



# Newsletter

## Friday 1st December 2023

<https://brookburn.manchester.sch.uk>



### Spotlight on... Mrs Conlon

I am so lucky to have been teaching at Brookburn now for almost 17 years. I have taught in both EYFS and Key Stage 1. As assistant head of EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage), it has been amazing to see how well all the children have settled since September, especially those in Nursery and Reception. One of the favourite parts of my role is being able to go into other classes and see the fabulous learning that is taking place. It is a joy to see the progress of so many children that I remember starting in Nursery.

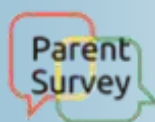
I am also very passionate about early reading and phonics and I have been lucky enough to be part of a team at Brookburn who feels the same. Thank you to all those children and parents who have left EYFS, who still pop in and say hello. If you ever need to discuss anything, please do come and see me.

Thank you

Lynsey Conlon



South Music Centre offer music lessons on Saturday mornings at local venues. Their aim is to inspire, encourage and facilitate young people in Manchester to learn about and enjoy music. Visit <https://myhub.org.uk/music-centres/south-music-centre/> for more info on how your child can get involved. There are seven music centres across the City of Manchester offering a wide range of musical activities and pathways for all ages and abilities. The Music Centres are funded by MyHub and organised and run by One Education Music.



Thank you for attending your child's progress evenings this week. We hope you found the interim report helped with your discussion with the class teacher.

If you haven't already done so, please do take a moment to complete the parent survey. You can do this on the following google form before 4th December.

<https://forms.gle/APaXhTCG4T4dJxuW9>

Thank you



Special Educational Needs  
& Disabilities



We've been excited to welcome our Speech and Language Therapist, Nicole Walsh, to Brookburn this term.

Speech and Language Therapists can work on a range of communication skills to help children. These may include:

- Understanding of language/what you say to them e.g. following instructions
- Expressive language/what they can say e.g. vocabulary, grammar, putting sentences together etc.
- Speech: being able to say sounds and words correctly. How well you can understand what they are saying.
- Stammering / Stuttering: difficulty getting words out or repeating sounds/words before they speak e.g. "I w w w want a drink please"
- Selective Mutism: some children have a fear of talking in different places, they might speak ok at home but not say anything at school.
- Social skills: being able to use language appropriately in different settings e.g. not interrupting people when talking, being able to ask a friend to play etc. This also includes developing good friendships with other children.
- Communication aids: these are things to help when children aren't able to use speech to say everything they need e.g. PECS, Signing/Makaton

If you have any questions or concerns related to Speech and Language please get in touch with your child's teacher or with the SENDCo, Mrs Ikin [Tomkinson.senco@brookburn.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:Tomkinson.senco@brookburn.manchester.sch.uk).



The next Local Offer Drop-In is on Wednesday 13th December, 10am-12pm at the Moss Side Powerhouse, 140 Raby Street, Moss Side, Manchester M14 4SL. The venue has a small car park but there is parking on the roads nearby.

There will be plenty of parent carers at the drop in to answer your questions and offer support as well as a range of SEND services for children and young people up to 25. This includes SENDIASS <https://www.iasmanchester.org/> for your education questions.

If you can't make it visit <https://hsm.manchester.gov.uk/kb5/manchester/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

The Local Offer SEND Information Hub covers education, stuff to do, benefits, household matters, sources of support - and much more.



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### Winter Disco 2023 & Own Clothes Day 7th December in School Hall

**Key Stage 1 – 3:45pm - 5pm**  
(Reception, Y1 and Y2)

An adult should accompany every reception child. Year 1/Year 2 - one adult can watch multiple children at the disco.

There will be a separate space for adults to mingle and grab a bite to eat or a drink. So, make sure you bring some cards or change!

#### **Key Stage 2 – 5:30 - 6:45**

(Year 3 - Year 6)

Children must be dropped off and collected by an adult (no need for adults to attend unless a volunteer)

#### **Where to buy the tickets?**

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/brookburnpta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=72034&isProductGroup=true>

Tickets are £6, then £5 for additional siblings. Price includes a hot dog and unlimited squash.

