



Dear Families,

Mrs Moore told me that we were at week 20 of the Academic year yesterday! That's over half way towards the end of the summer term. Where does the time go? We have been so busy and this term has been fantastic. The children have produced so much amazing work. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Morris who puts the newsletter together. I was delighted reading through it. There is SO much to share and see.

I really like the Wellbeing section. January and February can be hard months. Christmas is over, money is tight and we set ourselves resolutions and healthy life styles that often clash with the short days and wet weather. This can be tough on our wellbeing and mental health. I think I never feel more tired than I do in January. What I do know is it is vital to talk about how we are feeling. It is also really important to listen to others. We have spent Children's Mental Health Week listening to children's views across the Academy. How do they feel in school? Who can they talk to? Do they feel bullied? Once we have all this vital data, we will be looking at it very closely and talking to children about it. How can we make Brookside a better place? Children often tell me that I just need to put a rollercoaster, zip wire or trampoline park in to make Brookside better. For some children, one bad day will make school feel a terrible place on that day - but the next could be the best day ever. We often find that how children feel is based on their wants and needs. We are a school and our purpose is education - but as you probably all know, education is better when we are happy. Once we have the children's results in we will share them with you.

I want to highlight a few amazing things in the newsletter:

Please read about the achievements of our girl's football team! What they have already achieved would make the Lionesses' and Sarina Wiegman feel so proud. They haven't finished yet either! Whatever they do next, they have been amazing and they have represented Brookside at the VERY highest level. We are incredibly proud.

I also want to point out the amazing work happening across the Academy through our Forest School, it's such a brilliant place to learn and the children have been find out about so much there.

Finally, I wish I didn't have to end on this (because I have written about it so many times) but once again PARKING is an issue that the Academy is being asked to deal with. I am quite sure that parents and carers would want us to be focusing on children rather than parking. We are pretty good at teaching and learning, as you can see in this newsletter. We are less skilled as police officers and traffic wardens. Driving a car is a huge responsibility and this responsibility is solely that of the driver. I can ask you very nicely to park safely. I could ask less nicely but ultimately what people decide to do outside the gates of the school is fully their responsibility. *But*, whenever people park badly, act inconsiderately, argue, say unkind things, speed, drive dangerously, park in front of our neighbours' drives or say nasty comments - these impact upon your children's school. They also make it less safe for everyone. It also takes time and focus away from the education of children at Brookside. This is often about having to park 5 or 10 minutes walk away from the Academy. I know that most people do this wonderfully and understand that Brookside cannot magic parking spaces out of thin air and we have to accept that we are a popular school and unfortunately, like schools everywhere, there will be lots of traffic at the start and the end of the day. Some patience, consideration, forward planning and an understanding that there is no magic wand solution will go a long way in ensuring we focus on your children rather than on your driving.

Thank you to all those people that go out of their way to think about others.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Walton



Champions of Somerset!

Back in November the girls entered the 1st stage of the English Schools Year 6 Football Championship. Teams within the Mendip area also took part. The girls won that tournament with ease after beating St Ben's in the final. They didn't concede a single goal throughout all 4 games. This meant that Brookside qualified for the next stage of the competition.

The next stage welcomed all local area winners such as Sedgemoor, Mendip, Mid-Somerset, Weston, etc... The girls won all 5 group games and breezed into

the Semi-Final where they went onto beat Birchfield 3-0. The final was played against Chandag (Keynsham). Apparent red-hot favourites to lift the trophy, and after playing them in the group stage and just about edging a 1-0 win, you could see why! Brookside stayed strong and worked their socks off to come away with a another 1-0 win! Again, they went through all 7 matches without conceding a single goal! The girls later found out that their opposition hadn't conceded a single goal in over 2 years, let alone lose a game! Well done to all 10 girls involved, an achievement that they should never forget.

They will now represent Somerset in a South West Regional competition due to take place later on this year.

Photo: Brooke, Keira, Libby, Italia, Cass, Matilda, Hattie, Ailla, Holly, Lacey



Cross Country



Congratulations to Milo who competed in the Somerset County Athletics Association Cross Country Championships. He had a magnificent run, coming in third place. Here he is with his medal.

Well done, Milo!



Logan, Kangaroos Class, is pictured left holding the Winners' trophy, and his own personal trophy, from winning in the cup finals with his football team, Wessex, on Saturday 6th January.

Logan and his family are, rightly, extremely proud of his success.

Well done, Logan; we can't wait to hear how you get on in the future.

Football

Some of our Year 5 boys have excelled in the U10 Nigel Broome Cup (football). Boys from Brookside represented both teams that reached the final, which was between Wessex Rebels and Wessex Vipers. Both teams played really well in a close fought match. The score was 1-1 after extra time with the Rebels winning on penalties.

Well done to Charlie, Kian and Logan C for making the final with the Vipers (Logan scored for the Vipers), and a super well done to Logan M who was on the Rebels winning team.



Year 3's welcomed Millfield to Brookside in what was their first ever match for Brookside Academy. A group of 12, including 3 girls, participated in the 9-goal thriller in front of a bumper crowd!

The visitors took the lead inside the 1st minute of the game, only for Brookside to go straight up the other end and score the equaliser. 1-1 and only a matter of minutes gone! Millfield regained the league shortly before the whistle went to signal the end of the first 10-minute quarter.

6 changes were made to begin the second quarter. Brookside began to take control of the game, scoring 3 inside 10 minutes to put them 4-2 up at Half-Time. The team spirit was high, which was clear to see on the pitch. Brookside continued their goalscoring form with the final score being 6-3, a couple great saves from the Brookside Goalkeeper made sure there was no late Millfield comeback!

Goal scorers: Logan x 3, Khalifah, Jake and Leo.

Players of the Match: Freddie and Logan.

Wellbeing Matters

Welcome to the February edition of Wellbeing Matters! This time of year can feel a little gloomy with dark skies and cold weather but there are always good things to see if you look closely.

One of my favourite winter scenes is the incredible show put on by the starlings every evening (and morning if you're brave enough to be up at that time!) As dusk begins to settle, they put on a spectacular show which I never get tired of seeing.



