



# Newsletter

Friday 19th January 2024

Issue 14



@BPS\_B23



## Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together

### Message from Mr Day

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our second week of the term and almost half way through our spring 1 half term.

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming colleagues from the Richard Huish Trust into our ATLP schools to share best practice and discuss our approaches to working with our communities. Whilst touring the school with fellow Headteacher, Mr Mann, I have to say how enormously proud I was. The behaviour of our children was absolutely impeccable and was something Mr Mann also highlighted. Well done, children. You are a credit to this school and your families.

### Train to Teach—The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership SCITT

This week, we were also visited by this year's cohort of exceptional ATLP associate teachers, who are currently training through our Trust school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT). The ATLP's outstanding course is currently accepting applications for teacher trainees for September 2024. If you are interested in becoming a teacher, why not go along to their open morning on Saturday 20th January, 10am-4pm. Follow the link for more details: [www.arthurterryteachingschool.atlp.org.uk/train-to-teach/](http://www.arthurterryteachingschool.atlp.org.uk/train-to-teach/)

### Safeguarding Contacts

You may be aware, from this week's news coverage, of the tragic story of two-year-old Bronson Battersby, who died of dehydration and starvation after his father sadly passed away following a fatal heart attack in the home. Stories such as these always make us reflect on what we can do to better safeguard our children. Today, all of our children have been reminded of how to contact emergency services in the event that a family member becomes unwell. This will also be a focus in our PDW lessons next week. To further strengthen our practices, we will be reissuing our school contacts forms and will ask you to check that all of your personal details are correct/make any amendments to contacts or addresses. We are also going to ask that you now nominate an additional emergency contact. This person will only be contacted in the event when a child is absent and we are unable to get in touch with any of your listed 'priority contacts.'

Please can I remind families of the importance of contacting the school office if your contact number or address changes.

### Dates for your Diary

Tues 30th Jan	9.00-10.00am Sex Education Workshop for Year 6 parents with Mrs Johnston. Come along and find out what content will be delivered in these sessions and ask any questions. Please note, parents have the right to withdraw children from sex education.
Tues 6th Feb	9.00-10.00am Dr Anita Soni (Educational Psychologist) delivering a parent workshop on 'Communicating effectively with your child.' Come along and find out how effective communication can improve children's emotional wellbeing. All families welcome.
Fri 9th Feb	9.00am Year 4 Class Assembly. Families are welcome to attend.  3.30pm Work Sharing Evening for Parents. Come into school and celebrate your child's achievements by looking through their books.  Break up for half term
Mon 19th Feb	Children return to school.
Thurs 22nd Feb	Young Voices Concert at Resorts World Birmingham
Mon 26th Feb	9.00-10.50am Year 1 and 6 Open Morning. Come along and work with your child in class.
Weds 28th Feb	8.45-10.00am Parent Council/Coffee morning with Mr Day. Come along and share your views about the school.

**We are ambitious for our success and the success of others.**

**We are caring citizens, shaping our communities.**

**We are passionate about everything and everyone.**

**We are the authors of our own lives.**

# Brookvale Primary School Newsletter



## Attendance

### This week

Whole School (Years 1 to 6)	95.87%
Reception	96.90%
Year 1	94.00%
Year 2	97.00%
Year 3	91.00%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	96.67%
Year 6	96.55%

Equates to:



### This week's Class

#### Attendance Superstars

Are:

**Year 4**  
(100%)

**This week's 100% attendance book winners are:**

**Elaina (Year 2)**  
**Gabriella (Year 4)**

## Celebrating our Exceptional Children

At Brookvale, we want all of our children to develop a core set of principles and values that will guide them well as they navigate their way in the world and become responsible and caring adults. As a school, we want our children to be:

*Ambitious for their success and the success of others.*

*Caring citizens shaping their communities.*

*Passionate about everything and everyone.*

*The authors of their own lives.*

Although we aim to develop these values within all of our children, we must also acknowledge and reward those children who go above and beyond these principles and take ownership of who they are and, most importantly, who they can be. In the coming weeks, all staff - teachers, TAs, office staff, lunchtime supervisors and catering staff—will be looking to identify 'exceptional' behaviours. Those children identified will be in with the chance of winning a prize from the selection below. Good luck, children! This is going to be tough as you are all great.



