BROOK ST SCHOOL - NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

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A very warm welcome to all the children who have joined our Nursery and Reception classes this term, as well as the new students who have settled into other year groups across the school. We are absolutely delighted to have you all as part of our school community and hope that your children are already feeling happy, safe, and at home in their new environments. Starting a new school is a big milestone, and we have been incredibly proud to see how well the children are settling in. To all of our parents —both new and returning—please remember that we are a proudly friendly and welcoming school. We know that the transition into a new school routine can bring plenty of questions, big or small. Please never hesitate to reach out to us. **Whether you need a quick chat at the gate, some reassurance, or specific help, our doors are always open and we are here to support you every step of the way. Here's to a wonderful, successful, and exciting school year together!**

Year 2 Dance with Carlisle United FC

This half term, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their dance lessons in PE, which have been delivered by professional sports coaches from Carlisle United FC. Following these energetic sessions, the coaches also delivered free after-school dance lessons to those who signed up. **Please remember that places for these popular clubs are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you ever receive a letter inviting your child to attend a free after-school club, please make sure to sign up and hand in your form as soon as possible so you don't miss out!**

Important Notice: Reception School Applications for September 2027

While parents of Year 6 children should have already submitted their secondary school preferences, it is now time for parents of nursery children to take the next step.

Please note that even if your child currently attends our nursery, a place in our Reception class is **not automatically guaranteed**. To secure a Reception place at Brook Street School for September 2027, you must complete a preference form or submit an online application.

The absolute deadline for submissions is **15 January 2027**. Please ensure your application is completed online or your paper form is handed into the school office before this date. If you need any assistance, have questions, or require more information about the application process, please do not hesitate to ask at the school office. We are here to help if you need it.

SCHOOL TRIPS

We have had an incredibly busy and exciting half term, packed full of wonderful school trips! Our children have been out and about exploring, learning new skills, and making wonderful memories. Here is a look at what some of our classes have been up to:

Year 2 Step Back in Time at Carlisle Castle

Our Year 2 class went on a fantastic trip to **Carlisle Castle**! They had a brilliant time exploring the ancient stone walls, climbing the steps, and learning all about the castle's fascinating 900-year history. The children loved discovering what life was like for the knights and soldiers who used to live there. It was a wonderful way to bring their history lessons to life!

Year 3 & 4 Brave the Weather at Ratlingate

Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed an action-packed, exciting day out doing forest school activities at **Ratlingate**. Although it was a very wet day, our resilient pupils didn't let the weather dampen their spirits! Luckily, they managed to escape the heavy showers and had a fantastic time building shelters, exploring nature, and enjoying the great outdoors. It was wonderful to see them working as a team and building their outdoor skills.

Magical Moments in the RRCA Sensory Room

A small group of five children had a truly special day exploring the incredible **sensory room at RRCA**. This wonderful space offered a calm environment for the children to explore. They absolutely loved interacting with the soothing bubble tubes, relaxing under the colorful changing lights, and discovering all the different tactile textures. It was a peaceful and deeply engaging experience for everyone involved.

Nursery's Tasty Trip to Nixon's

Our Nursery children had a wonderful time visiting our local fruit and veg shop, Nixon's! Whilst there, the children tasted lots of different delicious fruits and we were very impressed at the knowledge that they had about each fruit they tasted in the shop. They then picked out some brilliant pumpkins to bring back to school for our autumn activities, and the lovely shop owners even gave everyone a special little treat**. A big thank you to Nixon's for being so welcoming!**

Reception Explore Our Local Community

Reception class wrapped up warm and went on an exciting walk around our local community. They practiced their observation skills by looking out for all the different places and landmarks we pass on our way to school each day. It was a fantastic way for the children to learn more about their local area and chat about the familiar sights in our neighbourhood.

Wraparound Care Updates: After School Club & Breakfast Club

After School Club continues to run each day. We offer three different price bands depending on your childcare needs:• **3:15pm – 3:30pm: £1.00,• 3:15pm – 4:45pm: £5.00,• 3:15pm – 5:45pm: £7.50** Please remember that places must be booked by 2:30pm on the day.

Breakfast Club continues to be completely **free of charge** and remains on offer to all children. There is no need to book for this—simply come along from 8.00am.

We would like to extend **a huge thank you to Greggs**, who continue to generously donate funds to support our clubs - also **to Tesco**, who have kindly donated to us this term as well. Your support makes a massive difference to our school community!

A huge congratulations to our fantastic **Year 5 and Year 6 boys** who recently represented the school at the Richard Rose Central Academy (RRCA) football tournament. The team played with brilliant spirit, outstanding sportsmanship, and real determination. Competing in inter-school tournaments like this offers incredible experiences for our pupils, helping them grow far beyond the football pitch.

School Photographs Update

You will have been given a proof of your child's school photograph. There is a **QR code** attached to this proof.

Please scan the QR code if you wish to order. Following the prompts after scanning is the only way you can place an order.

