

Brookside Newsletter



Dear Parents,

The final day of the school year is always an exciting day; while there is a little sadness as we say goodbye to children and staff, it is also a time to reflect on a year full of energy, creativity and community spirit. Our children have worked exceptionally hard throughout the summer term, maintaining an impressive pace of learning and achieving personal goals that are a cause for a great deal of pride. Whether witnessing the vibrant success of Brookfest or the extraordinary efforts of our Year 6 SATs superheroes, the commitment shown by all our pupils has been quite simply magnificent.

Farewell to our Year 6 Pupils

We bid a fond goodbye and farewell to our Year 6 pupils. This extraordinary group of children has been a source of a great deal of pride for all of us, and they have truly been our Brookside superheroes. We wish them the very best of luck as they move towards secondary school; you have been magnificent and we know you will continue to achieve great things.



Farewell & Good Luck to Teachers & Governors

It is with equal sadness and immense pride that we say the fondest of farewells to three cornerstones of our working team here at Brookside, Miss Beech, Mr Lead and Mrs Reesha Armstead.

Mr Lead joined us ten years ago and has had a mighty impact on every single child throughout our school during that time. Before he takes the next steps in his career, Mr Lead has an exciting adventure planned travelling Europe with his young family in a camper van. Happy adventures and thank you for your years of dedication to Brookside, Ally!

Miss Beech has been part of the Brookside team for seven years. Her endeavour as class teacher and school SENCo has been immense. Congratulations go to Miss Beech on the wonderful occasion of her wedding (yesterday!) and her exciting future in Australia. Thank you so much, Emily, from the entire Brookside community. Best of fortune for the future.

Reesha has been governor, and our chair of governors, for sixteen years. She has worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, helping to make our school as special as it is. Reesha has also been an inspiration to our children as she has shared her life of living with a disability through her Not That Different! programme. Thank you, Reesha, for supporting our school and community of children, staff and parents through so many changes, initiatives, Ofsted's (4!), challenges and celebrations. Best of luck in all that you do from all of us.



(NB. I do have my suspicions that we may be seeing Mr Lead, Miss Beech and Reesha at various points in the future. Watch this space...)

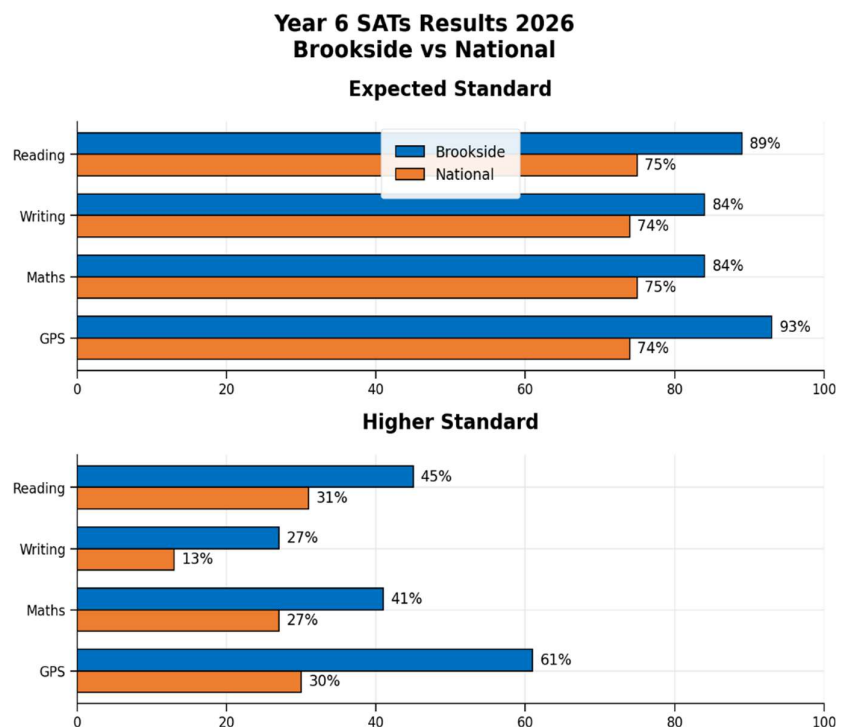
And Welcomes

This is the opportunity to formally welcome Sally Laverick and Alex Gray to our governor team. Sally has the exact career credentials that allow her to be perfectly placed to step into the role of Chair of Governors. Welcome to the governor team, Sally and Alex.

Many of our children will already have met Mrs Frew (Foundation) and Miss Horsley (Y3/4), our two newest members to the Brookside teaching team. Welcome to the team Mrs Frew and Miss Horsley.

