*School News | Friday 11th September 2026*

# BROOKLANDS BULLETIN

## Weekly Reflection

Dear parents and carers,

It has been so wonderful to welcome everyone back to Brooklands for this new academic year; to our new Reception, Nursery and in-year children and families across the school. Brooklands is delighted to have you as part of our school community and we hope you will be happy, thrive and form strong, life-long relationships with us here.

The Brooklands Bulletin is a weekly round-up of the fantastic learning and opportunities the children have been doing in the week. We share important information here as well as remind you of up-coming events. Please take the time to read the Bulletin to make sure you are 'in the know' as to what is happening!

We would like to thank every family who welcomed us into their homes last week in our Home Visits; it was clear from the way the children have settled this week that the opportunity that these visits allowed us to start to form positive relationships has been incredibly valuable. We have also shared some key documents recently around our curriculum, our approach to behaviour and our leadership structure. Please ensure you have received and engaged with this communication and please do ask if you have any questions.

We hope you all have a lovely, restful weekend; we look forward to seeing you back next week!

Best wishes,
Mrs McGrath and Mrs Armstrong

## UPCOMING DATES

**Friends and Family Fridays begin** Friday 11th September 2025 3:30-4:30pm
**Year 4 swimming starts** Wednesday 16th September
**Dance club** starts 15th September
**Mandarin club** starts 16th September
**Photograpphy club** starts 17th September
**Chess club** starts 17th September

A reminder that the only items that need to come to school are named water bottles, reading records and reading books. If you are in KS2, chrome books need to be brought in daily and charged.
Please do not send your child to school with any toys, fidgets, pencil cases etc as we cannot accept responsibility for any losses and their presence often detracts from children's attention during their learning. Thank you!

A gentle reminder that at morning drop off, teachers are focused on welcoming all children into the classroom as calmly as possible and so it is not an appropriate time to speak at length with the teacher. If you have a message to pass on, please either speak with leadership at the gate who can pass it on, or email your message to the office who will pass it on. Thank you for your support in ensuring all of our children are able to come in safely and calmly in the mornings.

# Our Safeguarding Team

At Brooklands, we are committed to the safeguarding of all children and staff. The Designated Safeguarding Leads for Brooklands are:

Mrs. Sarah Armstrong
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Co-Head of School



Mrs. Emily McGrath
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Co-Head of School



**We take our duty of safeguarding incredibly seriously at Brooklands Primary School. We understand that safeguarding is EVERYONE's responsibility.**

**We led an assembly about safeguarding for Years 2-6 this week; children are aware of who their safeguarding leads are and what they can do if they do not feel safe. We will continue to remind children of key messages about safeguarding throughout the year. On the next page there is important safeguarding information and the procedures we follow. If you have any questions about safeguarding, please do feel free to speak to us.**

## Please note our updated safeguarding measures include:

No mobile phone use at 'pick up' or 'drop off'- please ensure calls and messaging conversations are taken outside of the school gates. You will be asked to put your device away if necessary. Thank you.

Increased checks for volunteers: if you wish to help out at school e.g. class trips, please speak to the office who can give you our Volunteer information and application form.

Only fruit or vegetables allowed as a mid-morning snack; no 'birthday treats' will be allowed on site.

Brooklands Primary School

# I have a safeguarding concern about a child

You **MUST** report this immediately via Myconcern(or form if you do not have a my concern account)

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Sarah Armstrong

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Emily McGrath

Designated safeguarding lead will assess the concern and take one of the following actions:

Monitor

Speak to parents/carer

Referral

Concern will be monitored and support given where deemed appropriate. For example foodbank, housing support, clothing or toy bank. There are many areas of support and strong community links have been established to benefit our families.

A TAC may be initiated to document targeted support.

Where there is a serious or ongoing concerns a referral may be made to MASH or Early Help.

The situation does not improve and concerns remain or increase.