We are now well past the winter solstice and so heading towards more and more daylight which always lifts the spirits. But, before we are too quick to chase away the night, take a moment to reflect on this: without darkness, we'd never see the stars.

The next time it's a clear sky and dark before bedtime, try and take a trip away from artificial light and look up. Our nearest star, Alpha Centauri, is over 4 light years away so when you look at it, you are seeing light that is 4 years old. The furthest star visible to the naked eye is Cassiopeiae which is an astonishing 16,300 light years away so if you look at it now, what you see was actually happening when Somerset was in the last Ice Age.





This week at school has been **Children's Mental Health Week** with the theme being **My Voice Matters**. Having a voice and being heard is something that empowers all of us and greatly increases our wellbeing. In the past, children were often overlooked with decisions made without considering their views. Happily, this position is now becoming less and less common. At Brookside, we recognise what an important role children have in their own lives and how we need to consult them and listen to them. Our School Council, chosen by the students to represent them, has been doing great work conducting pupil voice sessions throughout school and they will be putting their findings to Mr Walton in the new term.

If you want to get involved in Children's Mental Health Week at home there are resources you can access by searching Children's Mental Health Week 2024 and clicking on Families, or by cutting and pasting this link in your browser:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>



Lastly, before we get onto our Stars, I'd like to say how great it is we have had so many parents and carers sign up for our two sessions of Supporting Your Child's Big Feelings.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone both dates for this event due to staff absence from the team who were due to deliver it.

That being said, we hope to re-schedule these dates soon and will let you know when they will be as soon as we can. These one-hour sessions are being put on by our Mental Health Support Team and will help us to understand the incredible and complex landscape that is a child's mind and how we can all support and nurture them as they grow. Places are free of charge and you can bring any family adults who help to care for your child with you so, if you haven't already, book now! Just tell the office how many adults are coming, your child/children's names and class.

Our first star is **Sophia** in **Early Years**.

Every morning, we have a 'Funky Fingers' workout using dough gym videos. At the end of the session, there is a playdough challenge which the children like to watch.

On Monday, Sophia brought in a pig pen that she had made at home over the weekend.

It is just wonderful to see Sophia engaging with her learning at home and wanting to share her creations with her friends at school.



Our next star is **Khan from Kingfishers**. He has worked really hard on balancing his emotions and self-regulating. His engagement in learning with PSHE is always excellent and he puts what he learns into practice which makes him a great role model for others.

Well done, Khan!



The 9th and 10th January saw another 12 intrepid Year Six children take to two wheels for **Bikeability** training. Unlike for the December group, “The Drowned Rats”, the weather was dry – but COLD!!!

Over two days the children developed their bike skills from checking their bikes over before riding, fine control, use of gears and adapting to circumstances on the road. They learnt about road signs, rights of way and how to ‘read the road’.

It was freezing both days but the children’s positivity was immune to the weather and they were an absolute pleasure to work with. Our visiting coaches, Mark and Emily, said schools like Brookside are a rarity, they love coming here and that is a massive credit to our children, especially this Bikeability group who are all STARS!!



Share this with children, grandparents, friends and neighbours and harvest the happiness for months to come.

Thanks for reading. Send me your thoughts, comments and suggestions via the office any time.

Adrian Ballard

What we've been up to recently ...

A very busy New Year in Nursery ...

Since returning after the Christmas break, all of our children settled straight back into Nursery, really quickly. We have welcomed some new children to our Baby room and Toddler room, who are settling in well.



As Chinese New Year starts on the 10th February, we have started carrying out some activities across the Nursery for this celebration. The children have been making dragons; lanterns and trying a variety of Chinese foods.

Our babies have also been exploring the Sensory room, based in the Toddler room. They have been going out for walks to explore the School environment, where they saw the pony and used the climbing equipment. We have lots of babies who are learning to walk, so they have been practising their walking and are doing really well. The babies made some bird feeders which are hanging in the baby garden, to which some of the children get really excited when they see the birds around.



In the Toddler room, the children have been going on walks to the park and around the local environment, looking at shapes, colours and numbers. The children have been exploring the School playground and carrying out large mark making using chalks. Some children made pizzas and biscuits to take home. The children have been exploring cultural dancing.

In the Pre-School room, the children have been learning about sharing and taking turns. We noticed that the children were sitting on the floor with their legs in the 'W' position, this isn't an ideal position for the children to sit in as it can cause problems with their hips and joints; once we noticed this was happening, we started encouraging the children to sit on their bottoms, rather than their knees, to which they slide into the 'W' position, this has been proving successful. Children have been focusing on recognising numbers; matching number and quantity through nursery rhymes and games.

The children have been enjoying exploring early writing through funky fingers. The children have been really engaged with sound lotto games, where they have to listen to the sound and find it on the board.



Early Years—New Year's Resolutions, Minibeasts and Supertato!

We had a busy start to the term in Early Years. We learnt all about minibeasts and really enjoyed painting our favourite ones! The children also made homes for minibeasts from the junk modelling. In maths we practised writing our numbers up to 10 and enjoyed number songs and dances. The children got messy with flour play and had fun pouring in the water tray.



We then read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children had a go at making their own story maps and practised their cutting skills to order the food the Caterpillar ate on each day of the week. The children also enjoyed getting messy mark making in the shaving foam and trying out our new outdoor play equipment.

In Maths the children were learning how to use a Part Whole model for subtraction and addition. We also revisited capacity, using containers and water and weighing with the balancing scales.

For our skills afternoons In RE the children learned all about New Year's Resolutions and thought about something they would like to achieve, we wrote these down and have put them up in the classroom.

In Geography the children learned all about Minibeasts and their habitats. The children did Art with Mrs Redman, using cotton reels and paints to create a Caterpillar print.

We also started at Forest School and the children had great fun, we spent some time learning the Forest School rules and then had some time to explore.



Early Years—continued ...

The next book we read was 'What the Ladybird Heard'. The children enjoyed playing with the small world Farm and made Ladybirds from playdough using black pebbles to add spots. They practised their handwriting by writing what they could see in the story pictures.

In maths we learnt about odd and even numbers, subitising and introduced zero as a number.