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## Family Workshops with Dr Anita Soni

We are delighted to announce that Dr Anita Soni, our school Educational Psychologist, will be hosting two workshops open to all families.

### Workshop 1

**Communicating effectively  
with your child**

Tuesday 6th February  
9.00-10.30am



### Workshop 2

**Positive parenting relationships,  
including attachment**

Tuesday 18th March—9.00-10.30am

Come along and find out how you can apply powerful approaches to supporting your children's social and emotional development, whilst learning extra tools to support you in parenting.

## Measles Update

Following on from last week's update regarding Measles, as of 18th January, there have been 216 confirmed cases of measles in the West Midlands, with many of these cases in children under the age of 10. **The UK Health Security Agency is urging families of unvaccinated children to book their child's MMR vaccine without delay.**

### Signs of Measles

The first symptoms of measles include:

- a high temperature
- a runny or blocked nose
- Sneezing
- a cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- A rash usually appears a few days after the cold-like symptoms.



### How do I protect my child from Measles?

Two doses of the MMR vaccine is the best protection against measles. The MMR vaccine is safe for every faith. **There is a type of MMR vaccine that does not contain pork gelatine**, so it can be used for people who do not touch any pork products.

This vaccine is available at every GP practice, and it is free  
Please contact your GP to book an appointment for  
Measles (MMR) vaccine.

## TT Rockstars

A reminder that all children in school should be accessing TTRockstars, at home, as part of their weekly home learning.

In June, 2024, children in Year 4 will take part in the government's Multiplication Tables Check, where they will be tested on their knowledge of all times tables up to 12 x 12.

A recent screening of our children's progress in Year 4 show that 90% are on track to achieve at least 21 out of 25 (although there is no official pass mark) and a significant proportion are already achieving full marks. Keep up the amazing work, Year 4.

The impact of children practising daily through TTRockstars has been phenomenal and I am delighted to share that we are now

**Number 1 in our local  
school leaderboard.**

**Well done, Brookvale. You rock!**

**Can we become Number 1  
across the city? Country?**

**Let's do it!**



## Reading Plus Competition

To add excitement to the new year, we have entered the Reading Plus New Year Challenge. The five schools with the highest average reading lessons on Reading Plus will be awarded at the end of the six-week challenge.

In school, we use Reading Plus, an online reading development programme, to help pupils with their reading skills and confidence. Children have access to 1,100+ high-quality online texts that are both engaging and inspirational and match students' reading levels.

The competition starts Monday 22nd of January, and winners will be announced on Tuesday, 5th of March.

Reading Plus can be accessed at home and we encourage you to get your child to use the programme on evenings or weekends for thirty minutes at least three days per week.

This week, Ansh and Reuben in Year 6 hit the envious milestone of reading 200,000 and 250,000 words respectively on the platform. Superb work boys!

**Come on, Brookvale.**

**Login—Get Reading-Let's win this!**

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## Parent Safeguarding- Online Grooming

(From National Online Safety)




Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the Internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do (coercion) and often the groomer's goal is to meet the victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them. In some cases children may be abducted or have long-lasting psychological damage.






What parents need to know about

# ONLINE GROOMING




**CHILDREN ARE MOST VULNERABLE**

Unsurprisingly children are often most at risk as they are easy to target and unlikely to question the person who is engaging in conversation with them. Groomers will use psychological tricks and methods to try and isolate them from their families and friends and will often choose to target more vulnerable children who may be easier to manipulate. Predators will stalk apps and websites that are popular with young people and will use a 'scattergun' approach to find victims, contacting hundreds online to increase their chances of success.




**LIVE STREAMING CONCERNS**

Predators may use live video to target children in real-time using tricks, dares or built-in gifts to manipulate them. Grooming often takes the form of a game where children receive 'likes' or even money for performing sexual acts. Social media channels, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, all have live streaming capabilities, but there are many apps which children can use to live stream, including Omegle, LiveMe, BIGO Live, YouNow and many more.