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|---|---|
| Child Protection Officer (DSL)<br>Sarah Armstrong | Deputy DSL<br>Emily McGrath |
| Greenwich LADO 020 8921 3930 / childrens-LADO@royalgreenwich.gov.uk | |
| **Children's services MASH Team - 020 8921 3172** | **Out of Hours Line - 020 854 8888** |

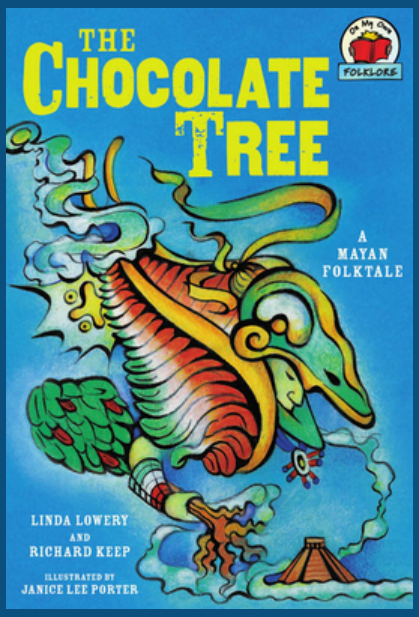
# Reading at Brooklands



*We have a wonderful reading culture at Brooklands and celebrate this in lots of ways!*

**What's your favourite book?**
**Let your teacher know!**

We would love to hear what books and stories you enjoy at home- please email in to share your favourite books, or photos of you reading together at home!




Year 5 have started to read this story as part of their English and history learning. Such a favourite short story!

The children's picture book The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folktale by Linda Lowery and Richard Keep tells the story of how the Mayan king and god Kukulkán gifts his people a cacao tree, despite his brother Night Jaguar's belief that chocolate should be reserved for the gods alone

## ONLINE SAFETY

ChatGPT Parental Controls

ChatGPT has parental controls which allow a parent or guardian to link their account with a teenager's account and manage a range of settings.

Parents can control things such as:

- additional safeguards around sensitive content;
- Voice Mode;
- image generation;
- memory;
- quiet hours;
- and some other ChatGPT features.

Importantly, linking the accounts does not allow a parent to read their teenager's conversations or monitor their chat history.

This could be a useful link to share with parents, particularly those whose children are already using ChatGPT.

Link: Managing parental controls in ChatGPT

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.




## SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

## STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

## GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

## ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

# Advice for Parents & Carers

## TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.




## CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.



## BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.




## GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.



## STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.




## Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

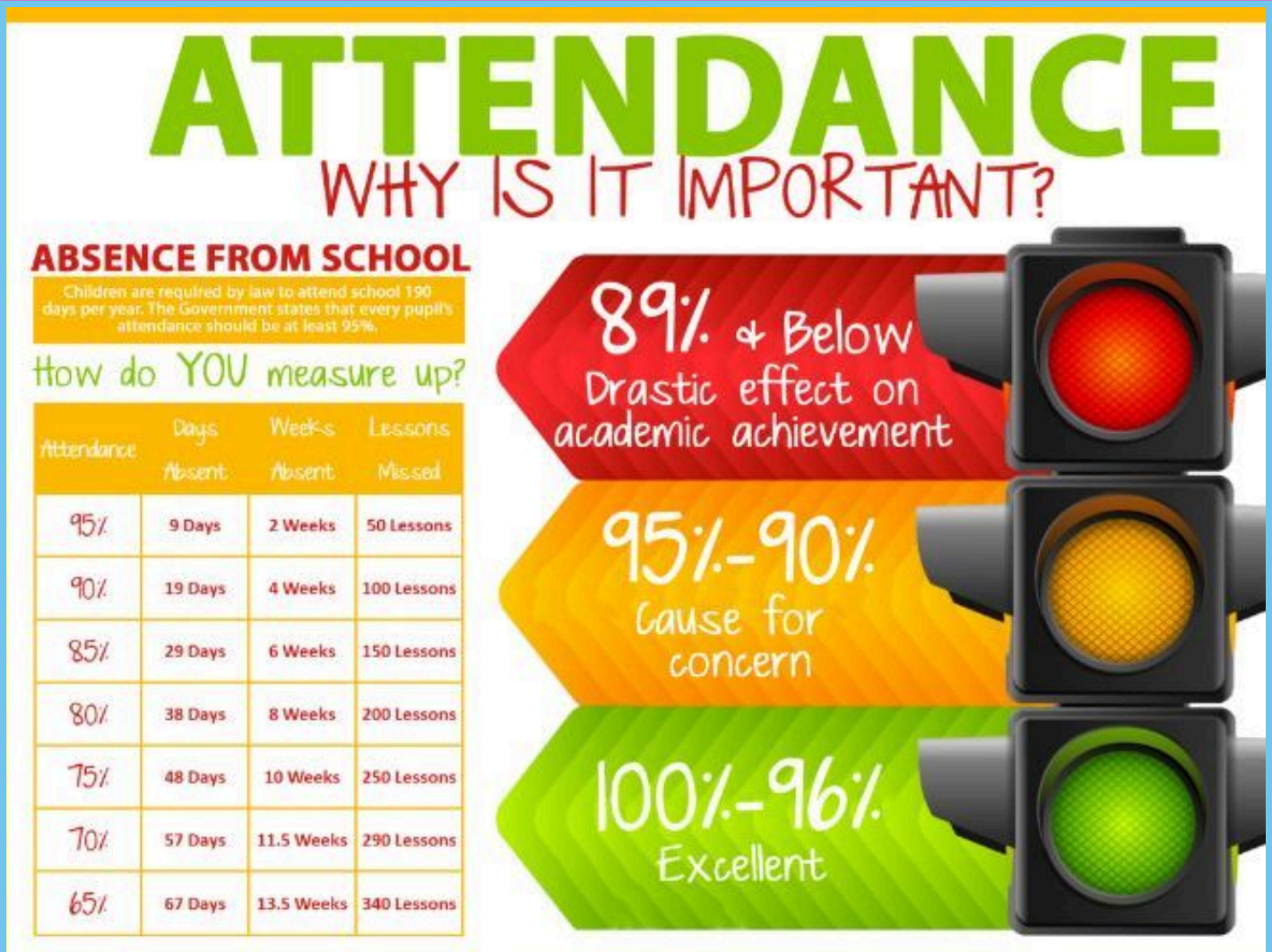
Sources: https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/bullystoppers/sminappropriate.pdf | https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/training-professionals/professional-learning-program-teachers/inappropriate-content-factsheet | https://www.wearingreality.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/childrens-media-lives-year-7.pdf



