



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of our first term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic start across school community from our nursery and primary classes to our special school provision in The Willows.

We're proud to share that our attendance has started strong, averaging over 96% across the Academy. This is a brilliant achievement and a testament to the commitment of our families. We know that regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's educational success; every day really does count.

Our first Parents' Evenings of the year were a real highlight. It was wonderful to see so many of you not only engaging with your child's learning but also reconnecting with one another. That sense of community, of shared care and support, is something we deeply value at Brookside.

We also hosted our Phase Team Evenings, where teachers shared what they do and why. These sessions are designed to give you insight into how we support learning and development across the year groups. While attendance was lower than in previous years, we hope to build on this and encourage more families to join us next time; they really are a great way to understand the journey your child is on.

This term, we've also focused on embedding our Relational Policy, which places relationships and communication at the heart of how we support behaviour. As a result, you may have noticed more conversations between home and school about behaviour and we want to reassure you that these are never about blame or shame. They are about working together, proactively, to understand and address challenges before they impact learning or wellbeing. This is the only way we can truly support children to grow and thrive. A heartfelt thank you to those parents who have supported us through these conversations this term, your partnership makes a real difference. As schools and as parents it is really hard to deal with the many challenges children face in isolation. We will continue to develop this practice next term.

Looking ahead to next term (Christmas already!), we'll be sending out our Parental Survey. This is a vital opportunity for us to hear your views, what's working well and where we can improve. But we also want to gently remind you: if you have a concern, please don't wait for the survey to raise it. We're here to help now. Sometimes, saving up a worry for the survey or sharing something anonymously doesn't give us the chance to understand or resolve the issue effectively. We want to work with you, proactively and positively, to make sure every child feels safe, supported, and happy in school.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We wish you a restful break and look forward to another exciting term ahead.

Warm regards, Brian Walton

Join the BTC Trust and make a difference to education at Brookside Academy.

Are you passionate about education? Volunteer as a Parent or Community governor and help us to continue to advance education for our young people.

Your voice and perspective can make a huge difference.

We welcome you to visit our school, and gain an understanding of our culture and ethos, seeing first-hand where your skills and life experience can make an impact.

No prior experience is required – just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute.

Interested? We would love to hear from you!

Please contact us at recruitment@btc-trust.org or call 01278 618380 for more information.

Closing date for applications: 12th November 2025.

IMPORTANT PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Please apply *now* if your child is due to transfer to secondary school

OR

start school for the first time, in September 2026

The admissions process for school place applications in September 2026 is now well under way and the Somerset Council website is now live for parents/carers to make their on-line applications.

Year 6 children transferring to Secondary School in September 2026 — How to Apply

For Year 6 children transferring to Secondary School, the closing date for applications is **31st October 2025** and the national offer day is 1st March 2026.

Parents can apply online now at: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/>

The secondary admission guide for the 2026 admissions process can be found on the Somerset Council website: [Applying for school \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/). Parent/carers are advised to read the guide thoroughly before making an online application.

Children due to Start School for the First Time in September 2026 — How to Apply

For children due to start school for the first time (those who turn four before September 2026), the closing date for applications is **15th January 2026** and the national offer day is 16th April 2026.

Parents can apply online now at: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/>



We have been contacted by a neighbour asking us to remind all parents not to park across the entrance to their driveways or dropped kerbs. Please also ensure that buses can pass.

Please park considerately.

Thank you for your support with this important matter.

FRIENDS OF BROOKSIDE COLOUR RUN

At the end of the summer term last year, FOB held a colour run at Brookside in memory of our daughter, Olivia. The community spirit was high, the paint was colourful and everybody had a wonderful time racing around the colour run track!

Thanks to all of your amazing fund-raising efforts and donations, the colour run raised a whopping **£6004.72!!**

The founder of 2wish, Rhian and all of the 2wish team were amazed by the amount you all raised. This money will help to ensure the much-needed support reaches lots of families who suddenly lose a child. A huge thank you to the FOB team for organising such a wonderful event, it was truly magical.

Thank you all again for such a wonderful afternoon.

