



Brookside Primary School

Learning for Life

Newsletter Autumn Term Issue 5

www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk



@brooksidetweets

8th November 2019

Dear Parents,

The inspection report for Brookside was published yesterday. As you will see, Brookside continues to be graded 'a good school'. We are pleased with the report which was our first inspection under the new Education Inspection Framework. This is a more challenging inspection framework that launched in September. Thank you to all parents who completed the survey. The inspector read us many of your comments you made about the school, which were good to hear. Thank you to all staff, governors and the children of Brookside for ensuring a positive outcome during the inspection.

[Ofsted Report 2019](#)

French Residential

31 Year 6 pupils had a wonderful week in France before half term. The children enjoyed a wide range of outdoor activities such as abseiling, crate stacking, raft building, kayaking, fencing and air rifle shooting. In addition, the children visited the local town of Rue and got to practise their French language skills in a café and boulangerie. A visit to the battlefields of the Somme and the Albert Museum helped to bring their history classroom learning to life. The trip finished with a visit to Nausicaa—the biggest aquarium in Europe. Thank you to Miss Mooney and Mr Simpson for their hard work organising and attending this residential.



Clubs

Children are thoroughly enjoying attending the after school clubs which our teachers and teaching assistants run. A reminder that if your child is unable to attend the club for any reason then please ask them to speak to the leader of the club to let them know. We would be grateful that parents also let the school office know.

Clubs will continue up to and including Thursday 5th December. The final choir session this year will be on Thursday 21st November.

We will write to you with new after school clubs in the new year and these will start during the week beginning 20th January 2020 and will continue each week (apart from the week of parent consultations) until Friday 27th March 2020.

Breakfast and After School Club

Mrs Hekimova and her team continue to provide wrap around care from 8am until 6pm each day that the school is open. Please ensure that you email Mrs Hekimova to let her know that your child is going to attend. After School Club places are available for all pupils in school, whether they are regular users or not. Last year we had a number of children join us on a couple of occasions to allow their parents to go Christmas shopping! Please email afterschoolclub@brookside.oxon.sch.uk should you wish your child to attend after school club.

Safeguarding - Signing in and out

Should your child be late to school or your child needs to leave school before 3pm then it is important that you sign them out. This is so that we are aware of which adult has collected your child and what time they arrived on the school site or left.

Safeguarding – Student Update Forms

If you have not returned your student update form then Mrs Tompkins will be issuing new copies of these to you on Monday. Please ensure that you take a moment to check the details which we hold for you and your child. We are required by the DfE to hold at least two emergency contacts. It is possible for us to provide email communication to both parents of a pupil. If there are no changes to be made, please indicate this and sign the form and return it to your child's class teacher or the school office.

Free School Meals and Additional Funding for Pupils

If you think that your child may be eligible for free school meals or the pupil premium grant then please pick up a leaflet from the carousel in the school office. This form should then be completed and returned to the school office. If you are in receipt of many benefits, including Universal Credit and your income is £7400 or less then you may be eligible. Should you have any questions about this please speak to Mr Watt.

Online Safety – FIFA 20

Having spoken to a number of children we know that many are playing FIFA 20 or are watching other people in the house play this game. We have included a poster on the final page of the newsletter which outlines, for parents and pupils some of the areas of the game to consider and some top tips for parents.

Attendance

Well done to the classes with the highest attendance during the last two weeks.

	Week Beginning 21st October	Week Beginning 4th November
Class BM	96%	97%
Class DF	94%	98%
Class CP	92%	88%
Class AW	95%	100%
Class LD	91%	100%
Class FH	94%	99%
Class CC	87%	95%
Class RM/TS	97%	93%
Class CS	99%	93%

CAN you help?

Yes. We need TINS/CANS. **CLEAN** Baked bean tins. Tuna tins. Soup tins. Any tins. Any size. As many as possible.

We are planning a One World Week for the first week of term after Christmas, focussing on environmental issues, starting from a beautiful book called "The Tin Forest" by Helen Ward and we hope to be able to create our very own tin forest. Please remove the labels and wash and dry the tins thoroughly. We'll take the lids too, especially ring pull lids. A collection bin will be provided from Tuesday.



TAG Rugby

Great team work and sportsmanship were shown by all the years 5 and 6 pupils who played a friendly tag rugby tournament against St Mary's Primary School on Friday 18th October. Despite the rain, all children, some who had not played a competitive game before, had a great time pitting their skill against other players. Well done to all three teams!



