



BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher – Mr D Orme BA (Hons) NPQH Deputy Head – Ms J Smith B Ed (Hons) NPQSL
“Happy and Successful in Everything we Do!”

Monday 2 February 2026

February Newsletter

Dear Parents

I have been spending a lot of time recently on an issue which mainly affects Y6 but which potentially could also concern Y5 or even Y4. This is the topic of social media, by which I include Whatsapp, Tik Tok, Snapchat etc. There are national minimum age requirements in place in this country which advise that children under the age of 13 should not be on social media at all. The reason is that this age group are not ready and do not always understand how to interact appropriately, respectfully or even safely with others online. At school we do of course teach children about online safety and we invite external agencies like the police or the NSPCC into school to reinforce important messages about staying safe. We are, however, battling the reality that so many of our older children now have their own device and are already on social media and while many children get on well, there are always a minority who spoil it for others and engage in abusive or inappropriate conduct. This often gets brought into school and we are left picking up the pieces and spending time restoring broken friendships and de-escalating potential conflicts. My message to you is: monitor, monitor, monitor! Please keep a close eye, set limits and have regular conversations with your child about what they are doing online. Our Y6 children have asked me to create a Code of Conduct about online behaviour and to deal with serious breaches of this agreement, including sanctions where necessary. This constitutes a more proactive and hands-on approach for school in looking after our pupils in the online space and I hope this will support parents too.

February is action packed at Brookside – this afternoon, Y5 have their “Mine to Magnet” workshop to enrich their science learning on materials and their properties. On Wednesday, Y4 visit Weaver Hall for a lovely trip learning about the Anglo Saxons. Then on Tuesday 10th, Y4 have their “Mad Science” H2O workshop here at school. Our Y6 children visit the Academy with Mr Whitcombe on Wednesday 11th to find out a bit about life in secondary school. Week beginning 9th February is Mental Health Week and we are very grateful to members of the MHST for agreeing to come in and talk to our children in an assembly on Thursday 12th.

Speaking of assemblies, Y5 would like to invite their parents in for their annual Class Assembly on Wednesday 11th February, starting at 9:15am in the school hall. We do hope you can join us!

We break up for half term at 3:15pm on Friday 13th February (Nursery at 3pm) and the children return to school at 8:45am on Monday 23rd February (Nursery at 9am). As usual we will have non-uniform day on the last day for a donation to school funds of £1. Thanking you in advance!

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Orme
Headteacher

