



Brook Street School - December 2025

Tel: 01228 558724

Email: office@brookst.cumbria.sch.uk

Website: www.brookstreetschool.co.uk



We have once again managed to ensure that your child has the right balance of education and fun whilst at Brook Street School. The 'fun' part of school has seen us organise parties and trips and we hope that your children will be able to remember these exciting events into adulthood. This half term they have enjoyed:

a **CINEMA TRIP** - Years 1, 2 & 3 went to the Vue Cinema and enjoyed a showing of the Smurfs movie whilst years 4, 5 & 6 enjoyed Wicked.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - Years 1 & 2 once again enjoyed a fabulous morning at Lakeland Gate where Santa joined them for breakfast.

They enjoyed sausage, egg, beans and hash-browns, yoghurts, blueberry muffins croissants, fresh fruit and either fresh orange or apple juice. They then had a session in the soft-play, enjoyed a disco and did some crafting. They all came back to school with a goodie bag. In the afternoon they enjoyed their Xmas Party with games played, prizes won and party food eaten. Many thanks to the staff at Lakeland Gate who once again did 'over and above' for us.



A trip to THEATRE BY THE LAKE - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 went to Keswick to see the stage production of the Wizard of Oz at the theatre. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and many staff reported that it was 'the best production ever'.



XMAS PARTIES All classes enjoyed games with prizes and party food at their annual Xmas party.

A FESTIVE FUN DAY IN EARLY YEARS - this once again took place where parents were invited into school to enjoy a festive arts and crafts day with their children. The children then enjoyed lots of party games and dancing at their party the day after.



4 children - **Pavlin, Lucy, Matilda and Abul**, went along with Mr Bursnell and Miss Thompson to the **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** which was held at the Tithe Barn. A tribute was made in school then laid in memory of all those who have ever lost their life in conflict. The children represented school well and, as always, were a credit to us.

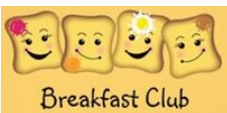


FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS - 4 selected children have enjoyed attending **Gosling Sike** this half term. The concept of Forest Schools was introduced to the UK from Scandinavia in the 1990s. It is where the natural outdoor environment, such as a woodland becomes the classroom. It helps to teach confidence, and self-esteem through hands-on, learner-led experiences. The children worked together to complete problem solving tasks and overcome challenges. They carried out tasks like building dens, climbing trees and learning to use tools to assist with challenges given. Later in the year some of our classes will attend Ratlingate to enjoy outdoor learning there.



This year, we have invested in a new writing scheme in school called '**I am a clever writer**' where each skill of writing is broken down in small steps to allow pupils to experience success with their writing. As a result of this, we are seeing some fabulous writing in school.

BREAKFAST CLUB CONTINUES TO BE FREE TO ALL CHILDREN FROM 8am EACH MORNING. At Brook Street School we know the value of a good, healthy breakfast.



Breakfast Club

We realise that sharing breakfast together is a good start to the day and that is why we have made it a priority to offer our breakfast club, free of charge to all children. **There is no need to book**, your child should just turn up and enjoy a healthy breakfast and time with their friends. If

children come to school before the yard is supervised at 8.25am, they must go into Breakfast Club. **The school is not open before 8.00am**, so please ensure that your child does not arrive for Breakfast Club before this time. Thank you.

We also offer free fruit to every child each day. There is a variety of fruit on offer at the moment it is usually bananas, apples, mandarins. Some days there are tomatoes, carrots, pears or raisins. It is good to see so many children enjoying these healthy snacks. **Milk is also offered** to all children, free of charge, each day.



Please remember that we **start school now at 8.45am**. Being late really does disrupt your child's education, so why send them to the free Breakfast club - they will then always be on time for school.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The **Mr Potter Award for Resilience** was awarded to **Tayyiba Y4, Alexandra Y3 & Nuhat Rec**. Well done children for showing such resilience.



The **Avril Barker Award for Good Citizenship** was

awarded to **Robbie Y6, Ksawery Y5, Franciscek Y4, Dominic Y3, Ysabella Y2, Matteo Y1, Taheem Rec**

The **Most Improved Readers** who will be taken to Waterstone's Bookshop to choose a book to keep are **Siddhant Y6, Jakub M Y5, Dominic Y4, Yasamin Y3, Zakk Y2, Ahil Y1, Kendra Rec**.

Congratulations Assembly took place. This is a time for us to 'sing the praises' of various children's great achievements this term.

Well



Christmas Performances

We were treated, by Key Stage 1, to a wonderful performance of Hey Ewe which is the story of a young sheep who finds his way to Bethlehem and offers soft wool for baby Jesus to sleep on.

In Key Stage 2 the children entertained parents by singing songs and telling the audience about their favourite memories. Both events were very impressive.

