

# Brookside Newsletter



Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

## Dear Parents,

We have reached the conclusion of a very busy and successful first half of the summer term. It has been a period filled with new learning experiences and a great deal of dedication across every classroom. I would like to extend a special well done to our Year 6 pupils, who demonstrated real commitment and focus as they recently sat their SATs assessments. They were primed and prepared to deliver their best, and we are all filled with pride at the way they faced the challenge.

## London Marathon Runners

Recognition goes to the team of runners that took part in the Mini London Marathon. An amazing experience for those children involved, running The Mall and beside Buckingham Palace. Additionally, congratulations go to both Mr Benskin and Mr Shilton for both completing the full marathon and for being back in the classroom on Monday morning! Well done, marathon runners!



## Active Uniform

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our questionnaire earlier this year regarding an active school uniform. We greatly value your feedback and are pleased to share that the response was overwhelmingly positive. Many families highlighted the benefits for children's comfort, wellbeing, and their ability to fully engage in the school day.

As a school, we are committed to creating an environment where children can thrive in their learning and play. The rigours of the primary school day, alongside our OPAL play approach, mean that children benefit from clothing that allows them to move freely, be active, and remain comfortable in all weathers. An active uniform supports this aim, enabling children to engage confidently in all activities.

Many parents highlighted how well an active uniform would:

- support children's play and physical activity
- reducing daily challenges around clothing
- ensure children feel comfortable throughout the day.

We also received strong feedback that this approach also:

- promotes inclusivity
- aligns closely with our OPAL play ethos and outdoor learning opportunities.

Alongside this, we recognise that some families expressed a preference for our established uniform. With this in mind, we would like to offer a hybrid approach going forwards. This will allow children to wear elements of the established uniform alongside active wear. The current uniform will continue to be acceptable, while a few adaptations will be added. In other words, there is no expectation to replace items until they have served their wearable use. Instead, we kindly ask that families begin to transition towards the new uniform over time, as items naturally need replacing.

The first and most significant change will be that, from September, all children are expected to wear plain black trainer-style shoes each day. To maintain a consistent and smart appearance, trainers should be fully black, with logos kept dark and no additional colours. See the examples below.



Yes 😊 ✓

No 😞 X

### **Juno – Safety. Support. Strength.**

Here at Brookside, we have two Juno trained staff members who are able to offer support to families affected by domestic abuse. Mrs Evans and Miss Fox have received specialist training to provide a safe, confidential and understanding point of contact for anyone who may need help or guidance. If you or someone you know would benefit from support, please be reassured that you can speak to them in confidence by contacting either Mrs Evans or Miss Fox directly.



### **Brookside Book Fair**

On Wednesday, 3rd June, we will be holding a Book Fair in the school hall. We invite parents to come along and help their children explore the wide variety of books on display. Mrs. Parr and Mrs. Hewitt will be joined by class teachers to offer advice and help children with their selections. Most books are priced at £6.00 or above, and a helpful '3 for 2' offer will be available. Please be advised that we can only accept cash sales. The funds generated from these sales are vital for providing new resources; following our last event, we were able to purchase over £1,000 worth of books for our classrooms. We look forward to seeing you during the class sessions or at the 3:30pm drop-in for parents.

## **OPAL Play – Thank You**

A huge thank you to all the families who were able to join us for the recent OPAL Play session. It was incredibly well supported, and it was wonderful to see so many parents becoming involved with play. The children absolutely loved sharing what they enjoy doing at lunchtime and showing how OPAL Play supports their creativity, teamwork and wellbeing.

As OPAL Play continues to grow, we are beginning to run low on a few resources. If you are having a sort-out over the bank holiday, the children have asked if we could please have donations of the following items:

- Dressing-up items – adult clothes, wigs, handbags and accessories
- Carpet or astro-turf offcuts
- Shells
- Scooters
- Wool
- Wallpaper rolls for painting and drawing
- Sandpit toys - buckets, spades etc
- Body boards
- Yoga mats

Any donations would be very gratefully received and will be put to great use in enriching playtimes for all our children.

## **Framework appeal**

We have organised collections, donations and fundraising events for the essential work of Framework's homelessness charity many times over the years. This coming June, we would like to invite you to support a focused collection of toiletries and pet food on behalf of Framework. These two categories of items are often in short supply and will be very much appreciated by the Framework team and the people (and pets) that they support. Please start bringing items into school at any time during the month of June.

## **Date for the diary:**

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June – INSET day

## **Finally,**

May I extend my thanks for your continuing support and the positive relationships we share as a community. I hope all the children enjoy a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

*Gary Kenny* (Head Teacher)