Please get in touch with the PTA or the school if your child's attendance is affected by the cost of the ticket. In addition to raising as much money as we can, our main goal is to provide every child with an amazing experience.

**Volunteers needed** - We need various volunteers for set up during the day (approx. 2pm), duties at the disco and the clean-up. Therefore, please get in touch with a PTA member or register when you purchase your tickets.

We want every youngster to feel involved so for those who need a break, there will be a quiet area off the disco. Please get in touch with the PTA team so we can make plans for your child if you believe

### Sports news



Some of our Year 5 athletes competed in the South Manchester Sportshall Athletics Competition last week. The team competed in running, jumping, throwing and relay events. Official results have not yet been received, but the team performed extremely well in both track and field event. even winning two of the track events

Huge congratulations to our team who attended the girls Futsal competition at Platt Lane. The girls were amazing, playing with passion, determination, and great skill! We are pleased to share the news that Brookburn came 1st in the competition and are the girls Futsal Champions! Well done to all who took part in both events and a big thank you to those parents that helped with transport to and from the venues, without your help, we wouldn't have been able to attend so we are so grateful for your support.



MCRactive and Manchester City Council are offering thousands of **FREE** places for children to access a variety of activities and a **FREE** meal over the Christmas holidays in Manchester for those on benefits-related free school meals. To book your child's space: Sign up for an MCRactive Go account: <https://www.mcractive.com/>. Once signed up, log into your account Find ActivitiesSearch by Category 'MCR Holiday Activity' Use code sent via Parentmail to book free eligible activities.

Please also visit <https://loadstodo.co.uk/> to view additional FREE holiday activities



The Big Ambition aims to hear from children

across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England. The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December. Visit: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/>



Child Protection in Sport Unit

# NSPCC

The NSPCC have created a section on their website to offer parents to all the advice they need to keep their children safe in sport. You will find information on how to choose safe clubs and activities and ideas on how to support your child in a positive way.

There is also a useful fact sheet for parents on how they can get involved in their child's sports club. Check it out: <https://thecpsu.org.uk/parents>





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### Childcare Choices

On 27 October 2023 the eligibility checker on [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk) was updated, enabling parents to access personalised information on the support available to them, including which of the new transformational childcare offers they will be eligible for depending on the age of their child and earnings.

An additional feature added to the website is a subscribe for updates function, which gives parents the opportunity to sign up for regular newsletters letting them know when they should take action to make sure they are getting the support they are entitled to – including information about wraparound for primary school children and when the new 15 hours for two-year-olds becomes available for sign-ups, with the offer beginning in April 2024.

Take a look on their website to see what you could be eligible for.

We will be serving Christmas Lunch to children on school meals on Thursday 14th December:



#### Menu

Roast Turkey or Roast Quorn

Roast Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

Stuffing. Gravy

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Christmas Dessert

Fruit



### Winter Singalong

On Thursday 21st December at 1.40pm

Some Key Stage 2

children will be singing some winter songs outside in the amphitheatre. We hope as many of our families can come along as possible to join in and really get the Christmas festivities started!



### Christmas Jumper Day Thursday 14th December

We are holding our Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 14th December to raise funds for Save the Children.

Come to school wearing Christmas Jumper and make a donation of £2 via Parentpay. There is no need to buy a special Christmas jumper, why not get creative by adding a bit of Christmas sparkle to an old jumper you have at home.



