



Headteacher

NEWSLETTER



A Strong Start

What a fantastic start we've had to the new school year! It has been great to see our pupils return with such enthusiasm and a readiness to learn.

We are already seeing huge improvements in learning behaviours, thanks to the new routines established through our behaviour curriculum. The children are also looking incredibly smart, and the new uniform policy has been adopted with great success. Thank you for your support in helping your children transition so smoothly into the school year and for working in partnership with us.

I also want to address the communication issues some of you may have experienced at the start of the year. We sincerely apologise for the system glitches that either prevented messages from being sent or created duplicates. This was a national issue with our provider, and we are working closely with them to reduce the risk of this happening again.

While we will always do our best to send reminders for key dates, we encourage you to use the provided link to get a printable term dates sheet so you don't miss any important events.

In other news, our PRIDE awards will now be celebrated in a new way. They will be included in the termly newsletters from our team leaders for Nursery/Reception, Year 1/2, Year 3/4, and Year 5/6. This is a great way to highlight the achievements of our pupils within their specific age groups. Watch this space!

Finally, I am thrilled to announce some exciting news! We have been very kindly donated a Cubbie from Brakenhale School. This smart, multi-sensory management pod is a customisable space with adjustable lighting, sound, and visuals. It is designed to help children regulate their sensory experiences and find a calm, focused environment, especially for those with sensory sensitivities. We have recently installed it and are excited about the positive impact it will have on our pupils. We extend a huge thank you to Brakenhale School for their incredible generosity!



TERM 1 DATES

Monday 1st September	INSET Day - School closed to all children
Tuesday 2nd September	INSET Day - School closed to all children
Wednesday 3rd September	First Day of Term 1 - All children back in school
Tuesday 9th September	3.30pm in Classrooms: "The Year Ahead" Parent Presentation (What To Expect and When) (All Year Groups, please select a suitable date)
Wednesday 10th September	3.30pm in Classrooms: "The Year Ahead" Parent Presentation (What To Expect and When) (All Year Groups, please select a suitable date)
Monday 15th September	9:15 - 10.00am: Parent Phonics Workshop - What is Read, Write Inc (RWI) and How to Access the RWI Portal from the School Website (Library)
Friday 19th September	9.15 - 10.00am: Parent Workshop - How to Teach/Support Your Child to Read at Home.
Friday 26th September	European Day of Languages - celebrating all the languages at Sandy Lane by learning greetings in our class languages.
Monday 29th September	9.15am - Year 5 and 6 Harvest Assembly to Parents/Carers
Tuesday 30th September	9.15am - EYFS (Reception and Nursery) Harvest Assembly to Parents/Carers
Wednesday 1st October	9.15am - KS1 Harvest Assembly to Parents/Carers
Thursday 2nd October	Flu Immunisations
Friday 3rd October	9:15 Year 3 and 4 Harvest Assembly to Parents/Carers
Tuesday 7th October	9 - 10am and 10 - 11am: Reception School Tours (advertising w.c. 15th September)
Wednesday 8th October	1 - 2pm and 2 - 3pm: Reception School Tours (advertising w.c. 15th September)
Friday 17th October	Individual School Photos
Wednesday 22nd October	Last day of Term 1



[Click here for a handy printable for the fridge!](#)



GIVE US A FOLLOW AND JOIN THE JOURNEY!
(CLICK THE PLATFORM YOU WISH TO FOLLOW)



Home Reading at Sandy Lane

Home reading each evening is an expectation at Sandy Lane and we want to work with you to set this up as a routine. This is because promoting a love of reading in your child is a powerful way to support their learning and well-being. By making reading a valued part of your evening routine, you can build a lifelong habit.

1. Make Reading Time Special

- Set the scene: Create a cozy, inviting reading space.
- Remove distractions: Turn off screens and put away phones.
- Be consistent: Establish a regular, daily time for reading, even if it's only 10-15 minutes.



