



Newsletter

Friday 6th October 2023

Issue 4



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Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together

Messages from Mr Day

Another fantastic week in school with much to celebrate. This week, I had the pleasure of working with leaders, including our new phase leaders, Mrs Massey and Mr Gill, to identify great practice seen in the enactment of our school curriculum. The standards that teachers are expecting of our children is very impressive and it is clear to see that our children are making progress as a result of effective teaching and pastoral support. Next week, we will be meeting with individual teachers to celebrate their effective practice and identify our next steps in relation to our school development.

School Trips

At Brookvale, we want our children's learning to be enriched with a wide range of visitors and educational trips to bring learning to life. However, we are also aware that, due to inflation and the current cost of living, these trips are becoming increasingly expensive for families. We have therefore decided to limit the number of trips this year to one key curriculum trip plus two optional enrichment trips. The trips for 2023-2024 are:

Reception—Ash End Farm

Year 1—Sudbury Hall

Year 2—Sea Life Centre

Year 3—Stonehenge

Year 4—Yorvik Viking Centre (York)

Year 5—House of Parliament + Tower of London

Year 6—Black Country Museum/Paris Residential

Optional Enrichment Trips: Birmingham Hippodrome Pantomime/ Weston Super Mare

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to offer subsidies for educational visits and will require that all parents pay for these. We are happy to set up payment plans to break down costs into weekly or monthly installments. Please contact Mrs Coulson to arrange this.

Work Sharing Evenings

Next week sees the first work sharing evening of the year. Come into school from 3.30-4.30pm next Friday, look at your children's books and leave them a note to celebrate their achievements and progress.

Car Free School Streets

A huge thank you to all of our families for embracing and supporting our new 'Car Free School Streets' initiative. By choosing to walk or park further from school, you are not only helping keeping our children and families safe, but are also reducing the environmental impact of car journeys. A reminder, cars are not allowed to enter Mallard Drive between 8.15-9.00am and 3.00-3.45pm each day unless with a permit or as an exempt authorised vehicle.

Mr Day

Dates for your Diary

Mon 9th Oct	9.00-11.00—SATS Reading Parent workshop led by Mr Mills and Miss Humphrey. Come along and find out how you can support your child to become a fluent, confident and competent reader.
Weds 11th Oct	9.00-12.30pm—Individual school photos for children and siblings. Please ensure children are in full uniform.
Thurs 12th Oct	3.30-4.00pm—Year 6 Secondary Application Support. Come along if you need support to apply for your child's secondary school application must be made by 31st October 2023.
Fri 13th Oct	3.30pm - 4.30pm—Work sharing evening for parents.
Mon 16th Oct	9.00-11.00—SATS Maths Parent Workshop led by Mr Mills and Miss Humphrey. Come along and find out how you can support your child to develop into a secure mathematician.
Tues 17th Oct	8.45-10.30am Year 1 and 2 parent workshop – Early Reading. Come along to gain a better understanding how you can support your child to develop into a fluent, confident and competent reader.

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Brookvale Primary School Newsletter



Attendance

Whole School
(Years 1 to 6)  98.17%

Reception 93.52%

Year 1  100%

Year 2  98.62%

Year 3 95.16%

Year 4  98.00%

Year 5  98.00%

Year 6  99.33%

Equates to:



Wow, Brookvale. You've had super attendance this week. Keep it up. Year 1, we are so proud of you !

This week's Class

Attendance Superstars Are:

Year 1

The class with highest attendance each week will receive an additional 15 minute playtime.

This week's

100% Attendance

Reward Winners are:

KS1: Jo-Jo (Year 1)

KS2: Daniel (Year 5)

Each week, children with 100% attendance will be placed in a draw. Two winners will be selected at random and awarded a brand new book for their effort.

Absence Due To Illness

Not all illnesses require children to be absent from school. For minor childhood ailments, such as coughs, colds, ear aches etc., we would not expect children to be absent unless too unwell to attend school. However, when a parent makes the assessment that their child is unfit for school they should follow the school's absence process and call the school office before the start of the school day (8.45am). We would encourage parents to send your child into school for the afternoon session if their condition/illness improves.