Please do not lose this proof as unfortunately the company who takes the photographs does not give the school copies or duplicates of your unique ordering code so we cannot replace them.

We finish for the October Half Term Holiday On FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER at normal time and return on MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

WE HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY THE HOLIDAY.

Important Notice: Flu Vaccinations Top-Up Session

Flu vaccinations for children took place over this half-term. If your child missed the session but you would still like them to receive the vaccine, you can sign them up using the **NHS QR code**.

The Immunisation Nurses will be returning to school on **Monday 9 November** to carry out top-up vaccinations.

Vaccine Options: The standard vaccine is administered as a quick and painless nasal spray. However, if your child is Muslim, an alternative vaccine that aligns with your religious practices is available.

Action Required: You must register your consent online using the QR code to enable the nurses to vaccinate your child.

Please complete the online sign-up **as soon as possible**, as the system booking window will close shortly. **If you need another copy of the QR code or require any assistance, please contact the school office**.

Important Notice: Year 1 School Vision Screening Follow-Up -Our Year 1 children recently undertook their school vision screening tests. If you receive correspondence indicating that your child requires further assessment, please take them to a local optician for expert help as soon as possible.

Please be assured that all children under the age of 16 are fully entitled to free NHS eye tests. This universal care applies to all children living in the UK, including those whose families have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). Healthcare entitlements for children—including eye tests—are not classified as public funds, meaning your immigration status or income has no impact on their eligibility.

Furthermore, if the optician determines that your child needs glasses, you will be issued an NHS optical voucher. This voucher covers the cost of a wide range of standard children's glasses, making them completely free at most high street opticians. If you choose an upgraded designer or premium frame outside the allocated voucher price range, you will only need to pay the difference.

Good eyesight is absolutely crucial for your child's learning, concentration, and overall progress. If **you have received a follow-up letter, or if you have a child of any age and think they need their eyesight tested, you do not need a GP referral—simply call any local optician to book an appointment.** If you need any assistance or have questions, please feel free to speak to the school office.

Important Information: School Attendance and Legal Penalty Fines

Regular school attendance is extremely important for your child's education. If your child is not in school, we cannot teach them, and they will miss vital learning that directly impacts their progress. The school works hard to support all families, but we must remind parents that the government takes unauthorised absence very seriously.

Under the National Framework for England and Cumberland Council guidelines, schools **Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) will be issued when a child accumulates 10 or more sessions (equivalent to 5 full school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-week period.** This includes keeping your child off school for holidays, unauthorised time abroad, or general poor attendance that cannot be proven or medically validated.

Statutory Fine Structure (Per Parent, Per Child):

- First Offence: The fine is £160 if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Second Offence (within a rolling 3-year period): The fine rises to a flat £160 per parent, per child, with no option for a reduced rate.
- Third Offence / Escalation: A third instance of unauthorised absence will skip the fine stage and go straight to prosecution. Magistrates' Court prosecution can result in fines up to £2,500 per parent, a community order, or a prison sentence of up to 3 months.

Please note that penalty notices are issued to each legally responsible parent individually (fine given to each parent for each child). For example, a first-offence term-time holiday for two school-age children would result in a combined fine of £320 if paid within 21 days, or £640 if paid within 28 days.

We appreciate your continued co-operation in prioritising your child's education and ensuring they arrive on time every day. If your child is struggling with attendance, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can provide the necessary support before it escalates to legal action. Please help us to give your child a great start in life by giving them a fantastic education.

CELEBRATING OUR AMAZING AWARD WINNERS!

We have so many wonderful children to congratulate this half term for their outstanding achievements, hard work, and brilliant character. Please join us in celebrating our fantastic pupils!

The Mr Potter Award for Resilience

This special award recognises children who show great determination, never give up, and keep trying their best even when things are challenging. Huge congratulations to:

Imran Q (Reception), Ibrahim A (Year 3), Ruqueya A (Year 4) Maria M (Year 5), Essey (Year 6)

The Avril Barker Award for Good Citizenship

This award celebrates our wonderful role models who show kindness, look out for others, and make our school community a better place every day. Well done to:

Saffron M (Reception), Danah H (Year 1), Delilah C (Year 2), Verdant K (Year 3), Yasamin K (Year 4), Candice M (Year 5), Abdul K (Year 6)

For Our Most Improved Readers – A Very Special Treat!

A massive congratulations to our most improved readers from each class! As a special reward for all their hard work and dedication to reading, the Headteacher will be taking these children on an exciting trip to Waterstones Book Shop to choose a brand-new book to keep:

Hajrah A (Reception), Romal M (Year 1), Chester H (Year 2), Ysabella J (Year 3), Hadia Q (Year 4), LJ McL (Year 5), Jakub M (Year 6).

Fantastic Class Assemblies

Well done to all children who performed for their parents at their class assemblies. It was wonderful to see so many families in attendance supporting our pupils. Every single child showed great confidence, speaking clearly and performing brilliantly.

We are incredibly proud of all of you. Keep up the brilliant work!