



Message from Mrs Fellows

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term- we hope you had an enjoyable half term holiday. This term we are having a real focus upon reading particularly in key stage 1, as we aim for every child to leave Year 2 as a fluent reader. Please support us with this by reading with your child regularly at home. Don't forget to write in their reading record too!

Year 4 are busy preparing for the times table quiz, they are making great progress so please continue practising these at home.

Finally, Year 6 are working extremely hard for the upcoming SATs- remember that all we ask is that they try their very best. As long as they work hard, we'll be pleased. Parents' Evenings are also coming up and you will be able to book your slot very soon.



Parent's evening appointments will go live on Monday. You will need to book these on the School Life app.

The parents evening icon will be displayed at the bottom of the main menu on the left hand side of the app. This is where you can choose your time slot. Please **do not** call the office to book places for you, we can assist with your account details but can't book the appointments for you.

Please check over the weekend that you are logged into the School Life app and have your notifications switched on.



We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March 2025.**

World Book Day encourages more children and families to find the fun and enjoyment in reading, because reading for pleasure changes lives. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success. We are hoping to provide the children with lots of fun activities to promote the love of reading.

We would love for our children to be involved and encourage them to dress up as their favourite book character.

We understand that this can be an extra expense, so we do not expect you to go out and purchase an outfit - homemade ones are always welcomed or they can even come to school wearing their favourite pyjamas.

We have a themed menu for World Book Day so please ensure you have ordered your child's dinner on Parent Pay if they would like one.

ONLINE SAFETY- Have a conversation

Do you know what your child is accessing online?

It is important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

- Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
- Ask them about how they stay safe online.
- Ask them if they know where to go for help.
- Think about how you each use the internet.

Many online platforms have age restrictions due to the level on content the children could access. The best advice is to check the ratings for the app, read reviews from other users, and consider downloading the app or game yourself so that you can see if it is suitable for your child before they access. Look at what settings are available in the app to help keep your child safe.

Sometimes children may hear words and phrases online that they do not understand and begin to use them as part of general chat, this can also be a sign that they may have accessed age-inappropriate content. Again, have the conversation and explore staying safe online.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



BROOKBITES

On Tuesday this week, we had 21 children who hadn't booked a school lunch. Please make sure you book your child's lunch in advance as there are food and hygiene standards/allergy guidance that we have to follow and when lunches have not been ordered it makes this more difficult.

Children will often get upset, particularly if there isn't enough of their chosen meal choice. Any children whose dinners haven't been ordered on more than three occasions, will only be offered a sandwich and parents may be asked to bring in a packed lunch.

SMART WATCHES



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been brought to our attention recently, that a small number of children have been wearing a **smart watch** in school.



These watches have become increasingly popular, however any smart watches/devices that are able to send/receive calls or take photographs are not allowed in school, due to potential safeguarding concerns, GDPR and not to mention the distraction to learning in class.

At Brook, only Year 5 and 6 children are allowed to walk to and from school with a mobile phone. These phones are NOT PERMITTED for use in lessons, before and after school clubs or any activity organised by school. They are collected upon arrival to school and securely stored throughout the school day. The use is in line with our acceptable use agreement and parental permission must be given.

To ensure the safety of all pupils and staff and the safety of any devices, SMART WATCHES ARE NOT PERMITTED to be worn by children in school (regardless of any restrictions). Any children found wearing a smart watch in school will be asked to remove it and it will be stored securely by the class teacher until the end of the day.

Pupils are permitted to use a traditional analogue or digital watch / children's Fitbit (tracking health only). If they chose to do so at their own personal risk of property.

Although there is no national ban on smart watches in school, the decision lies with individual schools around use.

We understand that this may cause you some frustration, however we have a duty of care to ensure ALL children in school remain safe and protected.

Changes to technology are happening frequently and this information will be discussed at our Safeguarding and Inclusion Governors Committee this week and resulting amendments to school policy will follow.

Thank you for your continued support.



Gandey's Circus is coming to Merry Hill 6th - 23rd March and we have been given a discount code to share with our families at school. Treat your children to a unforgettable experience at Gandey's circus and save money when you use code "**MHSC5**"



Midland Games

Earlier this week, we took 38 pupils from across Year One to Year Six to Tipton Sports Academy as we were invited to take part in a variety of PE competitions.

The teams included:

- Yr 1 & 2 Multi skills
- Yr 3 & 4 Girls Football
- Yr 3 & 4 Boys Football
- Yr 5 & 6 Basketball
- Y1 - 6 Curling

All the children represented Brook extremely well. They showed lots of resilience and worked very well as teams. Whilst earning points throughout the tournaments the children showed determination and battled well against the other schools.

