



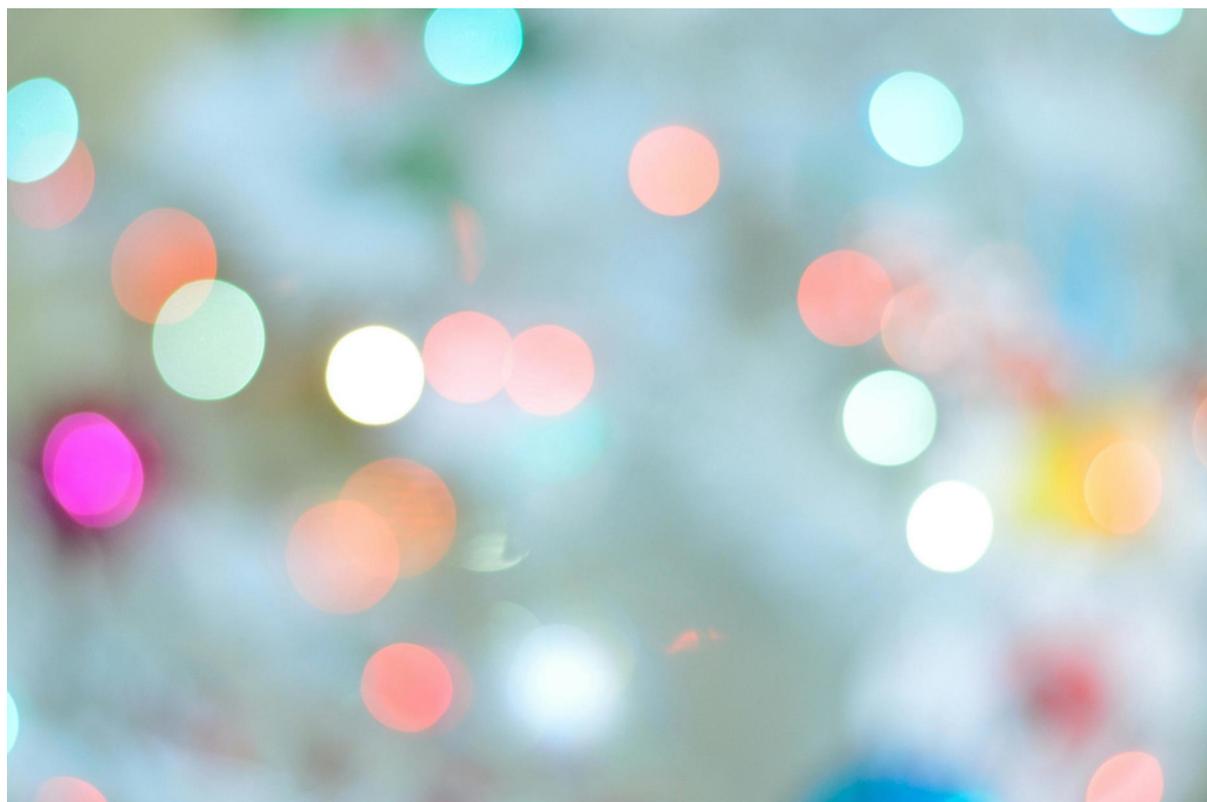
BROOKFIELDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Brookfields Whole School Newsletter
27th February 2026

Headteacher



Ramadan and Lent: A Special Moment of Shared Reflection in 2026

This year is a particularly special one for many of our families, as **Ramadan and Lent begin at the same time**. This is a *rare* occurrence, happening roughly once every 30–33 years, due to the way the Islamic lunar calendar shifts through the solar Gregorian calendar. In **2026, both Ramadan and Lent are beginning in mid-February**, creating a meaningful moment where two of the world’s major faith communities step into seasons of reflection, gratitude, and self-discipline together.

Ramadan—which begins on 17–19 February this year depending on moon sighting—is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. Muslims fast from dawn to sunset for around 29–30 days, using the month as a time for prayer, charity, and strengthening their connection with God.

Lent, which begins on **Ash Wednesday**, 18 February, is a 40-day Christian season of reflection leading up to Easter. Many Christians use this time for fasting, acts of kindness, prayer, and thinking deeply about how they live their values.

At Brookfields, we are incredibly fortunate to have such a beautifully diverse community where **many of our children and families observe both traditions**. In assembly this week, we talked about how lucky we are to learn from one another’s lived experiences. During the week our children and staff have showed genuine curiosity, empathy and pride as they

shared stories of their family traditions, beliefs, and celebrations. This openness does not happen in every school—and it is something we cherish deeply.