In our skills afternoon we looked at maps discussing why and how we might use them (Geography), we enjoyed a music Lesson, the children discussed and compared old and new Teddy Bears (History) and we also learnt all about the importance of brushing our teeth and practised how we clean our teeth on some cuddly toys (PSED).



Last week, we enjoyed a 'Supertato' kind of week. We shared lots of different stories from the Supertato series. We made Supertato stick puppets to help us retell the funny stories. We made traps from junk modelling to catch the Evil Pea and created colourful 'wanted' posters to help others know who we were trying to catch. We made Supertato masks and painted/drew our own Supertato pictures. These have made a beautiful, colourful display in the classroom.



In Forest School, we engaged in a scavenger hunt, which was great fun.

In our Knowledge and Skills lessons, we made fruit kebabs using our designs created the previous week. We used child-safe knives to cut and prepare the fruit. Eating them was definitely the best bit though!

In Maths we continued our learning of Number Bonds to 5. We used partitioning cards to help identify the bonds and then we tried writing the corresponding number sentences on a whiteboard.

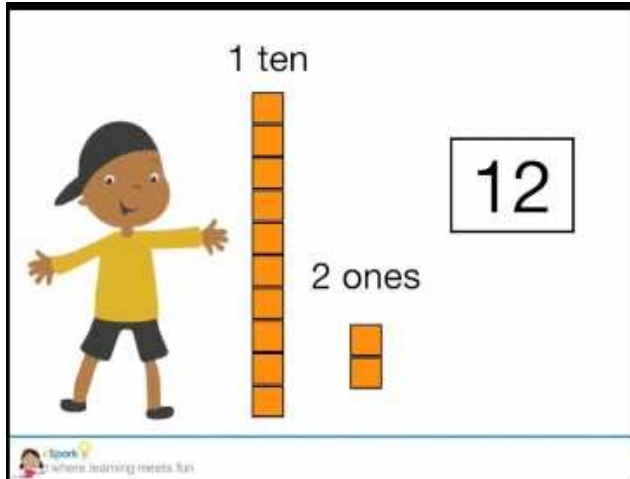


Year 1—Numbers to 20, Faberge and Forest School

We have had a very busy time this term doing lots of fun and exciting work.

In English we have been using our wonderful imaginations to make up our own stories from a picture, this is very hard when you're only 5 and 6 and our teachers are incredibly proud of how well we have done. For one piece we even got to use grown up writing pens, this was the most exciting thing most of us have ever done at school! We are all trying very hard to keep our handwriting beautiful and neat by forming all our letters correctly and always sitting them on the line. If anyone would like extra handwriting sheets to continue this work at home please let us know and we can provide some.

In Maths we have moved our learning on to numbers to 20. We really need to know these numbers so we have talked about one more and one less than them, how to write them and how to represent them in tens and ones. An example of what this means is below.



We have been very busy in Art learning all about Faberge and the amazing eggs he produced. We are attempting to make two versions of our own, one from salt dough and one from paper mâché. Fingers crossed when we have finished you can see how hard we have worked on them.

We are lucky enough to have been chosen to take part in Forest School sessions this term with Keelie, although it is cold out there we are really enjoying our time. We have found mini beasts, engaged in some outdoor yoga, played games pretending to be birds searching for worms and much more. Thank you everyone who has provided the children with wellies on our Forest School day.



Year 2—Cricket, Beebots and Glockenspiels

We are thoroughly enjoying our sessions with Somerset Cricket! Last week we had to stay in the Marquee due to the weather but we had great fun balancing the bean bag on the bat and dribbling the ball between the cones. This week we could go outside so we were allowed to bat it as hard as we could! Next week, we are super excited as we get to play a game!

In Maths we have been focused upon equal groups, multiplying and dividing. We are becoming quick and more confident with our times tables day by day.

In English, we adored writing our fact files, all about...us! We learnt about titles, sub-headings and writing facts. Can you tell someone at home the difference between fiction and non-fiction.

We are loving learning about algorithms in computing and have even designed our own Beebot mats! We have also learnt about being safe on the internet and how to debug our algorithms!

Our teachers were so proud of us in Music, as we started to play the glockenspiels. We followed the board and played along with our partners brilliantly! We can't wait to have another go!

After half term, we embark upon our puppet topic. Please could you send in a wooden spoon for your child, complete with their name—that would be fantastic. If anyone happens to have any newspapers lying around, we will definitely be able to make good use of them. Thank you !



Year 3—Measurement, Magnets and GRRR!

In maths this term we are looked at measurement, starting with metres (M), centimetres (cm) and millimetres (mm). We have used a ruler to measure lines and also measured the heights of our partners with two metre sticks. It was great fun to find out who was the tallest and who was the shortest in the class.



In Science, we learnt about magnets. We have learnt that they have two poles, North and South! We know that a lot of everyday life objects use magnets. We investigated which two poles would attract or repel each other. We tested the strength of the different kinds of magnets we have in school using paperclips.

In English we have looked at a new text called GRRR! by Rob Biddulph and formulated some fantastic sentences starting with fronted adverbials. These are becoming second nature now and the children are doing it without thinking! We have also watched a film this week called 'Taking Flight' which the children loved and they wrote some superb diary entries as some of the characters. These photos are of us peer marking our friends work ensuring their writing had the features of a diary.



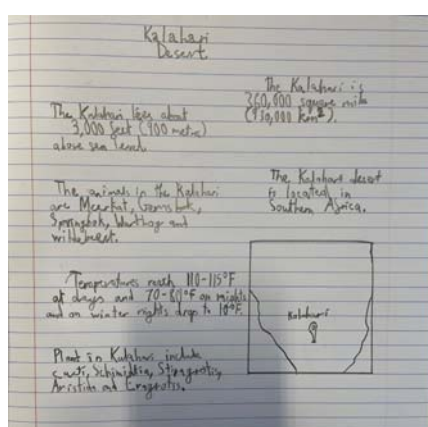
Year 4—Earnest Shackleton, Lily and the Snowman, and more ...

In Geography, we have been looking at different biomes around the world and what it is that makes them unique from one another. We have learnt that there are five major biomes (aquatic, grassland, forest, desert, and tundra), but that they can be subdivided further (tropical rainforest, temperate forest and taiga etc.)

