



# Brookside Primary School

*Learning for Life*

## Newsletter Autumn Term Issue 1

[www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk)



@brooksidetweets

4th September 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to have all children back in school for the first time in nearly six months. The children quickly settled back into school life and were keen to get on with their learning and playing with their friends. Whilst there are still a number of differences and restrictions in school having whole classes together again means Brookside classrooms feel much as they did before the lockdown. Teachers and teaching assistants will be working hard this term to ensure all children get back on track with their learning across the curriculum.

### Keeping Safe

In order to keep everyone safe it is vitally important that if children are unwell they do not come into school. Especially if they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms.

A key part of keeping children, staff and families safe is the appropriate use of testing to help identify people who are positive and subsequently their contacts. The information below was sent to all schools from Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace and clarifies when a test is needed.

'We have made testing available throughout the country and anyone with symptoms can book a test online or over the telephone through 119 to get the certainty they need to protect themselves and those around them. Crucial to our overall support for schools and colleges is ensuring that everyone with coronavirus symptoms has access to a test as soon as they develop those symptoms. It is vital that we learn from the recent Scottish experience, where the return of schools saw a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms. We want to avoid a similar surge in test demand as England's schools and colleges return to ensure that we continue to prioritise our testing capacity for those with symptoms and to avoid children, students and their families self-isolating unnecessarily.

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:
- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or
- they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.'

### Staff News

Welcome to Mrs Ward, Mrs Coleman, Miss Halsey-Jones and Miss McGill who have joined our teaching assistant team.

### Letters to parents

Parents of children in Years 1-6 will have received a letter outlining what your child will be learning this term along with a curriculum map. Letters for Early Years parents will be sent home once all children have started.

### Extra Curricular Clubs

Unfortunately, there will not be any clubs this term due to the restrictions currently in place.

### Dates for your diary 2020/2021

Friday 23rd October—End of the first half term

Monday 26th—Friday 30th October—Half Term Break

Monday 2nd November—INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

Term dates for [2020/2021](http://www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk) can be found on our website.

Best wishes,

Mr Cornell and the staff of Brookside