

Brookside Newsletter



Friday, 5th September 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the school year here at Brookside! I hope you and the children have enjoyed a wonderful and restful summer break. It has been truly terrific to see all the children return to school, full of energy and enthusiasm for the year ahead. A particular welcome is extended to our newest families and to the children who have joined our Foundation and Nursery classes this year. We are delighted that you are now part of the Brookside community and look forward to watching your children settle in and thrive with us.

I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Traynor, who joins us as one of our Play Leaders. Welcome to the team!

Our Year 6 Thrill-Seekers Conquer Robinwood!

Year 6 kicked off the academic year with their unforgettable Robinwood adventure—a residential trip filled with excitement and challenges. From raft building to zip wires, the children's exemplary behaviour and determination ensured a terrific experience for all. It's a wonderful tradition that creates lasting memories.



New Feathered Friends Have Arrived!

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of three new chickens to Brookside! A huge thank you to the families who have already volunteered their time to help care for them. We're excited to get to know our new feathered friends and look forward to the fresh eggs they'll provide.

We were also amazed by the arrival of a grass snake on the school field this week. Its presence is an encouraging indicator of the biodiversity within our neighbourhood. So far this calendar year, we've spotted deer, red kites, Hawkshead moths, badgers, hedgehogs, and newts—either as visitors or residents of our school grounds.

Morning Drop-Off & End-of-Day Pick-Up

It's wonderful to see our children settling so well into their new classes and year groups! To help foster independence as they begin their learning journey, we kindly ask that children from Year 1 upwards are dropped off at the front of school and walk independently to their classrooms. Parents are, of course, warmly invited to pick up directly from outside the classrooms at the end of the day.

Lost Property (and labels!)

We're aiming for a lost property-free year! Please help us by naming and labelling every item of school uniform, jackets, and lunchboxes. Remember to check labels after each wash, as ink can fade. Your efforts are greatly appreciated in reducing our "lost property mountain."

Attendance & Punctuality: Keys to Success

Every day counts for your child's learning and progress. We encourage all pupils to achieve at least 95% attendance (this is 10 days or less of absence per year). Please ensure your child arrives at school by **8:50 a.m.** to ensure they benefit from a structured start to the day. For sickness absence, kindly call the school office before registration on the first day of absence. Please read an important additional notice at the end of this newsletter regarding school and Trust policy with reference to a child's leave of absence and holidays.

Safeguarding at Brookside: Key Contacts

Safeguarding children is a priority for all of us at Brookside. Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mr Kenny (Head Teacher) and Miss Pip. Miss Pine and Miss Fox also deputise in this vital role. Our dedicated safeguarding governors are Mrs Reesha Armstead and Mr Lewis James.

Dates for the diary

Inset Days- 22nd September - 17th November - 13th February - 8th June

Finally, we look forward to a busy and exciting year of learning and discovery here at Brookside. We value immensely the positive relationships and partnership we have with you, our parents, and thank you for your continuing support as we aim for every child to achieve their very best.

Thank you for your continuing support, *Gary Kenny* (Head Teacher)



Important Update: Term-Time Holidays and Attendance

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're writing to inform you of an important update to **Equal Trust's** and **Brookside Primary School's** attendance procedures, in line with national and local authority guidance.

Starting **September 2025**, any holiday taken during term time **without the school's authorisation** may result in a **penalty notice** issued by **Nottinghamshire County Council**. Schools are required to refer cases where a child has **10 or more unauthorised sessions** (equivalent to **5 school days**) within a **10-week period**—this includes unauthorised holidays.

We understand the value of family time, but we kindly ask all families to avoid booking holidays during term time. If you believe your circumstances are **exceptional**, please complete a **Leave of Absence Request Form** (available on our website) and submit it to the school office ideally **4 weeks in advance**.

As outlined in our **Pupil Attendance Policy** (available on school website), holidays will only be authorised in **exceptional circumstances**. The following reasons are **not considered exceptional**:

- Cheaper travel or accommodation
- Overlapping with term dates
- Work commitments
- Family events or celebrations

We strongly encourage families to plan holidays during school breaks to avoid disruption to your child's learning and wellbeing.

Please note: **Brookside School does not receive any financial benefit** from fines. All penalty notice payments are collected by **Nottinghamshire County Council**.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting high attendance and helping every child thrive.

Brookside School