



Newsletter

Friday 10th May 2024

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



Staff spotlight on..... Mrs Sherriff



I am the Nursery Teacher here at Brookburn. I also lead outdoor learning across Early years. I am always looking for creative ways to take learning outside, whatever the weather!



I also lead maths across early years and I am passionate about teaching children that maths is part of everything that we do, it is very accessible and above all, maths is really fun!

It is a real privilege to be the Nursery teacher and be the children's first teacher at School.



My aim is for children to feel happy coming to School and to be excited about learning. It is very rewarding to watch the children become so independent and enthusiastic. I am lucky to be able to see the children go through their whole School journey from when they start in Nursery to when they leave in year 6.

I came to Brookburn for 6 months in 2009 to cover Mrs Conlon's first maternity leave. Fifteen years later I am still here and that is testament to the School and the wonderful community. Whilst teaching at Brookburn I have taught in Year one, Reception and Nursery.



In my spare time I like to jog and I attend parkrun most Saturday mornings with my husband and my son. My home parkrun is Wythenshawe but I do pop in to Stretford parkrun now and again. Please do say hi if you see me there!

Before teaching at Brookburn I taught in Hong Kong for four years. This was a great experience and I still have a keen interest in Chinese culture. I'm sure that most children will remember learning to perform a dragon dance when they were in my Nursery class.



Science Week



A huge thank you to all our wonderful budding scientists and parent helpers who supported our children's ideas and helped with facilitating their experiments and investigations.



We have been inundated with some fun, curious and simply fantastic live demonstrations in the different classrooms as well as being able to share videos that have been sent in. It has been a privilege to have different parents come into each year group to explain how they use science in their everyday job.

*Mrs Dudgeon
Science Lead*



Please find below the dates for school sports days.

Nursery and Reception

Tuesday 18th June - 2:30-3.20pm

Year 1/2

Tuesday 25th June - 2.00-3.25pm
(reserve date Fri 28th June)

Year 3/4

Tuesday 2nd July - 2.00-3.25pm
(reserve date Thu 4th July)

Year 5/6

Tuesday 9th July - 2.00-3.25pm
(reserve date Thu 11th July)

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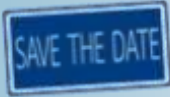
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Come and join us THIS Saturday Den & Allotment Family Day 11am-1pm



Bring the kids and help install new garden beds in the school allotment. Drop in anytime between 11am-1pm. Access via the cobbled lane next to school. More info at www.brookburnpta.com



If you can't make it this week, why not save the date now and join us on one of our next family days:

Saturday, 15th June - 11am-1pm
Saturday, 13th July - 11am-1pm



One Education Music Centres

There are seven music centres across the city of Manchester with a long list of music styles available to learn about.

Membership to all of our centres is **free!**

The music centres offer a variety of music activities and a wide range of music styles including **rock, folk, pop** and **classical bands & orchestra** for all abilities.

If your child is interested in these activities as a beginner or would like to continue with tuition or join a band, orchestra or choir contact:

music@oneeducation.co.uk

<https://www.oneeducation.co.uk/teaching-learning/music-centres/>



Friday 12th July from 3.30pm - 6pm.

Help put on a fun-filled day to celebrate the end of the school year and raise funds for a new EYFS climbing frame.

We need donations for prizes and the jumble sale and volunteers on the day. Check out the event listing on www.brookburnpta.com

Our Manchester Strategy and Survey



Manchester City Council are currently developing the next ten-year strategy for the city, the Our Manchester Strategy, and is spending time listening to people who live, work, and play in the city to understand what they want the city to be like in the future. Visit www.manchester.gov.uk/ourmanchester for more information about the Our Manchester Strategy.

Complete the survey at: <https://surveys.manchester.gov.uk/s/ZORJSS/>

Please note that the survey will close at 11:59pm on 31st May 2024.



Can you help our school road closure by being a School Street Marshal?

Can you help Brookburn's School Streets team to make the school run safer and greener? If you can help out on however little or often please contact our parent volunteers at:

activetravel@brookburnpta.com.