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.12.2021

# Attendance

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| **Reception** | 97% |
| **Year 1** | 96.21% |
| **Year 2** | 95.17% |
| **Year 3** | 92.05% |
| **Year 4** | 95.42% |
| **Year 5** | 99.26% |
| **Year 6** | 90.58% |



# Office Reminders



- **Absence** - Please ensure you call the office before 9am if your child will not be in school that day. Alternatively, you can report your child's absence on Studybugs.

- **Punctuality** - Should a child's punctuality be identified as persistent (more than 10%) or a pattern (e.g. late on a particular day of the week), parents will be invited in to meet with leadership and/or the local authority attendance officer to discuss how the school can support the family to improve punctuality for the child.




Please sign up to our attendance app which is how we now ask parents to inform us of absence; thank you to those who have already signed up. There is also a link to the page along the top of our home page on our website.

# STARS OF THE WEEK

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| Nursery | Israel for settling into Bluebells so well after coming from Little Bluebells. |
| Reception | All of Reception for being brave in the first week of school! |
| Year 1 | All of Year 1 for their great start to the new year and fantastic attitude to learning. |
| Year 2 | Kion, for always trying his best and showing that he is ready for his learning.<br>Ava R for having a great first week at Brooklands and always helping others. |
| Year 3 | Christian for being a great role model for the class and settling into KS2 brilliantly;<br>Neeva for beautiful presentation in handwriting and in her English work. |
| Year 4 | Atlas - For getting stuck into our Rugby lesson<br>Rhahumah - For settling into Year 4 FANTASTICALLY |
| Year 5 | Kohana- For a great first week<br>Arthur R- For a great first week |
| Year 6 | George - for having a great first week at Brooklands, trying his best with all learning and asking for help when needed.<br>Jacob - for his confidence when contributing to class discussions, and having a positive attitude towards learning. |



## GENTLE REMINDERS

A reminder that the gate opens for children and families at 8:30am. This is for families and children to socialise and network as well as giving children plenty of time to be on site in time. The classroom doors and main KS2 door opens at 8:40am and children need to be on site by 8:45am.