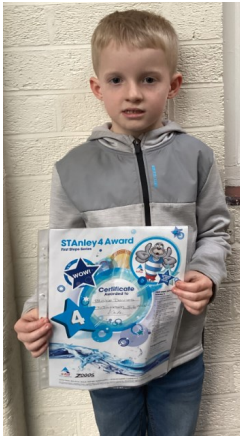
We would like to say a huge congratulations to the Curling team and the Y3 & 4 Boys Football as they have won a place in the final at Oxford University later this academic year!



Midland Winner 2025!



Pupil achievements



Well done to Blake from Year 2 for achieving his Stanley 4 swimming award!



Well done to Kendall-Rae from Reception for achieving her Stanley 6 swimming award!

7 - 16 March



BRITISH
SCIENCE
WEEK 2025



The British Science Week 2025 poster competition is open now!

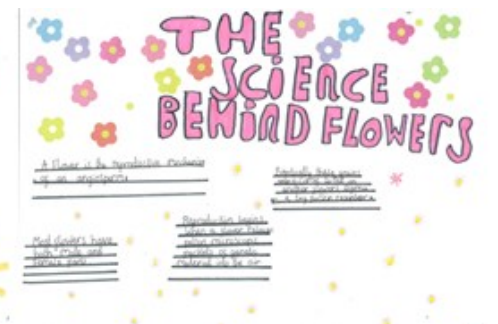
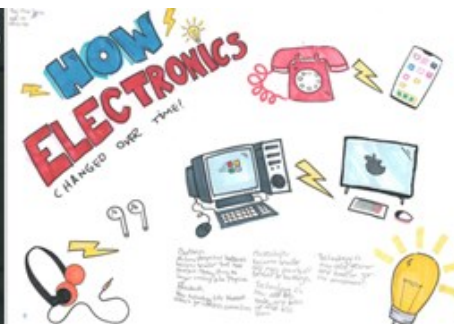
The theme this year is '**Change and Adapt**'! Pupils could create a poster showing how plants and animals adapt to changing seasons or surroundings, or how humans have adapted to changing technology. They could look at climate change and how we can adapt our behaviours to protect the environment, or their favourite science experiment and how it shows change. The more creative the interpretation of the theme, the better!

Judges will be looking for a **creative approach**, clear **content** (accurate information about a STEM topic) and a poster that is presented in an **engaging** way. Entries must be one page of A4 or A3 paper and have the entrant's first name, age and class written on the back. Brook Primary can only select a maximum of five entries to be sent off. (Please note if you do not wish for pupil's name and age to be submitted to the competition then please make this clear on the entry and only the school name will be shared.)

Entries will need to be submitted to Ms Tsang by Friday 21st March.

Full terms and conditions can be found at [Poster competition - British Science Week](#)

Here are some lovely entries from 2024:



Makaton- Sign of the week

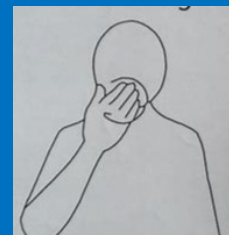
Children communicate in a variety of ways some of these include Makaton signs and symbols. We are going to be introducing 'sign of the week' to staff, children and parents/ carers. Our first sign is "School".

Each week we will be sharing a new sign with the children. We encourage you to practise this at home with your child.

Thank-you for supporting us with this.

Miss Jones and Mrs Humphries

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMPeAxDD1_0



School

Last weeks attendance:

17/02/25 - 21/02/25

3S were the highest attendees in KS2 and 2C were the highest in KS1.



Rec B	94.09%
Rec R	92.01%
1D	93.35%
1H	94.02%
2C	95.10%
2T	92%
3F	97.20%
3S	97.27%
4HD	96.37%
4W	96.50%
5I	95.05%
5SW	93.61%
6AH	96.48%
6E	95.46%
School Total	94.67%
Target	97%

Brook Buddies

** Please ensure you have an updated agreements form completed **

<https://forms.office.com/e/V2Sw2WJSHb>

Brook Buddies runs every morning and evening. Why not join us for breakfast or some after school fun? Our session times & prices are below:

Breakfast club:

8:00am-8:45am - £3.50

Afterschool club:

3:20pm-5:45pm - £8.00

All bookings must be made by Thursday of the week before you require childcare.

Please note: (Summary from Brook School policy)

Parents should collect their child promptly at the end of a session otherwise you will be charged a fee of **£10.00** to cover staff costs if they are **more than 10 minutes late**. If this situation arises more than three times in one term, their child's place at Brook Buddies may be forfeited!

Please could we remind parents that pay via voucher/tax free payments, you need to send your payments to the Buddies email: buddies@brook.dudley.sch.uk. Please do not send to the school info address as sometimes they may get overlooked and missed.

This week in Buddies we have been exploring food! We have made rice krispie cakes and we made our own snack - muffin pizza's where we chose our own toppings.

Please can we remind parents not to let their children bring toys to school - thank you.