Mrs Foster





Street Corps

Helen Stevens
Corps Secretary

Date: 21st October 2025
Ref:

Brookside Academy School
(by email to office@brooksideacademy.co.uk)

Dear all at Brookside Academy School

On behalf of The Salvation Army Street Corps, I'd like to say a very big **"THANK YOU!"** for your very generous harvest donations for the foodbank.

Without donations like these, we wouldn't be able to continue our work in this community; our foodbank has been very busy this year, and thanks to generous donations like yours, our shelves are looking full once again! We really are very grateful for everything that was donated.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Stevens".

Helen Stevens



Year 5/6 Boy's Football

Brookside Boy's football team stormed to success in their recent tournament at Strode Sports Centre.

The boys put on an excellent all-round display, showing attacking flair as well as staying solid in defence.

Game 1- Brookside 4:0 Catcott

Game 2- Brookside 5:0 Elmhurst

Game 3- Brookside 4:0 St Benedicts

13 Goals scored, 0 conceded... Well done boys!

Girl's Football

A huge well done to the girls football team who had a fantastic tournament. The girls won 8-0 vs Springmead, drew 1-1 vs St Bens and won 5-0 against West Pennard.

What we've been up to recently ...

Nursery – Exploring books, texture walks, baking bread and more

Across nursery we have had a busy start to the new academic year we have been getting to know new keyworkers and learning new routines. The Butterflies have done particularly well with transitioning to the school hall at lunchtimes, this helps to get the children used to having lunch there before they start school.

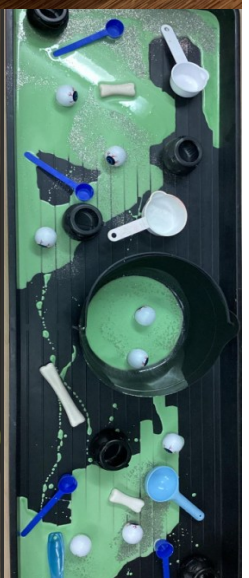
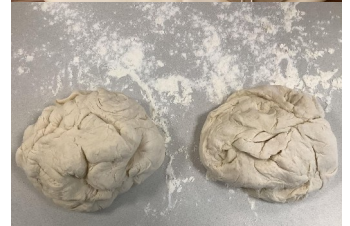
Our planning this year is following a target story as well as the children's interests. Our Bumblebees have explored books such as Room on The Broom and The Tiger Who Came to Tea and have enjoyed engaging in activities linked to these including icing biscuits and had their own picnic outside with the tiger.

The Ladybirds have explored stories including the That's Not my series, and Hands are not for hitting and other stories, this series helps to promote and teach positive behaviours and set boundaries. The ladybirds have enjoyed exploring a range of different textures linking into the That's not my series, as well as going for texture walks outside where they touched and talked about different textures including tree bark and leaves.

The Butterflies have enjoyed books such as The Little Red Hen and The Colour Monster. The children particularly liked baking bread following the story of The Little Red Hen and they then enjoyed tasting it afterwards.

Our Incey Wincys were the first group to move across from using plastic resources to now having a bigger emphasis on learning through the Curiosity Approach. This uses natural objects and real life items as well as open ended resources to ignite the children's imagination play and learning. The children in the Incey room have really adapted to this new approach really well.

Following successful implementation in the Incey room we are now expanding this across the whole nursery so that we are all learning through this wonderful approach. The children have been really excited by this change and it has been great to see them finding new ways to explore and use these resources.



Early Years – Exploring, dinosaurs, patterns and much more!

What a wonderfully busy start to Early Years it has been! The children have loved exploring the classroom—playing with dinosaurs, creating patterns with pegs and peg boards, cooking up delicious meals in the role play area, and building with construction toys, along with so many other fun activities.

Even with the changing weather, we've still managed to enjoy time outdoors—using chalk to make colourful creations and practising our balancing skills on the obstacle course.

In Maths, we've been exploring numbers up to three, and during our skills lessons the children proudly shared their All About Me booklets and we have begun Phonics.

The children have settled brilliantly into school, and we are really looking forward to all the learning and adventures the coming weeks will bring!

Year 3 – Diwali Day!

Year 3 have had a fantastic day learning all about Diwali.

We started the day with a Bangrah dance workshop with a special visitor. We learnt a traditional Indian dance with four different dance steps. The children did an amazing job and performed the routine excellently.