## Parents on site at the start of the day

Parents are expected to remain on site, with their children, until the classroom doors open. This is for health and safety and safeguarding reasons. If children come to school alone (Years 5 and 6), they are to remain in the Early Years playground to ensure they are in sight of the school staff.

## Mobile phones and smart watches

Children who walk to and from school are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school so they are able to inform parents they have arrived safely. However, mobile phones should not be used on site and so children are to take phones and smart watches to the office so they can be kept secure until they can be collected at the end of the day. Having these devices on and accessible during the school day poses a safeguarding risk, which we take very seriously. Please support the school in reminding children to only use their phones once they are off-site. Thank you.

## Appropriate clothing for school

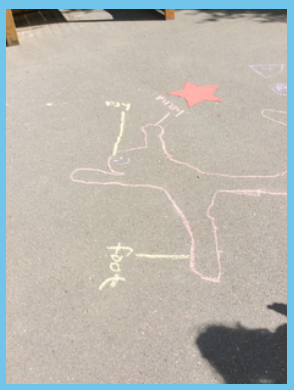
We have had a few children coming to school recently in clothing that has not been appropriate for school e.g. costumes, restrictive clothing and loose footwear. We know that being a non-uniform school is a unique feature of Brooklands and we do not wish to prevent children from expressing their individuality. However, please ensure children are dressed in clothing that does not restrict movement and footwear that is secure. We have had a few accidents at playtime recently and this is something we are closely monitoring. We thank you for your support in this matter.

# This week at Brooklands...

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| Nursery | This week we have welcomed our new children to stay and play sessions with their parents and some have now started with us full time. It has been wonderful getting to know our new children and their families. We are really looking forward to our first full week next week.<br>We have also welcomed some of our children who were in Little Bluebells and have now moved up into Bluebells nursery. It has been lovely to see them after the summer and they have settled well into their new classroom. |
| Reception | It has been a fun filled first week for the children as they begin their journey in Reception. It has been a week of learning, discovering, getting to know their new environment, becoming familiar with routines and building new relationships.<br>The children have enjoyed spending time in both the indoor and outdoor areas and beginning to discover all the exciting learning opportunities available to them. Despite the tears and some hesitant starts to the day, it has been lovely to see them becoming increasingly settled and confident as the week has progressed.<br>As they continue to settle, develop relationships and build confidence, we look forward to seeing them embrace their learning and experiences in the weeks ahead.<br>They all deserve a restful and well earned weekend. Well done, everyone, on such a wonderful first week! |
| Year 1 | Year 1 have been Superstars this week. They have settled quickly back to school routines and Year 1 expectations. They have shown they are ready to embrace the Year 1 curriculum with real enthusiasm. During the school day and within their 'Busy Learning' time they have enjoyed completing Art, Maths, English and Fine Motor challenges linked to the objectives for Year 1. In our science lesson, we have started learning about our body parts. Outside we used chalk to draw around our bodies and label them.Next week we will be reading From Head to Toe by Eric Carle and writing about our bodies and what they can do.<br>This week we have revisited and revised some Maths concepts from last year including working on subitising, ways to make 5 and identifying/ matching objects that are the same. We have been using lots of maths language such as parts, whole, altogether makes, the same, different and discussing our thinking and reasoning.<br>Year 1 have also had a PE lesson and a Forest School Session. They have enjoyed exploring their new learning environment both inside and outside. What an amazing start to the academic year. Well done everyone! |
| Year 2 | Year 2 have had such an amazing start to the year! They have shown that they are ready to learn and prepared for the exciting year ahead. The children have demonstrated great resilience and settled in wonderfully.<br>In English, they have started their new unit by learning about noun phrases and extending them into expanded noun phrases to write a story. In maths, we have spent the week recapping key learning from previous years to build a strong foundation.<br>During science, the children had the opportunity to work collaboratively and enjoyed a fantastic time at forest school. In geography, they worked together as a whole class to build a huge map, learning the continents and oceans of the world. In RE, they explored different religions and discussed why light is such an important symbol across all of them. Finally, they have started their new art unit, which they have thoroughly enjoyed.<br>We are so proud of the fantastic week they have had and extremely proud of every single one of them! |
| Year 3 | Year 3 have had a great start to the year and have quickly adapted to being in KS2. The children have been getting used to sitting at tables, working in a classroom upstairs as well as a brand new playground!<br>In English this week we have been looking at an explanation text and the different features that are included. We have also begun learning how to use timed adverbials and prepositions within our writing.<br>In maths, we have been learning about adding three addends together and which methods we can use to make this easier for ourselves.<br>In RE, we have begun our topic of Hinduism and explored the different Gods that Hindus believe in. The children also enjoyed a fantastic PE lesson in which they learned how to play touch rugby as well as a great afternoon in forest school. Year 3 have already made great improvements this week in their presentation skills, particularly in their English work!<br>It has been a fantastic start to the new year! Well done Year 3! |