In English, we have been watching the short story of Lily and the Snowman and we have been writing descriptively, including writing from different character's perspectives. We have written diary entries to explore the different emotions and feelings that Lily and the Snowman might have had throughout the time they spent together.

In Maths, we have been using place value charts to help us understand what happens to a number when we divide and multiply it by 10 and 100. We have also been continuing with our times table practise and have moved onto the 9 times table booklets.

Finally, in science, we have been learning about the different states of matter and how and why some materials are able to change from one state to another. We have looked at the differences between solids, liquids and gases and we have been planning investigations that we could carry out to explore changing states.



H	T	ones	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{100}$	$\frac{1}{1000}$
		0	5	7	
		5	7		

H	T	ones	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{100}$	$\frac{1}{1000}$
		4	2	8	
				4	2



In English, we started learning about Sir Ernest Shackleton and his incredible ill-fated voyage to Antarctica. Sir Ernest Shackleton was an Anglo-Irish Antarctic explorer, who made three expeditions to the continent, most famously in 1914 on the Endurance.

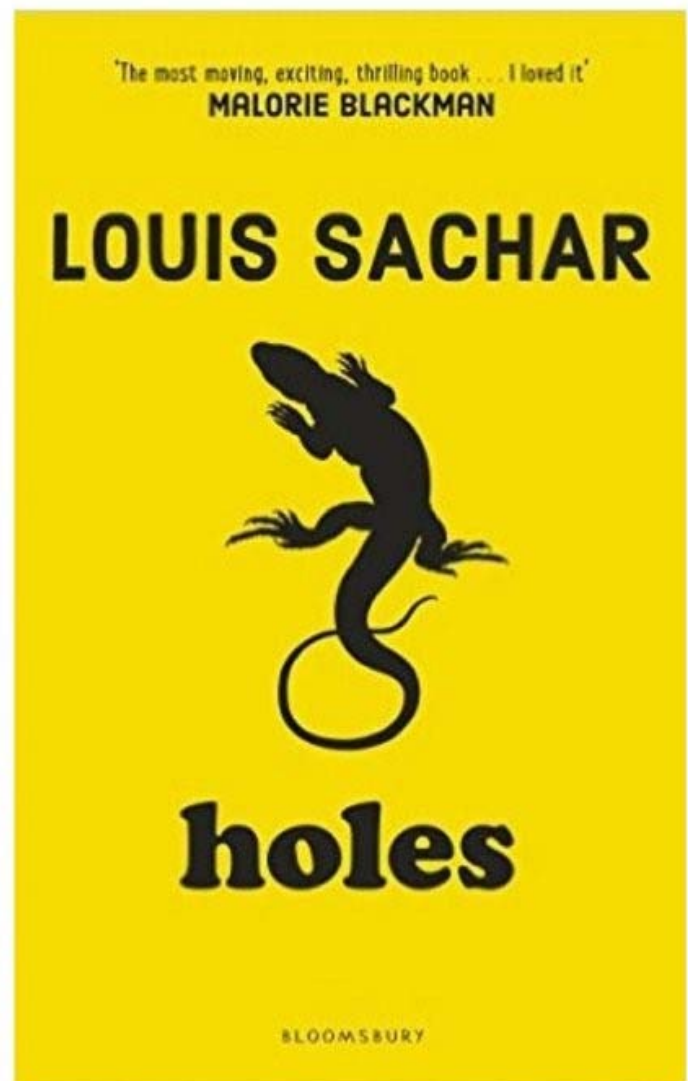
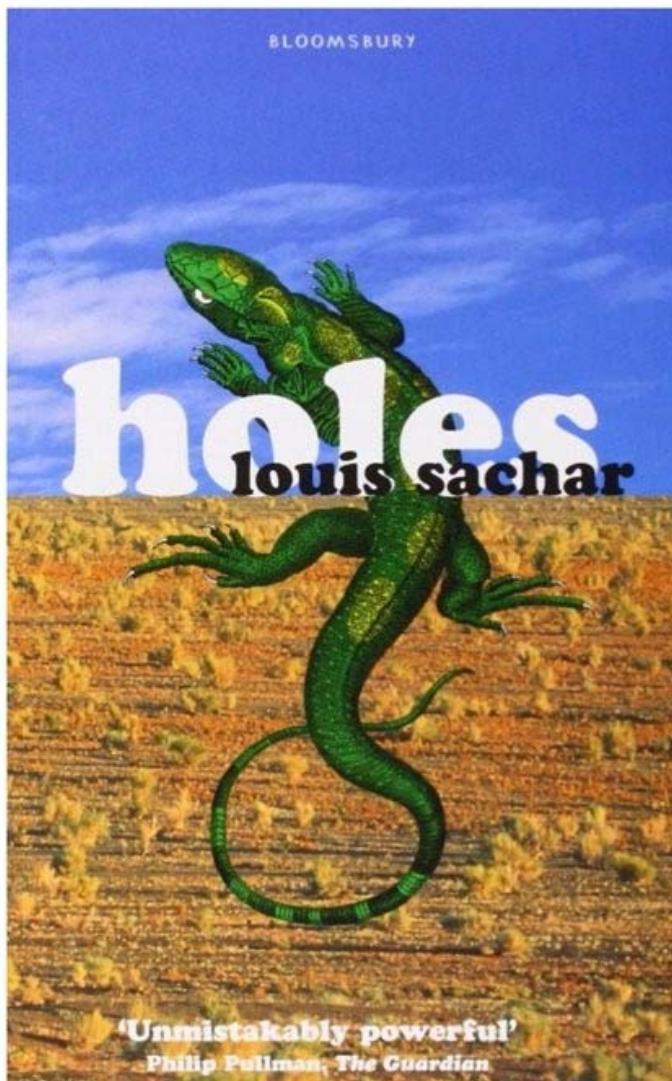
The children have really enjoyed learning about how Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew became stranded in Antarctica when their ship The Endurance became frozen in the pack ice. Using their incredible journey as an inspiration, the children have been writing letters to loved ones describing how their characters felt as they watched their ship get crushed by the ice.