We then learnt all about Diya Lamps and why they are put out on Diwali (to welcome in Lakshmi the Goddess of Wealth). Year 3 then made their very own Diya lamp out of clay and decorated it with lots of gems, sequins and glitter!

Finally, we learnt about Rangoli art and Henna tattoos and how it links to the traditions of Diwali. The children made their own Rangoli patterns with different colourful textures.

Year 4 — Fishcakes and Dung Beetles!

We've reached the end of our first half-term in Year 4, and what a fantastic start it's been! In DT, we had a great time cooking fishcakes and learning all about food hygiene. We developed key skills like mashing and cutting and made sure to work safely and efficiently in the kitchen!

In French, we've been discussing how we travel to school – perfect timing as it ties in with Cycle to School Week! We've learned some useful vocabulary to help us talk about different ways of getting to school, from walking to cycling.

Finally, we shared our non-chronological reports on dung beetles with Year 3. We had fun sharing our “professional poo eaters” reports, complete with titles, subheadings, and all the essential features of non-chronological writing.

Fun fact: Some dung beetles can bury dung that's over 200 times their own weight—that's like a human moving a double-decker bus!

It's been a busy and exciting half-term, and we can't wait for what's ahead in the next one!

Year 5 – Our Local Area, Livin’ on a Prayer and Sanatana Dharma

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the new academic year! The children have settled in brilliantly and have shown great enthusiasm across all subjects and have worked hard on their learning.

In Maths, we’ve been focusing on place value and developing our understanding of addition and subtraction. The children have been working hard to solve problems, explain their reasoning, and apply their skills in different contexts and with challenging questions.

During our English lessons, we began the term by reading *There’s a Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom* by Louis Sachar. The class have really engaged with the story, exploring the characters in depth and even writing diary entries from the perspective of the main characters. More recently, we’ve turned our attention to non-fiction texts, researching and planning our own information reports about mythical creatures we’ve imagined and created!

In Geography, we’ve been learning about our place in the world. Starting with maps of our local area, we located historical and significant places within Street (such as Greenbank and Clark’s Headquarters). We’ve zoomed out to explore the United Kingdom, identifying and naming the countries, capital cities and flags. Finally, we have zoomed out further to look at Europe, focusing on the different places, flags and climate. This is helping us to understand where we are located globally.

Our science topic has been the properties of materials this term. We’ve investigated characteristics such as flammability and permeability, conducting hands-on experiments with different materials found in everyday life. We recently tested materials for flexibility, permeability, hardness and magnetism. We have been able to use our newly learnt vocabulary to think like scientists and have discussed the best materials for different objects and scenarios. Now we are using this knowledge to learn how to best separate mixtures.

Year 5 have been enjoying singing and playing the glockenspiel to the classic rock anthem *Livin’ on a Prayer*. It’s been wonderful to see their confidence and musicality grow as we have recapped key vocabulary such as pulse, rhythm, dynamics and tempo.

In Computing, we’ve explored what a system is and how computers communicate within a system. We learnt about different systems in our everyday life such as washing machines, traffic lights and parcel lockers. The children are now learning about networks and how different devices work together to share information.

This term, in RE, we have been learning about Sanatana Dharma and how Sanatani show commitment to God and their beliefs. We have learnt more about their worship, pilgrimage to the river Ganges and their gods and goddesses.

It’s been a busy and exciting term so far, and we’re proud of all the hard work and creativity Year 5 have shown. We’re looking forward to seeing what the rest of the term brings!



