety gates to stop them climbing or falling down the stairs.

👉 Highchairs – is that my drink?

- Children may try to get things that are out of their reach
- They may lean over the side and topple out or push themselves up and try to climb out
- Get into the habit of using the straps on the highchair every time you use it.

👉 Windows – what’s that I can see?

- Small children are curious and want to see what’s happening outside but have no real understanding of danger
- Take care not to put furniture in front of windows, especially in children’s bedrooms
- If you can, get safety catches or locks fitted on your windows
- If you opt for a lock, keep the keys somewhere you can find them, in case there’s a fire and you need to get out.

👉 Trampolines – how high can I bounce?

- The biggest risk from trampolines is having two people with very different weights
- Let children take it in turns and avoid adults and children jumping together
- Use a safety net or cage so children can’t be thrown onto the ground.



In the news



We do request that your child attend school in the correct uniform at all times. If there is a reason this cannot happen, please email the school office.

Jewellery cannot be worn at any time for safety reasons.

Please see a reminder of our school uniform expectations

School Uniform

- Navy blue **V-neck** sweatshirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt material cardigan
- Powder blue polo top
- Charcoal grey trousers (**black trousers will not be accepted as uniform**)
- Charcoal grey pleated skirt
- Charcoal grey pinafore dress
- Navy check summer dress
- Socks – grey, black or white
- Girls tights – grey or navy
- Black shoes (leather style - **no trainers of any variety/no embellishments**)
- Hijab – plain, navy or grey in colour

P.E. Kit

- Navy striped blue shorts (loose fitting, not cycling shorts)
- Navy blue tracksuit bottoms and hoodie (plain, sweatshirt material only – **leggings or branded sportswear are not acceptable**)
- White t-shirt **for normal P.E. lessons**
- House t-shirt (red, green, yellow or royal blue) **for Team Days/Sports Day only**
- Black pumps (essential for P.E. lessons held in the hall – trainers will not be allowed)
- Sports trainers – black, grey or white (plain, where possible)

To order uniform online please go to www.crestedschoolwear.co.uk

Non-Logo uniform items can be purchased in most large supermarkets.



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Fundraising



Class currently in the lead to win a Movie afternoon is

Y2

Rec	0 bags	
Year 1	7 bags	
Year 2	11 bags	
Year 3	10 bags	
Year 4	8 bags	
Year 5	4 bags	
Year 6	5 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.

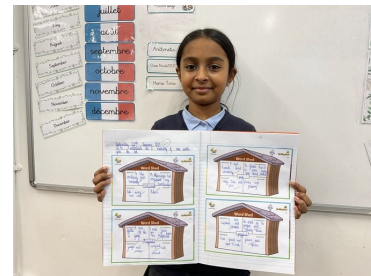
Collection Date:

Monday 3rd February 2025

Please remember - NO UNIFORM



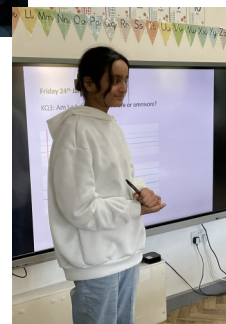
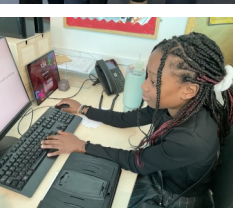
Our Week in Pictures



Look at the children who made it to the stage at the Panto



Brookvale Teacher Takeover Day



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* NEW EVENTS ADDED—Spring Dates for your Diary

Thursday 30th January	Young Voices Performance
* Thursday 6th February	Rec and Y6 Height and Weight
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 - POSTPONED	* Family Lunch (This lunch is in replacement of Mothers and Fathers Day lunches) Details of the event to follow THIS HAS NOW BEEN MOVED TO 13TH JUNE
Wednesday 2nd April	Y2 Class Assembly 9am—families are welcome to attend Eid Lunch 1 adult per family invited to attend at 11.30 - Book your place on MCAS
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