We have also looked at how the crew of the Endurance were finally rescued after Shackleton and 5 of his men undertook a treacherous journey across land and sea to get help. What makes the story most remarkable is that none of the crew lost their lives and made it back to their homes.



Year 5– 'holes', by Louis Sachar

We have been continuing to read and analyse *Holes* by Louis Sachar and aim to have read it all by the end of this Spring term. This would mean that we can compare the book with the movie. It is always interesting to discuss why some features of the book were not included in the film, and if the characters were as they imagined they would be. Using the book for inspiration, we have been writing non-chronological reports about the elusive and deadly Yellow Spotted Lizard as well as writing descriptive and emotive letters from the campers of Camp Green Lake back to their parents. We have also discussed how racial prejudice affects some of the characters; Mr. Walton then came to speak to us about this very emotive issue, helping us to understand about equality and diversity.



Year 6—Electricity, Circuits and Shrek!

We have been investigating Electricity in science this term. We investigated the history of electricity using chronological skills. Working in groups, we created a timeline of key events to explore significant scientists and discoveries throughout the ages and the information we uncovered really surprised us. For example, we were really surprised to discover that appliances like washing machines were available to buy so soon after a World War, when resources must have been incredibly scarce! We then created our own Electric Circuits. Notoriously, the children love it and the teachers dread it: the classroom is ether full of tissue paper as we carry out an investigation to measure the brightness of a bulb; full of buzzer noise; or worse still, failing batteries and bulbs so that a circuit won't even work!

However, we overcame all the usual problem, as the children merrily counted the number of tissue papers needed to stop the brightness of a bulb, as we increased the number of wires into the circuit – and it worked! Hoorah!

They predicted, checked variables, conducted the investigation and worked collaboratively to do so, whilst problem solving along the way if one of the components failed.



We had an amazing time watching Crispin students perform Shrek at Strode College. We were amazed by the acting, singing and production. The children all loved the show and we would highly recommend watching it! A huge thank you to Crispin for inviting us to see their brilliant performance



Dates for your Diary—Spring 2 Term:

12-16.02.24 Spring Half-Term Holiday

20.02.24 Supporting Your Child's BIG Feelings—Parent session 09:00-10:00 **POSTPONED—see Wellbeing page**

22.02.24 Supporting Your Child's BIG Feelings—Parent session 17:00-18:00 **POSTPONED—see Wellbeing page**

29.02.24 Evidence for Learning Online Workshop for Willows Parents & Carers 09:30-10:30

29.02.24 Heights & Weights measuring for Early Years and Year 6 children

29.02.24 Vision Screening for Early Years children

29.02.24 Early Years' Curriculum Evening 17:45-18:30

06.03.24 Reverend Ana visiting Year 4 classes

07.03.24 Evidence for Learning Face-to-Face Workshop for Willows parents and carers 09:30-10:30

08.03.24 World Book Day (non-uniform day when children dress as their favourite book character)

08.03.24 Key Stage 2 Sharing Open Afternoon 14:45-15:15

12.03.24 Coffee Morning for the Willows Parents & Carers 09:30-10:30

14.03.24 Year 6 SATs & Okehampton meeting for Parents & Carers 15:30-16:30

15.03.23 Red Nose Day for Comic Relief (non-uniform day) - letter to follow

15.03.24 Key Stage 1 Open Sharing Afternoon 14:45-15:15

20.03.24 Spring Parents' Evening - Virtual Video appointments - letter to follow

21.03.24 Spring Parents' Evening - Face to Face appointments - letter to follow

25.03.24 Spring Term Governors' Awards Assembly—14:40-15:10—letter to follow for nominated children

27.03.24 Reverend Ana delivering an Easter Assembly to Years 4 and 6

28.03.24 Inset Day—School and Nursery closed

29.03.24 to 12.04.24—Easter Holiday

PARKING REMINDER

We would like to remind you that anyone stopping on the yellow zig-zag lines and single yellow line, outside of the Academy, during the restricted hours of 8.00-10.00am and 2.00-4.00pm, is liable to a Penalty Charge Notice issued by the local council.

Parents are parking on the yellow zig-zag lines during the restricted hours, obstructing traffic and pedestrians.

This is extremely dangerous and could put a child's life at risk.

Please also avoid parking in the lane beside our Nursery - this is an access road to the animals kept in the fields behind the Academy.

Please allow enough time to park safely.

Thank you for your help with this serious matter.

Brookside Sports Timetable 2023-2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00 -10.30	Specialist Provision x 4 slots (9.00-9.45) (9.45-10.30) (10.30-11.15) (11.15-12.00)	Year 3		Nursery	Swimming
10.30-12.00		Year 1	Early Years (10:15-11:45)	Year 2	Planning
Lunch (1@ 11.40-12.10) (2@ 11.55-12.25) 2 @ 12.30-1.30 1@12.15-1.15	Lunch Clubs (1)12.15- 1.15 (2)12.30.1.30	Lunch Clubs (1)12.15- 1.15 (2)12.30.1.30	Lunch Clubs (1)12.15- 1.15 (2)12.30.1.30	Lunch Clubs (1)12.15- 1.15 (2)12.30.1.30	Lunch Clubs (1)12.15- 1.15 (2)12.30.1.30
1.30- 3.00	Sports Intervention	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Enrichment

We have a new, safer system for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

It's called **Studybugs**.

Please sign up on studybugs.com or download the free Studybugs app so you have it ready.

studybugs.com

Available on the App Store, Google play, and Microsoft Store



We use email and text as our main means of communicating with parents and carers. If you have not provided us with an up-to-date email address or mobile phone number, please do so. You may be missing out on important information.