MY FAVORITE MEMORIES

We finish for the Christmas holiday
At 1.30pm on
FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
and return on
WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY
2025

We wish you all a merry Christmas and happy New

ATTENDANCE - The substantial amount of money that the government invests in the education system is intended to provide every child with the best start in life. This investment is maximised when children attend school consistently and engage with the learning opportunities provided. With that in mind, the Government has made it clear that holidays and time off during term time are not allowed unless your child is ill or there is another valid reason. Holidays or time away for celebrations are not valid reasons.

If you need to request a leave of absence, you must complete a leave of absence form and submit it to school with as much notice as possible. The form is available from the School Office. After submitting the form, you will be informed whether the absence has been authorised. In most cases, absence are not authorised.

A child who has **10 unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 days)** within any **10-week rolling period** may receive a fine or face prosecution. These 10 sessions do not need to be consecutive; any combination of 10 unauthorised sessions within the 10-week period can lead to a penalty.

Please note that Local Authorities now have **new enforcement powers**. Where a child's attendance is poor and parents are not taking steps to improve it, the Local Authority will take action. This may include **Fixed Penalty Notices (fines)** or **prosecution**.

Prosecution means that under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, if a child of compulsory school age does not attend school regularly, their parent may be guilty of an offence. Penalties can include a fine of up to **£2,500** and/or a **three-month custodial sentence**.

Fixed Penalty Notices are as follows:

- A first notice will incur a fine of **£160 per parent per child**, reduced to **£80** if paid within 21 days, so 2 children with 2 parents would be fined £640 (reduced to £320 if paid within the time constraint).
- A second notice for the same parent and child will incur a fine of **£160 per parent per child**, with **no reduction**, if paid within 28 days, so 2 children with 2 parents would mean a fine of £640.
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued for the same parent and child within three years of the first. If unauthorised absence (including holidays) occurs a third time within that period, alternative action such as prosecution or other legal intervention will be taken. This can result in a fine of up to £2,500.

Lateness

Pupils who arrive **after 9:15am** will be marked as absent, and this will count as an unauthorised absence. These late marks contribute to the **10-session threshold** and may lead to fines or prosecution.

Please be aware that the Local Authority issues fines and pursues prosecutions where families do not comply with Government attendance expectations. Attendance data is collected daily directly by the Local Authority.



GREGGS - We would like to **thank Greggs** once again, for supporting our school. They are helping us with funding for our After School club. This allows us to keep the price of this club at the low price of £5. It also allows us to provide food for the children at the club. They also help us with funding for families in need. Thank you so much Greggs.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB is still available each day from the end of the school day until 5.45pm at a cost of **£5 per session**. We can take bookings up until 2.30pm on the day, but bookings must be paid for in advance (cash only). Look out for theme nights such as Film Nights and craft nights which are very popular.



FREE AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS have continued this half term with the children enjoying football, maths, art, choir and book & biscuit clubs. **Many thanks go to the staff who run these clubs voluntarily**. Look out for new clubs starting after the Xmas holiday such as dance, gymnastics & chess. Letters will come out to those who are eligible to attend, so if your child is interested, sign the letter and return to school as soon as possible. Places are issued on a first come / first served basis.

THANK YOU - What would we do without you?

As well as thanking staff who **give up their free time to run after school activity clubs** for children, we would also like to thank some other extra-special people who volunteer throughout the year which includes **Mr Hawkins** who comes into school regularly to help in Y1 and to listen to readers in Y3, to **Molly** who has been helping us in the past few weeks both in school and when out on trips and to **Karen** who helps in Y4 as well as throughout school where needed.

We are hoping to have students from the University of Cumbria come in to deliver one-to-one lessons, in spoken English, to children who need this support.

HELP FOR FAMILIES Fare Share continues each **Wednesday from 3pm**. The cost is still £1 for a bag full of food and this is sold from the blue door in the school yard. Many thanks to the Cumberland Building Society who donate funding to school to help with this.

Thank you also to everyone who has donated used school uniform this year. We hope to run a 'used uniform' event again soon where parents can help themselves to any donated uniform that their children can use. In the meantime, if at any time you need uniform and are struggling financially, please speak to school and we can arrange for you to view any items that we have at that time.

Please remember that we are here to help. If you are struggling for food, especially if you are between jobs or have no recourse to public funds and you have been unable to work due to illness etc. You can speak to us in school where we may be able to help you by arranging a food parcel from the food bank. If you need help with any matter, such as housing, problems with your child ie. medical, bed wetting, behaviour, dental, head lice etc. please contact the school office where we can refer you to someone who will try to help.



Anyone who is entitled to income related **free school meals** is encouraged to apply for them even if they are in Reception or KS1, then as well as the free meal in school, you will receive an Asda voucher to spend on food shopping every school holiday, and a clothing voucher to help with the cost of purchasing school inform. If you need more information or help with this, please ask at the school office.

If you are entitled to benefit related free school meals, you will also be eligible for **Holiday Activity Funding (HAF)**. Visit <https://eequ.org/cumberlandhaf> for more details or ask for details in school.