

BROOK STREET SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2026

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We've been joined this half term by **Miss Howson** who has been working hard teaching our Y4 class. Also joining us has been **Ms Lucas** who has been helping in our nursery each morning and **Ms Nash** who has been helping in Y1 and Y6. **Ms Winstanley** has also been helping in Y1 each afternoon as well as continuing to work as our fabulous Middy Supervisor and running our After School Club.



In an effort to enhance various skills, we offer a range of extra-curricular activities that run after school for one hour and although there is a cost to school, these clubs are all offered free to families. We hope that your children are enjoying them. This half term, the clubs have been as follows: **Some Y6 children have enjoyed gymnastics club with Mrs Meyers.** Look out for details of a competition that they will be taking part in. We are seeing some brilliant routines

Some Y4, 5 & 6 children have enjoyed chess club with Mr Bursnall

Did you know that playing chess can improve your IQ, prevent Alzheimer's Disease, it exercises both sides of your brain, it improves memory, problem solving, reading and concentration! We have some budding competitors. We hope you will encourage them to continue to play this fabulous game.

Some Y3 & 4 children are enjoying being part of our choir. Did you know that singing releases 'feel good' hormones like endorphins. I know it certainly makes me 'feel good' when I hear them singing so enthusiastically each Friday after school.

Some Y3 children have been enjoying dance classes which are run by qualified dance coaches from Carlisle United.

Ms Mellor continues to offer Maths club to chosen children where we are seeing some great improvements with their maths skills. Well done children.

Many thanks go to the members of staff who give up their time to run these free clubs for the children.



HELP IS ON HAND - Please remember that we are here to help should you need it. Do not struggle alone There may be times when your child has a medical, sleep or behaviour problem. Someone in your family has a dental problem and you are unable to access a dentist. You may need legal or housing advice. You may lose your job or need financial advice or if you can't work due to sickness you may need help to provide food. If you do need help, please ask and we will help where we can or refer you to where help can be gained. Details of how you can contact us are shown at the top of this newsletter or you can ask to speak to someone confidentially by approaching the school office or a member of staff on the gate.

The following children have been presented with awards:

Well done to all of you

**Mr Potter
Award for
Resilience**

**Rec Ky-Mani
Y3 Akmal
Y4 Franciszek**

**Avril Barker Award for
Good Citizenship**

**Y6 Dominykas Y5 Basit
Y4 Adele Y3 Kendrick O
Y2 Jessica
Y1 Deepti Rec Elianna**

The Most Improved Readers

**Y6 Brooke Y2 Max M
Y5 Mia Y1 Everly-Rose
Y4 Tayyiba Rec Patrick
Y3 Louis**

**These children will be taken to
Waterstones Bookshop to
choose a book to keep as a re-
ward.**

Some other exciting events have been organised for the children this half term as follows:

Free tickets to watch Carlisle United v Altrincham were offered to KS2 children for one Saturday afternoon. They were treated to a 3 goals to 1 win for Carlisle. Many thanks to CUFC for offering the free tickets as well as to the staff who gave up their Saturday afternoon to supervise the children and to the players who put on such a fantastic performance for us!



Several members of the Carlisle United team came to talk to the children about life as a football player. As you can imagine, the children thoroughly enjoyed their visit.



8 children were chosen to take part in a Ten Pin Bowling event which they won! They played against many other schools and our winning team were issued with gold medals. They will now take part in another competition in May.

Upcoming Events

-23rd February. Road Safety workshop for Y1 and 2 delivered by the Theatre Group, Pyjama Drama.

- March. World Book Day. Further details to be sent out.

-10 to 14 March . Y5 on residential trip to **Howtown.**

-18 or 19 March. Early Years (nursery & reception) **Parents' Evening.**

-24 March. Class photographs will be taken. An option to buy will then be given to each parent.

- 27th March. We finish for Easter at 1.30pm. We return after the Easter holiday on Monday 13th April. Letters about extra curricular clubs and other sporting fixtures will be sent out shortly.

Y3 and 4 once again visited Ratlingate to take part in some outdoor education. Although the weather was cold, the children's resilience shone through and they had a great time making nature based sculptures, using the climbing wall, exploring habitats and using their team building skills.



The Library Bus, driven by Mr Kennedy once again visited & the children enjoyed a story and were able to change their library book.



We continue to take bookings for our **After School Club**. The club runs from the end of the school until 5.45pm each school day. **Cost £5** per session. Bookings taken up until 2.30pm on the day but must be paid for before the session. If you would like further details, please call us or ask at the school office. Look out for our exciting theme nights such as 'card games' night or 'movie' night. All children are welcome - £5 per child.