September 2023						October 2023						November 2023					
M		4	11	18	25	M	2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	W	4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29
Th		7	14	21	28	Th	5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	F	6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24	
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	7	14	21	28		Sa	4	11	18	25	
Su	3	10	17	24		Su	1	8	15	22	29	Su	5	12	19	26	
December 2023						January 2024						February 2024					
M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29
F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27		Sa	3	10	17	24	
Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28		Su	4	11	18	25	
March 2024						April 2024						May 2024					
M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29
Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27		Sa	4	11	18	25	
Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28		Su	5	12	19	26	
June 2024						July 2024						August 2024					
M		3	10	17	24	M	1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		4	11	18	25	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		5	12	19	26	W	3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
Th		6	13	20	27	Th	4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29
F		7	14	21	28	F	5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	30
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa	6	13	20	27		Sa	3	10	17	24	31
Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su	7	14	21	28		Su	4	11	18	25	

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Day (School & Nursery closed)

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 04 September – 20 October 2023 (35 days)
 Term 2: 30 October – 15 December 2023 (35 days)
 Term 3: 02 January – 9 February 2024 (29 days)
 Term 4: 19 February – 28 March 2024 (29 days)
 Term 5: 15 April – 24 May 2024 (29 days)
 Term 6: 03 June – 24 July 2024 (38 days) TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2023/24

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2023	Easter Monday	01 April 2024
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2023	May Day Bank Holiday	06 May 2024
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2024	Spring Bank Holiday	27 May 2024
Good Friday	29 March 2024	Summer Bank Holiday	26 August 2024

Absence from School

Attendance at school is vital to your child's learning and development.

Children's progress will be affected if they are absent.

We have a statutory obligation to investigate any child's attendance that falls **below 90%** or **below the 10 session absence threshold** (10 or more half day absences within a 12-week period). Evidence of medical appointments, e.g. Doctor's/hospital/Dentist appointment cards/letters, etc., is required.

If your child is ill, please notify us before 8.45am via the **Studybugs** app, which is available to download from: **studybugs.com**.

Please inform the school beforehand if your child has to attend an appointment.

We are not able to authorise holidays in term time..

Children who arrive or leave school during the day **must** be signed in or out at the Academy office.

Free School Meals

Children who attend a Somerset Council school, whose parents or carers receive any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support (IS)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7400 after tax
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190



Only the benefits listed above qualify for free school meals. If you have recently become unemployed, but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals.

Non-Benefit related additional eligibility criteria:

Children of families who don't receive these benefits may also qualify for free school meals if the family's annual household income is no higher than the following:

- £22,700 for families outside of London with one child
- £26,300 for families outside of London with two or more children.

In addition to these thresholds, families must hold no more than £16,000 in capital and savings.

- And the parent or carer meets any of the following criteria:
- you are a Zambrano or Chen carer
- families who have no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- you hold a British National (Overseas) – BN(O) – passport
- you are a spousal visa, work visa or student visa holder
- you have no immigration status.

Please phone the Entitlements Team, County Hall, on **0300 123 2224** for advice.

Children must be in school all day and they will be provided with a meal at lunchtime which is paid for by the school.

It is the responsibility of the parents or carers to register their entitlement and request free school meals for their children.

Children in nursery do not qualify for a free meal until they start school, but applications will be processed so that when your child starts school, you will already be notified whether they qualify for a free school meal or not.

Forms are available from the Brookside Academy Office or apply online at: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals/>



Uniform Reminder

The school uniform is very simple and reasonably priced. We expect the children to wear it: White or red shirt/blouse or polo shirt, Brookside sweatshirt or cardigan (a plain, low-cost, red sweatshirt or cardigan is acceptable), grey or black skirt or trousers/shorts, red & white summer dress, black shoes. PE kit is red t-shirt and black shorts and warm joggers and trainers for the Winter. A warm, waterproof coat in wet/cold weather. Hair should be natural in colour and not of an extreme style (Mohicans, skinheads, or tramlines, are not acceptable). Every child should have a book bag and a PE bag. We give each new Early Years child a book bag before they start school. Sweatshirts, cardigans, PE kit and book bags can be ordered via the 'Uniform' link on the Academy Website. **ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEARLY NAMED – PLEASE.** Parents/carers will receive a text reminder if their child isn't wearing the correct uniform.

Thank you to everyone who has checked/updated their school children's Data Collection and Parental Consents on the SIMS Parent App. Please can we ask that all parents complete this as soon as possible. Thank you!

SIMS Parent App

We have a convenient way for you to **access, review and request changes** to the data held on you and your children, as well as see key term dates and other information. You are able to access our new SIMS Parent app and website at your own convenience via smartphone, tablet or PC – anytime, anywhere.

What will you find in SIMS Parent:

- School term, inset dates and contact details available at the click of a button.
- Access to update your contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency.
- Access to update Parental Consents for your child.
- Your child's attendance data.
- Your child's end of year report will be available here at the end of the Summer term 2024.

If you have more than one child at school, you'll have access to this information for all your children, from the same app. (Please note that this App is not available for our Nursery parents, as their children's records are held on a separate system; please contact the Academy Office if you would like to make changes to the personal information we hold for Nursery children.)



SIMS PARENT APP

A GUIDE FOR NEW USERS

A COMPLETE GUIDE ON HOW TO REGISTER

Step 1: You will receive an email from noreply@simms.co.uk, click **ACCEPT INVITE**.

Step 2: The **Activate Your Account** screen is displayed. The **Invitation Code** field is already filled with the unique code from your email. Enter your email address as **Username** and click the **Next** button.

Step 3: Confirm your identity by entering the date of birth of one of your children at Brookside (in the format dd/mm/yyyy).

Step 4: At the '**Create a Strong Password**' screen, create a password for the new account you are creating and click the **Next** button.

Step 5: Once your account has been created, you will receive an email at the email address you registered. Click the **Verify My Email** button.

Step 6: Click the **Sign In** button on the screen confirming your email address has been validated.

Step 7: At the **Register your account for SIMS Products** screen, enter your newly created username (i.e. your email address) and password, then click the **Sign in** button.

Step 8: The first time you use your SIMS ID account, you will be prompted to **Set Security Questions**. Answer all three security questions, then click the **Save and Continue** button to launch your SIMS Online Service.

Head Lice Advice for Parents and Carers

Unfortunately, head lice are a common part of primary school life and schools no longer check children's hair. Anyone can get head lice and contrary to popular belief, having head lice is nothing to do with your personal hygiene.

Symptoms

Itching, although it is possible to have head lice without symptoms, so it is best to take a look.

How to check

Head lice are tiny and fast! Look behind ears, close to the scalp, at the back of the neck and under fringes. Adult head lice are 2 - 4mm long, immature lice are even smaller.