National Tests & Assessments - Incredible Outcomes

We are celebrating the exceptional success of our children across the series of national assessments that take place within all schools. I am filled with immense pride at just how remarkably our children performed, outperforming national standards quite spectacularly. Our Year 6 children performed magnificently in their end-of-Key Stage SATs, securing results that are significantly greater than national figures.



There were equally outstanding outcomes for our Year 4 children in the national multiplication tables check. We also saw impressive results in the Year 1 phonics screening. These incredible outcomes are a testament to our dedicated teaching teams and the determination of our pupils to achieve their very best. Well done, everyone!

Sports Days and Sports Week

It was wonderful to see so many of you during our recent Sports Days. It was also a particular pleasure to welcome our nursery children to the field for the first time. The sporting values of teamwork and determination were in evidence throughout every race and challenge. Much like the 6-4 World Cup play-off between England & France, the children demonstrated sportsmanship in abundance, cheering one another on with a spirit that was a joy.

Sports days coincided with our really successful Sports Week filled with potted sports events and a very special visit from Sam Oldham. Sam, a gymnast and Olympic medallist, was able to inspire the children by sharing his journey to success and demonstrating his Olympic-standard flips. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to meet a sporting hero and reflect on their own goals and self-belief.



Framework: Supporting our Community

At Brookside, we have a long-established and valued relationship with Framework homelessness charity. Thank you so much for the extraordinary generosity shown through your recent donations of toiletries and pet items. These categories are often in short supply, and your contributions will be very much appreciated by the people (and pets) that Framework supports.

I am also delighted to share that our school has been celebrated at Framework's Young



Supporters Awards 2026, marking another year where our children's social action has been recognised on a wider stage. In addition to the collective school award, huge congratulations and appreciation go to Clem, Maggie, Ciara, Florie, Thea, Grace and Phoebe for their individual award-winning efforts.

Brookfest – Community & Sunshine

Brookfest was a wonderfully enjoyable occasion that brought our school community together to celebrate in the glorious sunshine. Inflatables, face painting, street food (...and a bar!) meant there was something for everyone. The event was a celebration and served as a vital fundraiser for BFG projects. Massive thanks go to our remarkable BFG team of parents for their tireless enthusiasm and exceptional organisational skills. Your work is hugely appreciated by us all.

Wimbledon – A Game, Set & Match Experience

It was a special experience for myself, Mr. Shilton and a group of our children to visit the Wimbledon Championships recently. It was an unforgettable opportunity for the children to soak up the unique atmosphere of the tournament and watch world-class tennis first-hand. We even managed to get ourselves on the screen during the BBC's cover of the event.



OPAL - Creative Play

Our OPAL playtimes continue to go from strength to strength - it is wonderful to see so much creativity, teamwork and imagination on display across the school. Recently, the children have been making fantastic use of our bread baskets, transforming them into all sorts of vehicles, from buses and racing cars to aeroplanes and space rockets! We have also seen some incredible den-building, with children working together to design, construct and improve their own imaginative play spaces.

OPAL - Making a Splash

The recent hot weather brought even more excitement to our outdoor play. To help everyone cool down safely, the Play Team created a makeshift paddling pool using tarpaulins and storage crates. This became a hugely popular feature and provided lots of splashing and enjoyment. Experiences like these are what make OPAL so special, giving children opportunities to be creative, adventurous and active while building confidence, resilience and friendships.

OPAL - Can You Help?

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated resources to support our OPAL this year. Your generosity helps us provide exciting and varied play opportunities for all of our children, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

If you are having a summer clear-out, we would love to hear from you! We are currently looking for:

- Watering cans Sandpit bucket & spades
- Hot Wheels cars Tarpaulins
- Tubs and containers Shells
- Sandpit netting Table tennis bats and balls
- Tennis balls Barbie clothes

We would also love to source an egg chair stand to help us create a calm and cosy quiet area for children who enjoy having a peaceful space during playtimes.

Special thanks go to Mrs Evans for putting these words together regarding OPAL and for all of her activity as our school's OPAL lead.

Thank You, Year 6 Hen Helpers!

We would like to say a special thank you and farewell to our amazing Year 6 Hen Helpers. They have shown such dedication and care whilst looking after Jess, Lucy and Cleo throughout the year. Whether feeding them, keeping their area tidy or simply spending time with them, the children have taken their responsibilities very seriously. The hens will miss seeing their team of responsible helpers daily.

Finally,

I hope you and the children have a wonderful and restful summer break. Thank you for your continuing support throughout what has been an exceptionally busy and productive year. I look forward to seeing the children return to school, rested but ready for the new school year, on Wednesday, 2nd September.

From the entirety of the Brookside team - enjoy the summer break!

Gary Kenny

(Head Teacher)