Earlier in the week, we issued the most up-to-date NHS guidance regarding common childhood illnesses and ailments. Please do refer to this guidance as often, children do not need to be off school for certain conditions, e.g. conjunctivitis.



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Year 6 Secondary Applications

Is your child due to start secondary school in September 2024? Applications are now open for secondary places through the Birmingham City Council's Admissions Form.

www.eadmissions.birmingham.gov.uk/prefs.php

It is really important that you apply on time. If you apply late, you are less likely to get offered a place at any of your preferred schools.

Applications received after the 31 October 2023 will be classed as late applications and will not be processed until after the offer of places on 1 March 2024.

Remember to list six different secondary

Diwali Lunch

Come along to our first family lunch of the year, celebrate the story of the Ramayana and how the festival of Diwali came to be.

Friday 10th November

MAINS

Chicken Balti or Cauliflower,

Lentil & Spinach Curry

with Rice, Naan and Salad Bar

Desserts

Orange and Mango Smoothie

Rice Pudding

To book your lunch, login to MCAS

Lunches cost £2.57

PTFA Halloween Disco

Book your place at the PTFA's

'spooktacular'

Halloween Disco

THURSDAY 26TH October

4-5.30pm

Tickets can be purchased on MCAS for £1.50

Mr Day's Craft Club

Want to learn how to use a range of stitches? Perhaps you'd like to be a needle felting whiz or even make your own scented candles?

Join Mr Day's craft club and learn a range of crafting techniques over 6 weeks.

Every Thursday

(from 9th November)

3.30-4.30pm

This craft club is open to 15 children and 15 parents (due to Health and Safety), it would be great to welcome in families to work alongside children.

Booking opens Monday 9th October. Call Mrs Coulson to book your space

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Parent Safeguarding – Domestic Violence/Abuse

(Adapted from Victim Support U.K.)

There are some **2.3 million victims of domestic abuse a year** aged 16 to 74 (two-thirds of whom are women) and more than one in ten of all offences recorded by the police are domestic abuse related (Home Office, 2022).

What is Domestic Abuse/Violence?

The UK government's definition of domestic violence is 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.'

Domestic abuse can take different forms, including:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- financial abuse
- coercive and controlling behaviour, and gaslighting/emotional abuse
- digital/online abuse
- 'honour'-based abuse
- forced marriage
- female genital mutilation (FGM).



What are the types of Domestic Abuse?

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse (violence) can include pushing, hitting, punching, kicking, choking and using weapons.

Verbal Abuse

Verbal abuse is the use of harsh or insulting language directed at a person. You might be called names or constantly put down by your partner.

Psychological Abuse

Psychological or mental abuse is when someone is subjected or exposed to a situation that can result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is when you're forced or pressured to have sex without your consent (rape), unwanted sexual activity, touching, groping or being made to watch pornography.

Coercive and Controlling Behaviour

Controlling and coercive behaviour are forms of emotional abuse. They often go together, but are slightly different.

- Coercion is a pattern of behaviour designed to make someone feel intimidated, scared, humiliated or threatened.
- Controlling behaviour happens when someone sets out to make the victim subordinate or dependent on them by cutting them off from their support networks, regulating their behaviour and reducing their independence.

Examples of these behaviours include: withholding money, blackmailing, constantly criticising someone, checking up on or monitoring someone, isolating someone from friends and family, and playing mind games such as gas lighting. These behaviours make it very difficult for the person to leave the relationship.

Controlling or coercive behaviour is now a criminal offence under the Serious Crime Act 2015.

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Parent Safeguarding – Domestic Violence/Abuse (Adapted from Victim Support U.K.)

Indicators of Domestic Abuse/Violence in Children (Barnardos, 2023)

Living in a home where abuse is happening can have a serious impact on a child's wellbeing.