What are head lice

Head lice are live insects. Their empty eggs are called nits. Lice are wingless insects that hold on to the hair, feeding from the blood in the scalp. They spread through head-to-head contact, they do not jump. Adult females live for up to a month and lay around five eggs a day.

Our School procedure

If Lice are seen in a child's hair this advice letter will be sent home on that day to the whole class. If the Lice are a continuing issue for an individual child, then we will speak to the parent/carer directly.

How to get rid of head lice

Wet combing:

1. Wash hair using ordinary shampoo.
2. Lightly towel dry the hair.
3. Apply a conditioner to make combing easier (this also makes it harder for the louse to cling on).
4. Using **a comb designed for this purpose** part hair into small sections and comb hair from the scalp to the end.
5. Wipe the comb each time and check for live lice.
6. Repeat until you are sure the whole head is combed.
7. Thoroughly rinse the hair and comb.
8. Comb every **three days for at least two weeks** until no more lice are found.

Medicated treatments:

These are available from pharmacies – please follow the treatment's instruction leaflet.

Prevention

Check your child's hair weekly – don't wait for there to be symptoms. This is by far the best way to prevent head lice. Make it a weekly habit!

Please ensure that if your child has long hair it is tied back/up.

There are a number of head lice prevention products available i.e. Vosene shampoo for kids, tea tree sprays, etc.

Remember:

If you find head lice, check and treat the whole family at the same time.

Inform the school, baby-sitters, friends etc.

Lice only live on human heads they will not live on bedding or clothes.

They cannot jump or fly.

They are only caught by head to head contact.

Head lice are not fussy about the length of hair or how clean it is.

Useful websites for further information:

www.onceaweektakeapeek.com

www.nhs.uk

If you require further support please contact our Medical Lead, Mrs Clair Hughes, either via the Academy Office or email office@brooksideacademy.co.uk



Welcome to Brookside Academy

Thank you for visiting us; we are looking forward to working with you.

In order to provide the best learning environment possible, schools across Street are committed to the wellbeing of all members of our community, this includes children, parents / carers and staff. We expect all staff and visitors to treat children and colleagues with the courtesy and respect they would expect to receive themselves. In addition, it is important that adults should set a good example to children at all times.

We expect all visitors to

- Respect the caring ethos at each school
- To follow all safeguarding guidelines
- To approach members of staff for assistance with any issues in an appropriate manner.
- To work with the school in the correction of child's actions, especially where it has, or could lead to, conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour

Unacceptable conduct includes

- Verbal abuse which includes swearing and shouting
- Any form, or threat of, violence
- Aggression
- Harassment
- Derogatory comments linked to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other personal characteristic
- Possessing, abusing, or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances on the school site
- Sending abusive or threatening emails, texts, phone messages or letters to anyone within the school community
- Disruptive behaviour which interferes with areas such as classrooms or office areas
- Using social networking sites to single out individuals, bully or to distribute untruthful or malicious information or comments

In the event that these expectations are not met visitors may be asked to:

- Stop and consider changing their actions
- Leave the school site
- Refrain from contacting members of staff

In the event of serious or persistent breaches of these expectations we may:

- Send parents a legally approved warning letter
- Withdraw permission for visitors to enter the school premises.
- In the case of bullying, untruthful or malicious comments on social networking sites, the schools may request that the comments are deleted. The governing bodies and individuals in liaison with their professional associations may also consider legal action.

This code is supported by our Governing Body and all schools in Street.

All staff and visitors have the right to work in a safe environment without fear of intimidation, abuse or assault.

Should my child go to school/nursery today?

<https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/my-health/parent-zone/?#7>

Do I need to keep my child off school?

NHS
Somerset

Chicken Pox

Until all spots have crusted over

Conjunctivitis

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Diarrhoea & Vomiting

48 hours from last episode

Glandular Fever

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Hand, foot & mouth

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Impetigo

Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after starting antibiotics

Measles or German Measles

4 days from onset of rash

Mumps

5 days from onset of swelling

Scabies

Until after first treatment

Scarlet Fever

24 hours after starting antibiotics

Slapped Cheek

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Whooping Cough

48 hours after starting antibiotics

Flu or Covid-19

Until recovered

Head Lice

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Threadworms

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Tonsillitis

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed





EverydayDigital

ParentZone.org.uk's EverydayDigital is designed specifically for parents. EverydayDigital provides a comprehensive guide to understanding the digital world your children are growing up in. It offers expert advice on how to foster healthy online habits, understand online safety, and use technology positively. From managing screen time to addressing cyberbullying, this platform equips parents with knowledge and tools needed to navigate the digital world.

Visit: <https://parentzone.org.uk/EverydayDigital>

#LearnForLove

Discover the secrets to healthy family relationships and wellbeing

New online learning for all Somerset residents worth

£100

- **Baby on the way?** Manage your emotional and physical health and build strong bonds with your baby
- **Parents, grandparents and caregivers:** learn more about your amazing child and what makes them tick
- **Teenagers:** learn about your wonderfully complex mind and emotions

This free service is commissioned by Connect Somerset, a partnership between Somerset Council, Somerset NHS, Early Years settings, Schools, Colleges and the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprises.

3 easy steps to start your learning journey now:



Use the QR code on your phone, or go to:
bit.ly/LearnForLove

dragon

Enter code
'dragon'



Choose your topics for learning – as many as you like!

Respecting your privacy: All you need to access the courses is an email to log in and track progress. We don't use this email address for anything else and we don't share it with anyone.



WARM SPACE

MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2023 -
THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2024

A T

CRISPIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

4 LEIGH ROAD, STREET, BA16 0HA

OPEN TO ALL

.....

Funding from the Community Organisations Cost of Living fund,
delivered by the National Lottery,
has helped us to be able to extend our warm space opening hours.

We will now be open
Monday to Friday
9am until 3pm
and all food and drink will be
FREE
of charge

DONATIONS
WELCOME

Thanks to the government for
making this possible.



Parent advice & support

Healthy lifestyles

School transitioning

Emotional health

**is your child
5-19 and are you**
looking for confidential
help and support?

A safe and easy way to contact
your School Nursing Team

Just send a text or scan me

07480 635 515

Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service; it operates Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of an safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.