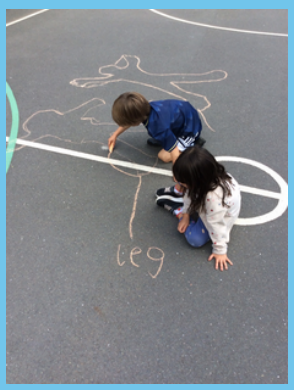
# This week at Brooklands...in photos!

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| Year 4 | Welcome back, Year 4! It may be the very first week of the new academic year, but I have been so unbelievably impressed with how quickly the children have settled into school life and sunk their teeth into our learning.<br>In English, we have jumped straight in by exploring fronted adverbials, inverted commas for speech, and expanded noun phrases to get our creative juices flowing as we prepare to write our adventure stories next week.<br>Meanwhile, in Mathematics, we have been building our confidence with place value and addition while introducing new mathematical vocabulary that we will be using extensively throughout the year.<br>Our wider curriculum is already off to an exciting start, and it has been wonderful to see the children's eyes light up as we introduce our new topics. In Science, we began our unit on states of matter by taking our learning outdoors onto the playground, where the children acted out how particles behave in solids, liquids, and gases!<br>I am so proud of the fantastic attitude and energy the class has shown this week, and I am looking forward to an incredible term ahead together. |
| Year 5 | It has been a fantastic first week in Year 5! The children have settled in incredibly well and have made a very positive start to the new school year. Our classroom routines are already becoming well embedded, and the children have shown that they understand and are beginning to take ownership of our expectations. It has been wonderful to see them demonstrating our school values and working together as a class. In PE, we have been very excited to start our rugby unit with a coach from Blackheath Rugby Club. The children enjoyed their first session and began developing their rugby skills through a range of fun activities and games. In English, we have started our new unit based on The Chocolate Tree. The children have been exploring the characters Kukulkán and Night Jaguar and have begun writing character descriptions. They have been working hard to use ambitious vocabulary and a range of grammatical features to bring their characters to life. In Science, we began our new topic by learning about the Solar System. The children interpreted data about the planets and used this information to draw conclusions. They showed great curiosity when comparing the planets and discussing the patterns they noticed.<br>It has been a brilliant first week, and the children should be very proud of the positive start they have made. We are looking forward to another exciting week of learning in Year 5! |
| Year 6 | We've had a brilliant start to the new school year in Year 6! The children have settled in quickly and have shown a fantastic attitude towards their learning. This week, we have spent time discussing our expectations and what makes a positive classroom. In English, we started our first writing unit with a focus on story writing based on the book 'Journey to the River Sea', where the children practiced using dialogue before moving onto writing detailed setting descriptions for the Amazon rainforest. In geography, we focused on the world's largest hot and cold deserts, where we discussed the similarities and differences between both the Sahara and the Antarctic deserts. In history, we recalled previous learning about the Battle of Hastings and the controversies of King John's reign. On Thursday, the children enjoyed their first touch rugby coaching session with a coach from Blackheath Rugby Club. |














# Apply for Free School Meal eligibility

You'll be helping the school with funding and may qualify for money for the holidays for your child too.

## What have you got to lose?

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this then the school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. This is in addition to the funding we receive for your child towards meals. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school - which benefits your child's experience of school

Did you know that qualifying parents receive money from Greenwich each school holiday - got to be worth checking if you're eligible too, surely?

How do I check if my child is eligible?

To check your eligibility using the checker system linked to local government go to this link: Entrust https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/o fsm/link2ict

Alternatively click on the QR Code which will take you to the website:

Or provide your NI Number and your date of birth, along with your child's details to the admin team and we'll do it for you!



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