We finish for the half term holiday on FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, at normal time, and return on MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY
We hope you enjoy the holidays.



ATTENDANCE - As you know, children can only be granted a leave of absence in **exceptional circumstances**. If you wish to apply for any leave of absence you are now required to complete a **leave of absence request form** and submit it to school with as much notice as possible. A copy of this form can be found on our website <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/brook-street-primary-school/UploadedDocument/4501e2bb-377a-45b1-9310-a3025c8b095d/leave-of-absence-request-form.pdf> Please note that the Government now issue penalty notices (fines) to families who take their children away from school or on holiday during term time.

This could mean receiving one of the following:

- a **penalty notice** - the first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. this will be reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days. A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 day (with no option for a reduction). **if a penalty notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated** which could result in prosecution. **Prosecution** means that the parent is guilty of an offence and may be sentenced to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a community service order and/or a 3-month custodial sentence as set out in section 444 of the 1996 Education Act.

If a previous penalty notice has been issued, the Local Authority may decide to proceed directly to prosecution. Please therefore ensure that you take any holidays or time abroad during the school holidays. There are 13 weeks of school holidays as shown on this link <https://www.brookstreetschool.co.uk/term-dates-and-school-day/> or you can ask for a copy of them at the school office.

Persistent absence or lateness could also result in a fine or prosecution. If you are having difficulty with your child's attendance, please ask for help in school. We want every child to achieve the best that they can and we can only do this if they are at school, on time, every possible day. If your child's attendance is poor or if they are often late, you will be invited into school to meet with us so that we can work together to improve this, and in doing so, improve your child's prospects in life.



Our **free Breakfast Club** is going from strength to strength. Why not let your child get off to a great start each morning by al-

lowing them to come to the free Breakfast club any time from 8.00am - 8.35am to enjoy a healthy breakfast alongside their friends. There is a choice of cereal and toast every day and crumpets, waffles, scotch pancakes (some days) as well as yoghurts, fruit and a healthy drink of milk or water.

The club is completely free to all children in school. There is no need to book, just turn up and enjoy!

Many thanks go once again to GREGGS who are now supporting school by donating funds to help with the provision of food at our After School Club as well as helping with paying towards costs involved with running our extra-curricular clubs that we offer to parents free of charge.



School Uniform. Please ensure that your child comes to school in correct, full school uniform. Details are shown on our website <https://www.brookstreetschool.co.uk/uniform/>

We ask any parent who has uniform that is still in good condition that is too small for their child and they have no younger siblings to pass it on to, to consider donating it to school for us to offer, free of charge, to other parents. We take donations of uniform at any time. Please look out for letters coming home regarding 'Used Uniform' events in school. Many thanks to all those who donate and if you ever need help with uniform at any time, please ask and we can see what we have available.

A very welcome and familiar face was in school recently - **Mrs Nugent**, who recently retired offered a **free coffee morning** to parents in our Early Years. One of our Midday Supervisors, Judith and Mrs Park also came along to help. We hope that you all enjoyed it and she will be offering another free coffee morning to parents from another class after half term. Look out for details and we hope that you are able to come along, meet other parents and enjoy a coffee and a chat.



Ms Mellor continues to open our **fabulous library** each lunchtime for the children to enjoy. It is so refreshing to see so many children enjoying books and reading.



Fare Share continues to be sold each **Wednesday (between 2.55pm - 3.15pm)** from the door at the bottom of the stairs inside the yard. As you know, we never know what food we will receive, but it is always good, usable food which is sold at £1 for a bag of approximately 8 items. This is sold on a first come/first served basis. One bag per family. We would like to **thank Fare Share** for organising this fantastic scheme and **also the Cumberland Building Society** who have donated towards the cost of providing this invaluable scheme.



For anyone who is interested, we sell a bag of **fresh fruit, vegetables or salad for £3.50** for a mixed bag. Orders taken at the school office on a Tuesday and delivered to school on a Thursday. Please ask at the school office for more details.



If you have 1 child & your **household income is below £22,700** or if you have 2 children & it is below £26,300, you may be eligible for **free school meals, a clothing grant of £50 pa & supermarket vouchers for the holiday periods**. Further details and how to apply can be found on the link below.

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-activities/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers> or you **can ask for help at the school office**. Those who already qualify will have had the link for vouchers emailed to them in readiness for the February half term. **Those with no recourse to public funds are able to apply** for free school meals & vouchers if their income is below that shown above.