Improving
LIVES



Chill and Chat
Parent carer support group

Street & Glastonbury Group Dates

Friday	19th	January	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	15th	March	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	19th	April	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	17th	May	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	21st	June	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	19th	July	10:00 to 12:00

If you have a child with additional needs and or disabilities 0-25
come along for a cuppa and chat with other parent carers.

The groups are a place to make new friends and share
experiences and ask any questions you may have.



@ Brewers Fayre,
Morland Rd, Glastonbury,
BA6 9FW



STREET

**FOOD
BANK**

The Salvation Army Goswell Road

We are able to serve
the community in this
way due to the
generous donations we
receive, thank you!

Each of our food
parcels contain none
perishable items,
fresh food and
Aldi shopping
vouchers.

If you are able to help please drop off
donations

**Monday – Wednesday 9am-1pm
or Friday 9am – 1pm.**

If you would like to drop off at another time
please contact us on the number below and
we will happily arrange a time that suits you.

We also take cash donations to help with the cost of the fresh food items
and Aldi shopping vouchers.

PHONE number: 07511313339





Drop in club for families who have a child / young person with a disability and / or additional need. Siblings are welcome.

Activities include:

- Arts and crafts
- Outside play area
 - Bike riding
 - Indoor games
- Sensory activities
 - Lego

All parents/carers must be in attendance with children.

No need to book, just turn up!



The Mendip School

Edmond Rack Road, Prestleigh,
Shepton Mallet, Somerset,
BA4 4FZ.

2023

16th September, 14th October,
18th November and 9th
December

2024

13th January, 10th February,
9th March, 27th April, 18th May
and 15th June.

£3 per child
Maximum charge £6 per family

For more information, please email
CIATeam@somerset.gov.uk

Repair Café

Do you have toys or equipment that could be repaired for a small donation, to stop them being thrown away then this is good news. Street is starting a Repair Cafe every fourth Saturday of the month to be held in the Quaker Meeting House BA16 0EB. On 24th February the Fixit van is also attending and if you have any tech that you'd like to recycle and need the data removed bring it along. Coffee and cakes will be on hand too. Put the date in your diary! PS we are also hoping to find more people who might become repairers!

Nina Swift

Councillor on Street Parish Council



Come and Learn A New Circus Skill

FREE

**For ages 6-11
years**

**Tuesday 13th February
9:30-11:30 at
Crispin Hall**

Breakfast Included

All children must have
parental supervision.
call 01458 447248 for more info

Funding from the Community Organisations
Cost of Living fund, delivered by the National
Lottery
Thanks to the government for making this
possible.



Juggling
Diabolo
Poi
Hula Hoop
Spinning Clubs
Spinning Plates
Ribbons
Stilts

CRISPIN HALL School Holiday FAMILY FUN SESSIONS!

**Wednesday 14th February
Thursday 15th February 2024
9.30am - 11.30am.**

**Free Breakfast
For Children
Hot and Cold Options
Available**



**Arts and Crafts
available on
both days**

**Free to Attend
Donations Welcome**

Due to space we are limited to 40 children per session at any one time, it is first come, first served.
All Children must be accompanied by an Adult for the duration of their stay
and will remain the responsibility of that Adult.
For more information contact info@crispinhall.org.uk or phone 01458 447248



Family Holiday Activities

EXPLORE • CREATE • DISCOVER

Book online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays



Saints and Songbirds

February 2024

Kick-off half term with our selection of family
trails and creative workshops for children:



Stitch a Story Monday 12 February

Explore some of the incredible Cathedral
needlework and embroideries, then create
your own design.



Make a Bird Feeder Tuesday 13 February

Help to feed our feathered friends through
the hungry gap, play a card game, and go on
a Cathedral safari!



Celebrate the Saints Wednesday 14 February

Follow our Saints trail this Valentine's Day!
You may not find St Valentine in the
Cathedral, but there'll be plenty of lovely
crafts on offer!



Scan to book:

Or drop in on the day (subject to availability)
£2.15 per child / £1.10 if eligible for free school meals; accompanying adults FREE
Please note: children must be accompanied by a responsible adult
and only assistance dogs are allowed at our Family Holiday Activities



BATH RUGBY GIRLS MASTERCLASS 18 FEB 2024



Join the amazing elite coaching team from Bath Rugby
for a Masterclass dedicated to the girls' game. Join the
expert coaching staff and be put through drills, set
pieces and match play.

Open to all girls, ages 10 - 16
10:00 - 13:00, Wells Cathedral School, BA5 2ST
Cost - £20

Book via: wcenterprises.co.uk/our-activities/

**For more information
email: activityclubs@wells-cathedral-school.com**



MILLFIELD
ENTERPRISES

CAMPS, COURSES & ACTIVITIES

Providing brilliant opportunities for
children aged 1 - 17 years old.

ADVENTURE | SPORTS
CREATIVE | CHILDCARE

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

20+ OPTIONS
AVAILABLE



SCAN HERE TO
DISCOVER MORE

BOOK NOW!



www.millfieldenterprises.com



+44 (0)1458 444320



WHERE ARE WE?

Millfield Senior School (Street Campus) BA16 0YD

Millfield Prep School (Glastonbury Campus) BA6 8LD

Have you heard
about Owl Enlightenment
logo competition?

Yes! Design a
logo that includes us
owls and win your
design on a T-shirt

Design a logo that features any of owls at Owl Enlightenment and see your design on your very own T-shirt.
Your design will feature on all of our gift products in 2024.

All you have to do is

👉 Create your design in any format you desire and add our name. You can add a quote if you like.

👉 Email to owlenlightmentrescue@yahoo.com

👉 Entries to be in by 28th Feb

You can find out about all of our owls, rescue owls and what we do by looking at our website
owlenlightment.org

Good
Luck



Hi there,

We are an Owl Sanctuary currently in Meare, Glastonbury and we're in the process of relocating to an exciting new premise at Paddington Farm, Glastonbury.

Please see the flyer for a competition we're currently holding to design a logo and win your design on a t-shirt.

Any age welcome to enter!

Feel free to visit our website and see all that we do:

www.owlenlightment.org