**ANYONE CAN BE A PREDATOR**

The Internet has made the ability to interact with strangers online easy. Many sites and apps are reliant on individual users entering their own information when signing up. However individuals can remain anonymous if they choose to enter inaccurate information and many online predator cases are due to groomers using impersonation techniques. However, often the greater threat comes from adults who 'hide in plain sight', choosing to befriend young children without hiding their real identity.



**CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT**

Unfortunately, most children find the 'grooming' process (before any meeting) an enjoyable one as the predator will compliment, encourage, and flatter them to gain their trust, friendship and curiosity – a wolf in sheep's clothing's scenario. This often means children fail to disclose or report what is happening. If the groomer is also previously known to the child, their family and their friends, then this can make detection even harder.





**FROM OPEN TO CLOSED MESSAGING**

Online predators may contact their victims using any number of ways including social media, forums, chat rooms, gaming communities or live streaming apps. Sometimes there is little need to develop a 'friendship' rapport stage, as the victim has already shared personal information online and is communicating openly with others. Children may also be prepared to add other online users they don't know so well to gain 'online credibility' through increasing their friends list. Predators will often seize this opportunity to slowly build a relationship and then move their conversation with the child to a more secure and private area, such as through direct messaging.

**EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENTS**


Online predators will use emotive language and aim to form close, trusted bonds with their victims through showering them with compliments and making them feel good about themselves. Often victims will refer to them as their 'boyfriends' or 'girlfriends' and it can be difficult to convince some young people that they have been groomed, often leading to lasting psychological effects.






**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

## Safety Tips for Parents & Carers




**IT'S GOOD TO TALK**

It's unlikely that you can stop your child using the internet, nor can you constantly monitor their online activities, but you can talk to your child on a regular basis about what they do online. By talking openly with them about online relationships, they can quickly ascertain the kind of behaviour which is appropriate or inappropriate. Ask them whether they have any online friends or if they play online games with people they haven't met. This could then open up conversations about the subject of grooming.




**CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS**

In order to give your child a safer online experience, it is important to check privacy settings or parental controls on the networks, devices, apps, and websites they use. Disable location sharing if you can, if you use location-sharing apps to check where your child is, remember that these could always be used by strangers to follow your child without their knowledge. Ensure that you check options so that location information is never shared with anyone except those they have permission to share with.




**MONITOR SOCIAL MEDIA & LIVE-STREAMING USE**

It's important to be aware of what your child is sharing on social media and with whom. Create your own profile and become 'friends' with them or follow them so that you can monitor their activity. Similarly, always check on them if they are live streaming and implement privacy controls. Choose a generic screen name and profile picture that hides their identity. You may also feel more comfortable being present each time they live stream.



**STICK TO 'TRUE FRIENDS'**

Make it clear to your child that they should not accept friend requests from people they don't know and to verify friend requests with people who they do know. Encourage them to only interact and engage with 'true friends' i.e. those friends who don't ask personal questions such as close family and friends. Remind them to never agree to chat privately with a stranger or someone they don't really know and to never divulge personal information, such as mobile phone numbers, addresses, passwords or the name of their school.




**DISCUSS HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**

Talk to your child about what a healthy relationship looks like and how to detect someone who might not be who they claim to be. Explain that groomers will pay your child compliments and engage in conversations about personal information, such as hobbies and relationships. They may admire how well they play an online game or how they look in a photo. Groomers will also try and isolate a child from people close to them, such as parents and friends, in order to make their relationship feel special and unique.


**BE SUPPORTIVE**

Show your child that you will support them and make sure they understand they can come to you with any concerns they may have. They need to know they can talk to you if someone does something they are uncomfortable with, whether that is inappropriate comments, images, requests or sexual comments.



**Meet our expert**


Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



**LOOK OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS**

Child safety experts have identified key grooming patterns and advise parents to look out for:

- Secretive online behaviour.
- Late night internet or smartphone usage.
- Meeting new friends in unusual places.
- Becoming clingy, develop sleeping or eating problems or even bedwetting.
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities.
- Having new items, such as clothes or phones, unexplainably.
- Seem withdrawn, anxious, depressed or aggressive.
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.



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## Our Week in Pictures

Check out our X account @BPS\_B23



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