Head Lice

We've had a few cases of headlice through out the school so a quick reminder to check for headlice once a week.

The best way to do this is with wet hair after shampoo and conditioner using a fine tooth comb. Check everyone you live with, or have close contact with, and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day.

Once a Week, Take a Peek!



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COMING UP
NEXT!

May

Mon 13th - Thu 16th

KS2 SATs

Week 1 lunch

Mon 20th - Fri 24th

Neurodiversity Week

Week 2 lunch

Year 6 Business

Enterprise Launch

Mon 20th

Class 5ED

Library visit

Tue 21st

Children to wear colour

for Neurodiversity

Assembly

Fri 24th

School closes at

3.25pm for half term

Mon 27th - Fri 31st

Half Term Holiday

June

Mon 3rd-Fri 7th

Week 3 lunch

Mon 3rd

Children return to

school

Tue 4th

Y3 Trip to

Quarry Bank Mill

Mon 10th - Fri 14th

Week 1 lunch

Y6 trip to Ghyll Head

Tue 18th

Nursery / Reception

Sports Day - 2.30pm

Tue 25th

Year 1 / 2 Sports Day

2pm

Wed 26th

Summer Music Evening

(More info to follow

shortly)

Term Dates

2023-2024

Summer Term

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 holiday

No After School Club

Mon 22 Jul

INSET

Tue 23 Jul

INSET

2023-2024

Autumn Term

Mon 2 Sep

School closed to children (INSET)

Tue 3 Sep

School closed to children (INSET)

Wed 4 Sep

Children return to school

Fri 18 Oct

School closes at 3.25pm for half term

Mon 28 Oct

Children return to school

Fri 20 Dec

School closes at 2pm for Christmas

No afterschool clubs

Spring Term

Mon 6 Jan

Children return to school



Special Educational Needs
& Disabilities



Inclusion Coffee Morning

Find out more about Special Educational Needs and Inclusion at Brookburn and meet our SENDCo,

Mrs Ikin-Tomkinson. It's a great opportunity to ask any questions or to chat to other parents over a coffee*

The next meet up is:

Thursday 20th June at 9am in the Training Room (by the cobbled lane)



SEND News from

Manchester Local Offer

Click below to view the latest news update including information on upcoming drop-in sessions, kids activities and support groups:

<https://hsm.manchester.gov.uk/kb5/manchester/directory/advice.page?id=uptXtrEL9fq>



Neurodiversity Week 20th - 24th May

Neurodiversity week is all

about challenging stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences by encouraging people to be more accepting of neurodivergent people.

On **Tuesday 21st May**, we will be holding a special assembly and would like children to wear something bright and colourful to school to celebrate our differences and individuality.



Digital Workshops for Parents

A reminder that there is a workshop dedicated to helping parents understand the risks their children face in their online lives and the practical things parents can do to help.

Date: Monday 17th June

Time: 6-7pm

Where: Online:

https://smoothwall.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uOkpqlA1QmSJj7RrNAbxow

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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 and a whole host more of valuable support. To find out more please go to: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2

Within weeks of release, *HELLDIVERS 2* had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 18+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PEGI 18 RATING
Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, *HELLDIVERS 2* carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
In *HELLDIVERS 2*, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending as much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than patiently earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING
HELLDIVERS 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game text to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a risk of abuse, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER
The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to *HELLDIVERS 2*'s appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS
The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and also lack the active hindered approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as *HELLDIVERS 2*.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST
HELLDIVERS 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS
At the time of writing, *HELLDIVERS 2* costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether *HELLDIVERS 2* is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES
If playing on Xbox – where *HELLDIVERS 2* isn't available – consider something like *Halo: The Master Chief Collection* as an alternative. One of its game modes – *Firefight* – replicates *HELLDIVERS 2*'s mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted *Deep Rock Galactic*, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS
Many sites offer in-game purchases, but *HELLDIVERS 2*'s are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS
Thanks to an in-game "ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to *HELLDIVERS 2* as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's menu settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of @G4BCdn, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.

#WakeUpWednesday
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