### Christmas Performances for Parents and Carers

#### Reception Nativity

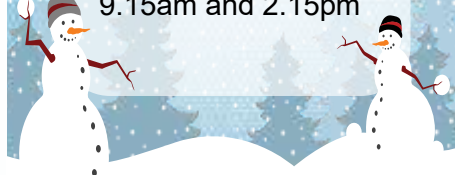
Tuesday 12th December  
9.15am

#### Nursery Singalong

Wednesday 13th December  
9.15am

#### Key Stage 1 Performance

Tuesday 19th December  
9.15am and 2.15pm



**Don't forget to  
apply for your  
child's primary  
school place**

The closing date for Reception admissions is 15th January. The best way is to apply is online via the Manchester City Council website <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/admissions> Children currently in our Nursery still need to apply for a Reception place with Manchester City Council.

**COMING UP  
NEXT!**

### December

**Mon 4th Dec**

Boys Futsal  
Comp

**Thu 7th Dec**

PTA non-uniform  
day and Winter  
Disco

**Tue 12th**

Reception Nativity  
9.15am

**Wed 13th**

Nursery singalong  
9.15am

**Thu 14th**

Christmas Dinner  
Christmas  
Jumper Day

**Tue 19th**

KS1 Performance  
9.15am and  
2.15pm

**Thu 21st**

Winter Singalong  
1.40pm

Break up for  
Christmas at 2pm

No Dolphins /  
After School  
Clubs

### January

**Mon 8th**

Return to school

**Mon 15th**

Deadline for  
Reception 2024  
applications.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# X

**AGE RESTRICTED 13+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

October 2022, the controversial proposal to make the world's first 'adult-only' app, which would be built by tech giant Meta, has sparked a heated debate about whether it's a necessary step to protect children from harmful content or a slippery slope towards censorship. The controversy has continued with each passing day, many of them raising serious concerns about the role of parents and carers in protecting their children from harmful content. With the app's launch reportedly in the pipeline, it has attracted more than its share of controversy and caution in the public mind.

### A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

A few weeks ago, a parent wrote to me asking for advice on how to block a child's access to social media. The parent was worried about their child's online safety and wanted to know how to block a child's access to social media. I explained that blocking a child's access to social media is a good idea, but it's not always easy to do. I gave them some advice on how to block a child's access to social media and how to talk to their child about online safety.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of the most common complaints about social media are about age-inappropriate content. This is content that is not suitable for children and young people. It can be anything from violent or sexual content to content that is simply not suitable for children and young people. Parents and carers need to be aware of the risks of age-inappropriate content and take steps to protect their children and young people from it.

### VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Meta's new verification system for creators is a good idea, but it's not always easy to use. I explained that the system is designed to help creators verify their identity and that it's a good idea to use it. I gave them some advice on how to use the system and how to talk to their child about online safety.

### BLUE TICK SALE

Meta's new 'Blue Tick' sale is a good idea, but it's not always easy to use. I explained that the sale is designed to help creators verify their identity and that it's a good idea to use it. I gave them some advice on how to use the sale and how to talk to their child about online safety.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PROTECT PRIVACY

Discussions of privacy are often about how to protect a child's privacy. But it's also about how to protect a child's privacy from others. Parents and carers need to be aware of the risks of privacy and take steps to protect their children and young people from it.

### DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To get more views and followers, some creators will use tactics that are designed to get people to click on their videos. These tactics can be anything from using clickbait headlines to using controversial or inflammatory content. Parents and carers need to be aware of these tactics and not let their children and young people be misled by them.

### STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that it's not always who it looks like. It's important to be aware of the risks of imposters and to take steps to protect your child from them. I gave them some advice on how to identify imposters and how to talk to their child about online safety.

### ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees is from people they know or trust. I explained that this is a good idea and that it's important to only follow trusted accounts. I gave them some advice on how to identify trusted accounts and how to talk to their child about online safety.

### BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a scam, you need to know how to take action. I explained that there are a number of ways to take action and that it's important to be ready to do so. I gave them some advice on how to take action and how to talk to their child about online safety.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr. Sarah Jones, a leading expert in child psychology, has written this guide to help parents and carers understand the risks of social media and how to protect their children and young people from it. She is a member of the British Psychological Society and has published many papers on child psychology.

**NOS National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday