



Newsletter

Friday 15th December 2023

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

Message from Jayne Kennedy, Executive Headteacher, LINK Learning Trust.

Dear Parents and families,

As we come to the end of our Autumn term, Jen Holden and I would like to thank everyone connected with Brookburn Community Primary school, for your continued support and commitment to making Brookburn such a great school. How long-ago September seems to be.



This term has been a hardworking and fun place to be, with great learning, school improvement and community activities from new class curriculum overviews to Winter Discos, much has been achieved. Please click our link to see some of the details behind our Autumn Term activities

<https://brookburn.manchester.sch.uk/you-said-we-have/>

As we say good bye to 2023, we look forward to working with you to continue to improve. I would like to thank families, the PTA, volunteers, children and staff for their dedication to the children and families at Brookburn.

Have a great holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone at 9am on Monday 8th January.

Jayne Kennedy



Top tips for an inclusive Christmas from Mrs Ikin Tomkinson and the National Autistic Society.

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration but it can be difficult for some people with additional needs. Follow these top tips to help everyone enjoy the festive period!

- Plan in advance when you can and share your plans with your children so that they know what they're doing, when and who with. Don't just plan for Christmas Day, plan for the whole holiday and give yourself quiet days to recoup and recharge. Think about ways you can make the festive season work for you and your family and don't feel pressured into doing things just because that's what other people do. Consider sensory differences that could cause distress or discomfort; might your child benefit from ear defenders or need a quiet space to retreat to if they're feeling overwhelmed?
- Some people have differing sensory needs; decorations are great but some might struggle and find it really overwhelming. Consider decorating gradually or having Christmas-free areas of your home without decorations.
- Presents can be overwhelming: the number, the wrapping and unwrapping; unclear expectations about how to respond after receiving a present. Make a list of presents you or your children would like to receive and share this with family and friends to remove any elements of surprise and give you a sense of control. Discuss with your children whether they want presents wrapping or not.



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Futsal Competition

Year 5/6 boys represented the school in a futsal competition last week. The boys played well and were placed 5th out of 11 teams in the tournament. A big thank you to the parents that helped with transport and for accompanying the children giving them support, advice and encouragement.



Spotlight on... Miss Taylor

I have been teaching at Brookburn for over 25 years! I started as a brand new teacher and liked it so much that I never left. Infact, now that Ms Rafi has retired, I have the honour of being the longest serving teacher in our school.

I have taught hundreds of children throughout KS2 but mainly in Year 6. I love helping not only the academic journey of the children in their final year but also moulding their independence, self confidence and growth mindset skills. A big part of this is a huge passion of mine and something that I have been organising for 20+ years - Ghyll Head! This is the 5 day outdoor residential in the Lake District.

Another passion of mine is reading, particularly Reading for Pleasure. The Year 6 Book Club I run take an active part in promoting a love of reading. I am part of a team of Reading Leaders in school who strive to develop reading in each Year group.

If you are looking for any last minute gift ideas - then a book is the answer! BookTrust is a great site for recommendations for age groups and interests:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>



A huge thank you to our PTA for arranging the winter disco last Thursday. It was a fabulous, fun filled event that the children loved and it wouldn't have been possible without the army of volunteers so



The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 19th

January. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/> It only takes 5-10 minutes and is an opportunity for the children of England to tell policy makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election.



MCRactive 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 or log in: <https://www.mcractive.com/> and use the code sent via Parentmail to book free eligible activities.



Download the Trans Pennine Trail Christmas Activity Pack

for some family friendly activities and challenges:

<https://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Christmas-2023-Activity-Pack-1.pdf>

Clubhouse is running 3 sessions over the Christmas holidays based at West Didsbury and Chorlton FC.

Friday 22nd Dec 8am to 1pm

Wheelie Bikes at Longford Park

Wednesday 3rd Jan 7.45am to 5.30pm

Cinema visit, dodgeball tournament, hot chocolate and arts and crafts

Thursday 4th Jan 7.45am to 5.30pm

Wellie walk to make journey sticks, clay modelling workshop and team games.

Visit <https://clubhouse.ipalbookings.com/> to book or email michelle_jolley@hotmail.com for more info.



Visit <https://loadstodo.co.uk/> to view additional FREE holiday activities and other opportunities taking place across the city.



The Place2Be website has a range of parenting support and information including

practical tips to support children's wellbeing and behaviour on a wide range of topics from sibling rivalry, to anxiety and battleground mealtimes to building secure relationships <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>



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COMING UP NEXT!

December

Tue 19th

KS1 Performance
9.15am and
2.15pm

Wed 20th

Brookburn's Got
Talent
NO Swimming
lessons for Y4

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.

Y5/6 Basketball
Competition

Sat 20th Jan

Den and
Allotment
Volunteer Day

Mon 22nd - Fri

2nd Feb

Eco Switch Off
Fortnight

February

Fri 2nd

Reception vision
and hearing
checks

Tue 6th

Y4/5 Swimming
Gala

Fri 16th

School closes
3.25pm half term

Term Dates

2023-2024

Thu 21 Dec

School closes at
2pm

Spring Term

Mon 8 Jan

Return to school
Fri 16 Feb

School closes for
half term

Mon 19 - Fri 23 Feb

Half term holiday

Mon 26 Feb

Return to school

Thu 28 Mar

School closes at
2pm

for Easter

**No After School
Club**

Summer Term

Mon 15 Apr

Return to School

Thu 2 May

School closed - IN-
SET

Mon 6 May

School closed - Bank
Holiday

Fri 24 May

School closes for
half term

Mon 27 - Fri 31 May

half term holiday

Mon 3 Jun

Return to school

Fri 19 Jul

School closes at
2pm for summer holi-
day

No After School Club

Mon 22 Jul

INSET

Tue 23 Jul

INSET

Christmas Events

Key Stage 1 Performance

Tuesday 19th December

9.15am and 2.15pm

Parents and carers welcome

(We request that you limit guests to 2 people if possible)

Winter Singalong

Thursday 21st December

1.40pm

Children in years 3-6 will be performing some winter songs for our families outside in the amphitheatre. Performers can wear something festive to school on this day.

We hope to see you lots of our families there!



Den and Allotment Family Day

The PTA are holding a Den & Allotment Family Day on Saturday

20th January from 10:30am until

1pm. They will be refilling the EYFS and Den sandpits. If you can help, please do come along; it's a great way for Brookburn families to meet and help out the school community. The sessions are casual and volunteers can do as much or as little as they like.

Please meet in the allotment area accessed via the cobbled lane. Any questions, contact

brookburnallotment@gmail.com



APPLY NOW

Make sure you apply for your
child's primary school place by
Monday 15 January 2024

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/](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/admissions)

[admissions](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/admissions). Children currently in our Nursery still need to apply for a Reception place with Manchester City Council.

Head Lice

Just a quick reminder to check for headlice once a week.

The best way to do this is with wet hair after shampoo and conditioner. Use a fine tooth comb. Make sure the teeth of the comb start at the roots and draw down to the ends of the hair with every stroke. The comb must be fine enough to catch the lice.

It is also wise for long hair to be tied back for school.

**REMEMBER
ONCE A WEEK,
TAKE A PEEK**

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season – Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minda Award design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and skills to manage their settings' mental health communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is protected.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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