

February

18th-22nd – Half Term
26th - 27th Natwest Money Sense workshops – all children

March

6th – 8.50am Hedgehogs Class Assembly
7th – World Book Day
13th – 8.50am Bumblebees Class Assembly
21st – FOBS Film Night
26th -27th March – Book Fair
27th – 8.50am Ladybirds Class Assembly

April

1st – Easter Bonnet Parade and FOBS Easter Hunt
3rd – 8.50am Squirrels Class Assembly
4th – Last day of term – break up 2.00pm
5th – Moderation Day – Children not in school
23rd – Children return to school
24th – 26th – Henley Fort Residential – Hedgehogs

May

13th – 17th – Key Stage 2 SATs Week – Year 6 Owls
27th – 31st Half Term

June

12th – 14th - Runway's End Residential – Badgers and Owls

July

5th – INSET DAY – School Closed
18th – Last day of term – break up 2.00pm
19th – Records Day – Children not in school
22nd – INSET DAY – School closed

Easter Bonnet Parade – Monday 1st April

Remember that I am encouraging participation in the Easter Bonnet Parade this year. Half-term is a great time to start gathering ideas and items for the design of a bonnet. I'm looking forward to seeing the children's creations!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Rhys
James
Mollie-Ann
Logan
Aaliyah
Dorottya
Fritz

Owls class scripted and presented a really classy assembly. Taking a scenario of a theft from a museum, the children debated arguments for and against prosecuting the culprits. It was very clear from their presentation that they are mastering the skills of writing a balanced argument and putting across a point of view with intelligence. Well done to all involved!

On Thursday, Owls and Badgers were privileged to attend one of the matinee performances of Grease by The Winston Churchill School. I wrote and thanked Mr Donaldson, the Director, for inviting us and his response was that we were "the liveliest and happiest of all of our Junior School matinee audiences". As always, the children were brilliantly behaved both in the performance and on the train. A big thank you to the adults who volunteered their time to accompany such a big group going out of school.

Our Bring and Buy book sale has had three major benefits. First, it has raised some money for Let's Read whose volunteers read with emergent readers at Brookwood every week. Secondly, it means that something like 400 books have been recycled to new readers who will benefit from reading them. Finally, families who bought books have increased their home libraries for a fraction of the cost of buying new. Thanks to everyone who donated and bought books. We will repeat this event again later in the year!

Finally, in this busy week, all children have benefitted from a lesson in the Life Education Bus. At an age-appropriate level, children talk about being safe, safe friendships and relationships and about healthy eating and drinking. The older children also talk about drug and alcohol use.

Jo Green Headteacher

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day by inviting the children to come in to school dressed as a character from a book they have read. Lots of ideas can be found online and we hope it will be an exciting way to celebrate reading within school. If you are struggling for ideas then please speak to your child's teacher as they will be able to give you some suggestions.

Blind Date with a Book

We launched 'Blind Date with a Book' in our celebration assembly today to tie in with Valentine's Day next week. The idea is that over Valentine's week the children check out some surprise books on a stall in the library. This involves reading the profile on the cover of the envelope and then taking a chance! We have asked them to rate it and then pop it back in the envelope and return it to the shelf for someone else. The aim is to not just choose a book from its cover and also to read more widely.

Contrasting Sporting Endeavours

On Tuesday, a group of Years 5 and 6 children challenged a local school to a basketball match. With a score line of 47-0 to Brookwood, it was a little one-sided, but the team were gracious in their victory. Charlie deserves a particular mention as he trained the team, helping them prepare tactically and scoring many of the points himself.

On Thursday, we fielded a Year 5 team in the Football County Cup, having won through to the quarter finals. Against very stiff opposition at a large school in Richmond, we unfortunately lost out match. Well done to everyone involved though, as it is a significant achievement to get this far.

Safer Internet Use

You will have seen items in the news from two different angles this week concerning safe internet use. This is a subject that we actively teach at school, but I wanted to highlight some of the issues that have been reported and encourage you to reflect on these with your children.

First, the UK's four Chief Medical Officers have issued guidance on the impact of screen time on children's healthy sleep and on their sociability. They recommend that:

- screens are removed from bedrooms at bedtime
- devices are banned at mealtimes so that families interact socially over meals
- children take regular breaks when using devices
- parents monitor their own use, ensuring that they give their children proper attention and family time, and do not assume that children are happy for their pictures to be shared.

Secondly, there is the really serious discussion about content which children can access on-line. The story around Molly Russell illustrates that young children may have hidden active online profiles which parents would not allow should they be aware.

We know that many children at Brookwood are active online and, from their discussions, are using social media platforms which have a lower age limit of 13, hence clearly are not meant for them. Even where this is not the case, many of their games have online chat functionality which poses a serious grooming risk.

We also have many instances of children using the content of age-inappropriate film imagery as inspiration for their writing and discussions during circle time. Much of this is accessed through their use of YouTube. Children love YouTube as there are many really funny, entertaining clips which amuse and engage them. However, it is really easy to access sinister material on streaming sites.

In addition, some of our children often come to school very tired. A very small number have medical reasons why they find sleep difficult. However, many others tell us about their use of screen time at bedtime and the arrangements they have in their rooms which enable this.

Given the profile of these issues in the news currently, it seems a good time to reflect on your children's access to and use of the internet, including what happens at bedtime. We have guidance and information in school and on our website which can help if you need more details. Thanks. Mrs Green

Vacancy – School Kitchen Assistant at Brookwood - Surrey Commercial Services

There is a vacancy for an assistant in the school kitchen at Brookwood. This is a 10 hour post: 11.15am to 1.15pm every school day.

If you are interested, please contact Surrey Commercial Services on 07773 535506 or www.surreycc.gov.uk/jobs

Community Activities

- Casa Clubs – Holiday Clubs February Half Term 2019
- Chertsey Museum, Holiday Activities – Half Term February 2019
- Eagle Radio Media Academy – starting Feb 19 (for 8-18 year olds)
- LPA Soccer Academy – Feb Half Term 19 (discount for Brookwood pupils)
- Surrey Train to Teach Information - Feb19
- Woking Football Club – Kids Go Free Feb 19

Further information on these items can be found on the school website under the News and Events section. We are not recommending any of the companies, services or events listed above. It is up to individual parents to make their own enquiries.