

Dear Nursery Parents and Carers,

8th October 2024

2025/26 October Half-Term Holiday

This letter is for information only, as the proposed changes will not affect our nursery, which will remain open throughout the October half-term 2025-26.

Across our Trust, schools have a two-week holiday in the October half-term. We are therefore letting you know, a year in advance, of Brookside's adoption of this trust-wide practice from 2025/26. There are some very clear reasons for this:

1. Mental and Physical Well-Being

A longer break allows everyone the opportunity to recharge and reset. After a busy term, taking an extra week can significantly reduce stress levels, preventing burnout and promoting overall well-being. This in turn impacts upon absences from school. Feedback from Trust schools is overwhelmingly positive. This also allows a good rest before the inevitable challenges that the darker and colder days bring as we build up to Christmas Performances.

2. Enhanced Opportunities for Families

With two weeks off, it will be possible to plan trips and activities during the cheaper off-peak times which reduces the cost considerably. Cost is often the main reason given to us as to why a term time holiday is taken. A longer and cheaper break opportunity in October will mean that families can take time to plan a holiday rather than take term-time holiday.

3. Enhanced Opportunities for Staff

With a two-week break between the first term and the Christmas term - similar to how the Easter and the Christmas break works; staff will also have a time to rest and come back fresher in the Christmas term.

I firmly believe that a two-week break during the October half-term would greatly benefit our school community. Brookside will still be open as a school for 190 days a year, children will not be in school for less time. We will also be looking at offering a limited number of free childcare places for the first week of the October half-term break, as we appreciate that term dates are different to other schools.

This will be taking place in the 2025/26 academic year, NOT this year, where we will have an October break of ONE WEEK only.

If you have any questions, please let me know and I will make sure they are answered.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Walton