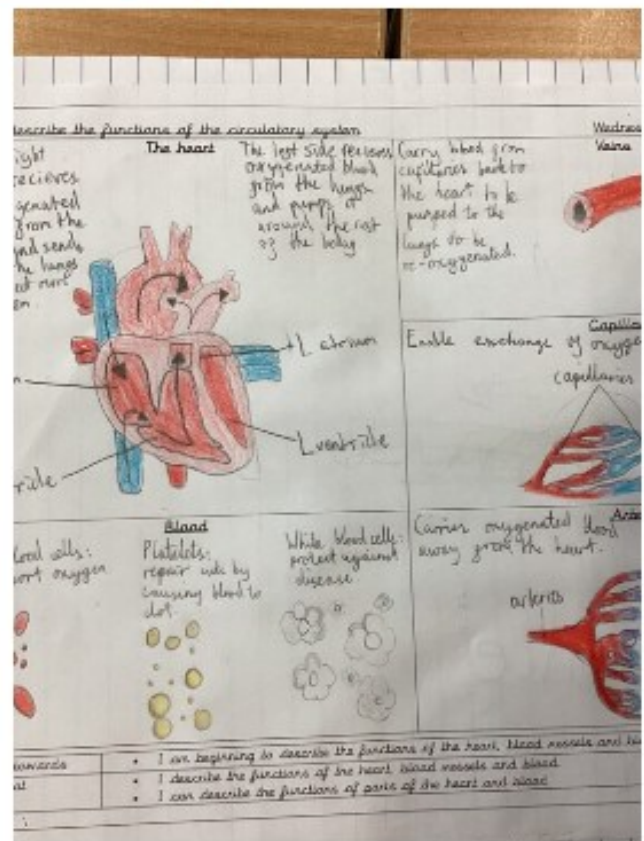
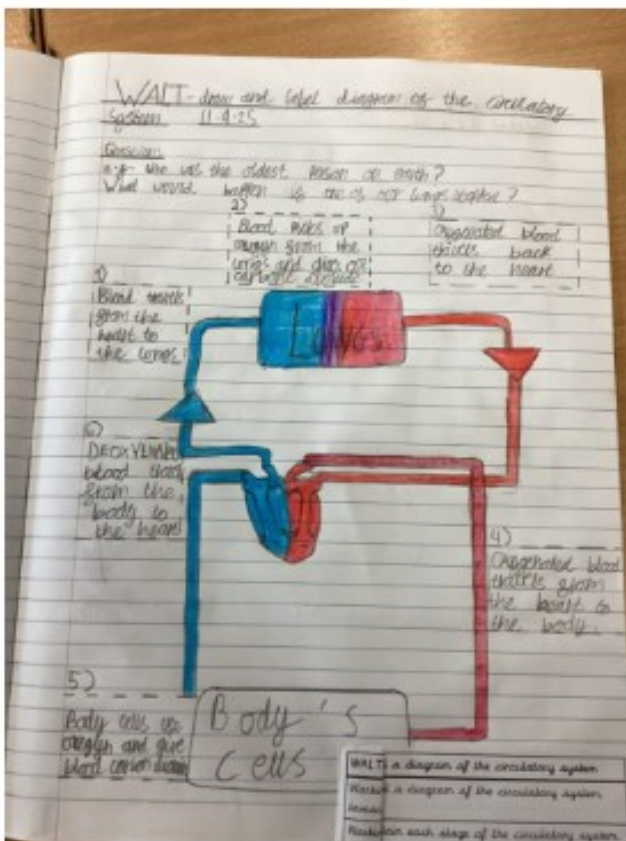
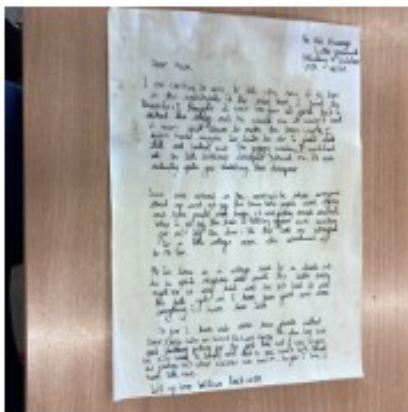
Year 6 – WWII, the Blitz, the Circulatory System and Pablo Picasso

In Year 6 this year, we have had a very busy first term. In History, we have been learning all about WWII. We have found out about the causes of the war and have carried out some research on the Blitz. The children produced an information page using the information that they had found out. As well as this, we have explored the idea of propaganda and looked at how people were encouraged to grow their own vegetables, mend and reuse different items, and accept rationing as a way of preserving their precious resources.

In Science we have learnt about our bodies and the circulatory system. We have identified the body parts which make up the circulatory system and have focused on finding out more about the function of the heart and lungs. The children have produced some excellent diagrams of the heart as it pumps blood around the body. We have also created our own bottles of blood to learn about its components: red blood cells (wheat hoops) carry oxygen and nutrients around the body; white blood cells (marshmallows) fight off germs and diseases; plasma (the liquid) conveys the cells around our bodies; and platelets (sweets) clog any holes in our blood vessels so that we don't lose excess blood as we heal. We have also created a mini vacuum inside a bottle to show how the diaphragm helps our lungs to take in oxygen that is then absorbed into our blood stream.