Short-terms effects of domestic abuse:

For **young children** this can include:

- bed-wetting
- increased sensitivity and crying
- difficulty sleeping or falling asleep
- separation anxiety

For **school aged children** this can include:

- a loss of drive to participate in activities and school
- lower grades in school
- feeling guilty and to blame for the abuse happening to them
- getting into trouble more often
- physical signs such as headaches and stomach aches

For **teenagers** this can include:

- acting out in negative ways such as missing school or fighting with family members
- having low self-esteem
- finding it difficult to make friends
- engaging in risky behaviours such as using alcohol and other drugs

Long-term effects of domestic abuse:

- mental health problems, such as becoming anxious or depressed. Low mental health can also lead to big impacts on physical health, including self-harm or developing an eating disorder
- having a lowered sense of self-worth
- using alcohol and other drugs as unhealthy coping mechanisms
- repeating behaviours seen in their domestic setting

Effects of Domestic Abuse/Violence

Domestic abuse can have a significant impact on your emotional wellbeing, as well as sometimes affecting other relationships and your ability to live your life as you'd want to.

Everyone reacts differently but some of the effects of domestic abuse include:

- depression
- fear, anxiety and panic attacks
- loneliness or isolation
- a lack of confidence or self-esteem
- feelings of guilt or self-blame
- experiencing difficulties at work or in your other relationships
- trouble sleeping.

It's important to remember that all of these reactions are normal and this is not your fault — only your abuser is to blame for their behavior.



Reporting Domestic Abuse?

Whether you decide to report domestic abuse to the police is completely up to you. But remember, it is never your fault!

The police are trained to respond effectively to survivors of domestic abuse. If you're not sure that you want to report the crime, you can talk to a victims' organisation like Victim Support, and they can explain the options available to you and help you come up with a safety plan.

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Parent Safeguarding – Domestic Violence/Abuse (Adapted from Victim Support U.K.)

Clare's Law

Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) is a police policy giving people the right to know if their current or ex-partner has any previous history of violence or abuse.

The scheme is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her abusive ex-boyfriend in 2009.

Under Clare's Law, you have the right to:

-Make an application to the police requesting information about your current or ex-partner, because you are worried they may have been abusive in the past and believe they may pose a risk to you in future.

-Request information from the police about the current or ex-partner of a close friend, neighbour or family member, because you are concerned that they might be at risk of domestic abuse in future.

This is called the 'right to ask.' You have a right to ask the police no matter if your enquiry relates to a heterosexual or same-sex relationship, as long as you are aged 16 or older. You also have the right to ask about a partner regardless of your (or your neighbour, friend or family member's) gender identity, ethnicity, race, religion or other characteristics.

You also have the 'right to know'. This means that if police checks show that your current or ex-partner has a record of violent or abusive behaviour, and they believe you may be at risk, they may decide to proactively share that information with you. If you're worried that your current or former partner has been abusive or violent in the past, Clare's Law was created to formally give you the right to find out.



Where can I get help for Domestic Abuse/Violence?

Refuge is the largest domestic abuse organisation in the UK. Contact them using the online form at www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk or call their freephone 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000247.

Live Fear Free provides help and advice about violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Call their freephone 0808 80 10 800, or text 07860077333.

The Men's Advice Line, for male domestic abuse survivors – 0808 801 0327 (run by Respect)

The Mix, Free information and support for under 25s in the UK – 0808 808 4994

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0800 999 5428 (run by Galop)

Samaritans (24/7 service) – 116 123

Victim Support—08081689111



If you or a child is in immediate danger, contact the Police on 999

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Join
Brookvale KS2 choir
Every Tuesday 3.30pm—4.30pm
In the Year 3 Classroom

Preparing for the Young Voices Concert February 2024 at
Resorts World
See Miss Willars or Mrs Coulson



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Reception Open Day 2023

**Is your child due to start Reception in
September 2024?**

Come along to our Reception Open Day and find out
how we can support your child to achieve the very
best academic, personal and social outcomes within
our fantastic EYFS setting.

**Wednesday 18th October 2023
9:00-4:00pm**

To book your place, contact the school office
on: 0121 356 9973
or email: office@brkvale.bham.sch.uk

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It was great to have authors, Benjamin Zephaniah and Berlie Doherty engage with our children via our school X account this week. Thank you for inspiring our children.



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