

Brookside Newsletter



Friday, 23rd May 2025

Dear Parents,

OPAL Platinum & OPAL Parents' Afternoon

Thank you so much to all of you who were able to attend our recent OPAL play afternoon. We were delighted to welcome nearly 100 of you! I'm sure you saw the variety of play opportunities available to the children and how our wonderful outdoor spaces inspire imagination, creativity, and adventure.

We are also thrilled to share that we have received our OPAL accreditation—and with immense pride, we can announce that we were awarded **Platinum status** on our first attempt. This is a significant achievement. Of the approximately 2,000 OPAL schools internationally, only 10% have reached Platinum status. This honour reflects our commitment to the highest standards of outdoor play provision—whatever the weather—in ways that are impactful and sustainable.

This success is thanks to the dedication, passion, and belief of our staff team—especially our Play Leader team—our children, and you, our families.

Not That Different

Mrs. Reesha Armstead, our Chair of Governors, has cerebral palsy and is a powerful advocate for promoting positive attitudes toward people with disabilities. She has been educating our students on the message that those with disabilities are *not that different*. Reesha has led learning sessions and Q&As across the school (with Foundation Stage sessions planned after half-term). The children's thoughtful questions and engagement made a strong impression on her.

Thank you, Reesha, for providing such a valuable learning experience—and well done to our children for their curiosity and empathy.

Panto Celebrations

You should have received the exciting news that our BFG group is funding a trip for all Brookside children to attend the pantomime in Loughborough on **December 15th**. A huge thank you to the BFG team for their tireless work in organising events and enriching our school year. And thank you to all of you for supporting their fundraising efforts.

Stay tuned for more details about **Brookfest**, scheduled for **July 18th**!

Bicycle Safety Notice

We encourage children to cycle or scoot to school and provide racks near the main gate. For everyone's safety, please ensure your child dismounts their bike or scooter once inside the school gates. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Biodiversity Project with Saint-Gobain

We've been fortunate to receive incredible support from Saint-Gobain staff, who have helped enhance biodiversity on our school grounds. Their contributions include:

- Planting a *Miyawaki*-style woodland
- Installing bat and bird boxes
- Adding a pond cover for safety

Looking ahead, we'll continue working with Saint-Gobain to:

- Create a nature and sensory garden
- Develop additional planting areas and raised beds
- Expand the *Miyawaki* woodland with wildflowers



Date for the Diary

Inset Day – Monday, 9th June

We hope you and your children have a fabulous half-term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday, 2nd June**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gary Kenny

(Head Teacher)