Dates for your diary

KS1 Christmas Production	Monday 9th December 1:30 p.m.
	Tuesday 10th December 1:30 p.m.
EYFS Christmas Production	Wednesday 11th December 9:30 a.m.
	Thursday 12th December 1:30 p.m.
KS2 Carol Concert and	
FOBS Christmas Bazaar	Wednesday 18th December 6:00 p.m.
End of Term	Thursday 19th December (3:00 p.m. finish)
Best wishes,	
Mr Cornell and the staff of Brookside	



FIFA 20

You don't need to be the biggest football fan in the world to have heard of FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) - the governing body for football. And, the video game series bearing the organisation's name is one of the most successful ever. The lure of this football series is that official licensing gives your child the opportunity to play games in the role of their favourite players. They can either work through a story mode version of the game or play online in competitions against other players. The game, released annually by Electronic Arts under the EA Sports label, is available for a range of consoles, and there are also mobile versions available for smartphones and tablets.

AGE RESTRICTION

3+

If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.



What parents need to know about **FIFA 20**



CONSTANT SERIES REFRESHES

The big selling point for the FIFA range of games is that it FIFA includes current players; a feature which no other football video game offers. However, this means that a new version of the game is released every year, with updated teams, players and stadia, plus new gameplay features and tweaks. And, with every annual update of the game, there is an expectation that it will be far better than the previous one, so the pressure to upgrade and buy the new version is likely to be immense!

FAKE EMAILS AND SCAMS

Your child may receive an email or see a message on social media or in forums which appear to be a genuine FIFA login page. While the link may seem like a FIFA login page, it's a phishing scam to capture a login name and password. Scammers may use names that sound legitimate, like 'EA Admin' or 'FIFA Developer'.

JUST ONE MORE GAME

Your child could be playing FIFA games on their computer or console for very long periods of time. That's not to say that computer-based matches are a full 90 minutes long, but a series of 20-minute matches can very quickly fill up a day! The World Health Organisation has classified 'gaming disorder' as a mental health problem - this is when children have trouble controlling their gaming behaviour and let it reign over their lives and daily routine.

IN GAME CHAT

While the FIFA video game is suitable for children of all ages as it does not include any inappropriate content, there is the issue of in-game chat. Your child can play with other people online and chat with them using headsets. As this is largely unregulated, it could mean that your child is exposed to language or conversations that you deem unsuitable.

BUYING ADD-ONS

In-game purchases are to be expected in any modern game and FIFA is no different. FIFA Ultimate Team (commonly called FUT) is a mode in FIFA that lets gamers build teams of players from any league, playing both offline and online to win coins. These can be used to buy better players or packs containing random players. While some purchases can be made using in-game currency, other purchases involve spending with real world money, which could become expensive. There have been reports of parents receiving large credit card bills resulting from in-game purchase made by their children.

FIFA GAMEPLAY

The FIFA series has been criticised for the competitive nature of gameplay leading to aggression in some players. Add to this the chance to converse with other players via in-game chat, and the potential for anger levels is likely to rise... especially if you're losing heavily!



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Top Tips For Parents



ABOUT THE SERIES REFRESHES

As a parent, the implications of this really depends on the age of your child and your relationship with them. It may be that playing and sharing games is part of your family life and so this isn't a problem, but just be mindful that being involved with the FIFA franchise is unlikely to be a one-off event - it's the start of a gaming journey that could last for many, many years and involve numerous (potentially expensive) upgrades.

STEER CLEAR OF SCAMMERS

You should teach your children to stay clear of scams. Explain to them that they must be wary of any link which asks them to either verify their username and password or provide other sensitive information; game developers will never send a message asking for login information. Console messages, emails and websites, or social media posts promoting contests for in-game content, such as packs, players, or coins requiring login information are fake.

MONITOR ACTIVITY

The parental controls on consoles can be used to restrict the amount of time spent playing. Physically monitoring how much time your child is spending in FIFA is recommended - just as you might monitor how much time they spend watching TV. Keep an eye out for warning signs, such as a lack of interest in other activities, tiredness or fatigue, neglect of personal hygiene, changes in character or anger issues where your child is told to stop playing a game.

HAVE THEM REPORT ABUSE

It's unlikely that you'll be able to convince your child to play FIFA without making use of the chat facility - it's something that adds to the experience. However, you should ensure your child is aware of how to silence any abusive players and how to report anyone who becomes problematic.

RESTRICT PURCHASES

To spend real money in FIFA, a credit or debit card must be linked to a gaming account, so ensure that your card is not being used for this! There's also support for PayPal payment, so also check who has access to this type of account. Depending on the platform your child is using to play FIFA, there are different parental controls that can be put in place to restrict spending should you allow them to link a card to their account. There is also a payment option called Paysafecard, which allows you to make payments online without the use of a bank account or credit card. As you can top up balances, this makes it easy to control spending.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Monitoring in-game chat may be difficult as you're likely to only be able to hear one side of a conversation. However, noticing how your child is reacting may be a reasonable indicator of the general mood. Dealing with both the frustrations of a game as well as troublesome people can serve as useful life lessons, but as a parent, you know your child better than anyone else. If you notice your child is getting too upset or angry, that's the time to intervene and try to encourage them to take a break from the game.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



FIFA 20