In Art we used our knowledge of the Blitz to create a silhouette. We painted a sunset background and used black paper to create the silhouette skyline and figures. We have also started to look at Pablo Picasso. We played a game of 'Roll a Picasso' to create different Picasso inspired faces. Then we practised blending oil pastels and created our own portraits.

Next term, we will continue to learn more about World War II and every child has been asked to research their families involvement in the conflict to help us link the events of the past with the present.



Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App


We have launched the Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App for the parents and carers of all school-aged children at Brookside. Thank you to everyone who is already using the App — **98.5%** of our families have registered, so far!

Please can we ask all parents and carers to update their child's personal information and emergency contacts, as well as their own information, via the Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App. You are also able to update Pupil Image, Video, Sound and Local Visit consents.

Another feature of the App is daily **Absence Reporting**. To notify us of your child's absence via Arbor, please click into the 'Attendance' area of the App, input the absence details, and submit the request. **We are no longer using 'Studybugs'**.

Please note that the Arbor App is not applicable to our Nursery children as their records are held on a separate nursery system; please continue to contact the Academy Office if you would like to make changes to the personal information we hold for Nursery children or to report their absence.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Academy Office for further information.



We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

Available on Google Play and the App Store

We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

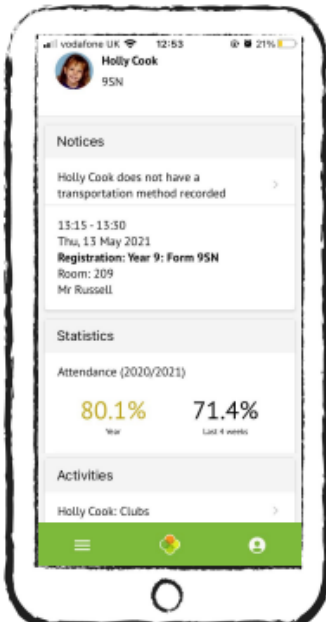
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



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 **Arbor** app. 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.



As per paragraph 38 of the Department for Education Statutory guidance 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance, "The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be exceptional circumstance. Leave of absence should not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours." The amendments made it clear that Headteachers can only grant leave of absence during term time for exceptional circumstance.

There is no longer a H code for authorised term time leave for holidays and In accordance with Government guidelines we cannot authorise this request.

If your child is absent for this period, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised term time leave on their record. I should inform you that a fixed penalty fine may be requested.

The new national framework for issuing penalty notices is to ensure consistency across the country.

Penalty Notices are issued by Somerset Council as below:

1st penalty notice £160 if paid within 28 days reduced to £80 to be paid within 21 days

2nd penalty notice £160

3rd penalty notice cannot be made to the same parent regarding the same child within 3 years, alternative action should be taken.

Penalty Notices are per parent/carer per child and may be requested should the absence be for 5 consecutive days or more and your child's attendance is below 97%.



Dates for your Diary

Please check the School Calendar on our Website for events throughout the year: <https://www.brooksideacademy.co.uk/calendar/>



We use email and phone 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.



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.

Please 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 reminder if their child isn't wearing the correct uniform.



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?



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



Parents: 07480 635 515

Young People age 11-19: 07840 635 516

Welcome to the Somerset School Nurse Service!

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and the School Nursing Service to all families—whether your child is starting school for the first time or returning after the summer break. As part of Somerset's commitment to supporting children's health and wellbeing, our School Nurse Service is here to help your child thrive—both in and out of the classroom. School nurses are qualified nurses and public health professionals who work with families of children aged 5 to 19, offering confidential advice, care, and support on a wide range of health topics. Whether it's guidance on sleep, healthy lifestyles, emotional wellbeing, continence, our team is here to support you and your child. We work closely with schools, families, and other professionals to ensure every child gets the help they need to stay healthy, happy, and safe

ChatHealth – Easy, Confidential Support via Text

ChatHealth is a confidential text messaging service for parents and carers of children aged 5–19. You can text a qualified school nurse for advice. Just send a message to **07480 635515**—available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays.)