Moments like this truly demonstrate our whole-school values of **Ready, Respectful and Safe**, lived out in real, meaningful ways. Our pupils consistently model these values when they speak about their families' faiths and practices with such confidence, respect and understanding.

As Ramadan and Lent begin, we want to celebrate our community's strength, compassion and unity. Whether your family is breaking fast at sunset, attending church services, preparing special meals, or simply supporting friends and classmates who are observing these traditions—**thank you** for making Brookfields such a welcoming and thoughtful place to be.

We wish all our families observing Ramadan or Lent a peaceful and reflective season.

Warmest wishes,

Janine Burton

Headteacher

Message from Assistant Headteacher - Mr Henson

Our school is excited to begin the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Primary Programme - a nationally and internationally award-winning approach that helps children enjoy better opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, creativity and overall wellbeing through play. With children now spending far more time on screens and far less time playing outdoors, we want to give them back the rich, imaginative and active play experiences that many of us remember from our own childhoods. OPAL is built on over 20 years of research and has transformed play in more than 2,000 schools worldwide. Over the next 18 months you'll see changes around school as we expand play opportunities, use more of our outdoor space and offer children greater freedom to explore and learn through play - an essential part of their development. We'd love to hear your thoughts as we begin this journey; please take a moment to complete our parent survey here: <https://forms.gle/DFTQX3222FFYgxGXA>

[Watch a short video about OPAL here](#)

Message from Deputy Head Girl

Everything that's happening in school.

What's new?

Brookfields primary school is a wonderful diverse place which lets you shine and dazzle. No matter a student's skin colour, hair type, or size we all are equal and diverse in our own ways, which is an iconic thing to see. Some new things this week are seat changes, changing you to a seat that may help you focus properly, improve learning and increase your knowledge. There are also other changes such as slightly moving the timetable to help focus on major subjects such as English and Mathematics.

What's something that's interesting?

Something enjoyable about school is that the teachers always try to make every class enjoyable and fun but also sensible even if it's something serious such as algebra in year 6 or sats revision in year 2. This is so that children can express their creativity whilst understanding the subject and learning about it.

Khadija Sidibeh, Deputy head girl

[Update on Staffing](#)

We are pleased to share some good news about staffing for the remainder of the school year.

Mrs Hussain will continue teaching in **Year 1** until the summer term, and she is very much looking forward to continuing the fantastic work she has been doing with her class.

Miss Khatun will also remain in **Nursery** for the rest of the year, providing the consistency and care that our youngest pupils thrive on.

This continuity is brilliant news for the children and for our school community.

Staff Goodbyes

Unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to a couple of members of staff this term.

Miss A. Hassan, one of our Year 1 teachers, has been absent for some time and has made the difficult decision to leave Brookfields. We will miss her greatly, and we wish her all the very best for the future. We look forward to hearing about the next steps in her journey.

Mrs H. Welsh, our SENDCo, will also be moving on at Easter. We know many families will want to know what happens next, so we will share an update about her successor as soon as we are able to confirm the appointment.

We thank both colleagues for their commitment to our children and our community, and we send them off with our warmest wishes.

Attendance

Attendance is still above National here at Brookfields and we are very proud of that but we can always do better.

What is Persistent Absence—and Why It Matters

Persistent absence is when a child misses **10% or more** of the school year, which is roughly **19 days**. Nationally, this affects many pupils, with around **18%** of children missing this much learning time in 2025. Currently, **76 children at Brookfields** are classed as persistently absent. We can still turn that around, together.

When children miss school regularly, it becomes harder for them to keep up with learning, build confidence, and stay connected with friends. It can also make it harder for school staff to spot any worries or support needs early on.

Good attendance helps children feel settled, make progress, and enjoy school life to the fullest. Every day really does count.

Attendance and Punctuality: Every Day and Every Minute Matters

We're Here to Help

We know that sometimes emotional, social, or practical difficulties can make punctuality or daily attendance challenging. If you or your child needs support, please reach out. We are always here to work with you — together, we can make sure every child feels happy, supported, and ready to learn each day. When your children are not here, we miss them.

Dates and what to look out for...

PE DAYS

Year 1 and Year 2 will send out messages

Year 3: Tuesday

Year 4: Wednesday & Thursday

Year 5 - Monday & Wednesday

Year 6 - Tuesday & Thursday

Next week:

Phase Newsletters - always great to see the work they have been so proud of

Whole School Dates

20th March - school closed for teacher training

27th March School last day of term

30th March - 10th April School closed for Easter break

13th April Back to school for summer term