2. Give Your Child Control

- Let them choose: Allow your child to pick what they read—from comic books to magazines. All reading is valuable.
- No pressure to finish: If a book isn't working for them, it's okay to move on.

OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER

3. Read Together

- Read aloud: Continue reading to your child even when they can read independently. This builds vocabulary and comprehension.
- Take turns: Share the reading by taking turns with a page or a chapter.
- Model the behaviour: Let your child see you reading for pleasure.

4. Talk About the Book

- Have a chat: Instead of "quizzing" your child, have a natural conversation about the story and how it made them feel.
- Ask open-ended questions: Questions like "What do you think will happen next?" or "What did you think of the characters?" are more engaging than yes/no questions.

SEND UPDATE FROM MR WALSH, OUR SENDCO:



Working in Partnership with Parents

As the new school year gets underway, I wanted to reach out to all of our families, especially those with children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It has been a pleasure to see the children settle back into the school routine so well, and I am excited to work alongside you to ensure every child has a happy and successful year.

Our approach to supporting children with SEND is rooted in partnership. You, as parents, are the experts on your child, and your insights are invaluable. By working together, we can create a consistent and effective support system that extends from school to home.

To help you with this, here are a few simple ways you can support your child's learning and well-being at home, building on the routines we have in place at school:

- **Establish a Routine:** Children with SEND often thrive on predictability. Simple visual timetables or schedules at home can help them feel secure and prepared for the day's events, from getting ready for school to bedtime. This consistency supports their emotional regulation and reduces anxiety.
- **Focus on Communication:** This can be as simple as "sportscasting" what your child is doing, narrating their actions to build vocabulary and language skills. For example, "I see you're putting the green car in the red box." It's also important to create time for your child to talk and express themselves, without interruption, as this builds confidence and a sense of being heard.
- **Celebrate Small Victories:** Acknowledge and praise effort, not just outcomes. Whether it's mastering a new skill, trying a new food, or staying calm in a difficult situation, celebrating these small steps builds confidence and resilience. Positive reinforcement is a powerful tool.
- **Explore Sensory Activities:** Many children with SEND have sensory needs. Incorporating simple sensory activities at home, like playing with playdough, a sensory box, or even listening to calming music, can help them regulate their emotions and feel more relaxed.
- **Read for Fun:** Reading doesn't have to be a chore. Encourage a love of reading by sharing books together. This could be reading a page each, looking at the pictures, or simply you reading to them. This helps develop comprehension, vocabulary, and a positive association with books.

We are committed to making sure every child has the support they need to reach their full potential. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are here to listen and to work with you.



Connecting Our Community...



Bracknell Forest Council

Year 6 To Year 7

Open for admissions 2026

It's time to apply for a secondary school place

Read the guide → Apply online → Receive your offer

The admission process to apply for Year 7, September 2026 is now open.

The application process is open from 12 September 2025 - 31 October 2025

Bracknell Forest residents only

For more info
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/applyforsecondary




Virtual Coffee Morning - Family, siblings and homelife

Friday 19th Sept - 10:00 - 11:15am **25 spaces available!**

Join our online informal discussion to cover the following areas:

- Creating a home that works for everyone's needs and rhythms
- Supporting sibling bonds
- Navigating family tensions with empathy and realistic expectations
- Letting go of 'perfect' parenting

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.

Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:

 Gems.4Health@nhs.net  **0800 999 1342**



High Close School
 Wiltshire Road, Wokingham
 Berkshire RG40 1TS

Main Office 0118 978 5767
 Email: enquiries@highclose.org.uk
 Website: <https://highclose.org.uk>

BARNARDOS Changing childhoods. Changing lives.



By Email

5 September 2025

Dear SENDCo,

High Close School is holding an open tour on **Monday 22nd September** at 16:15. This event is specifically aimed at parents of year 5 pupils who are considering applying for a place in the **September 2026** intake. However, we welcome parents of older pupils where appropriate.

High Close School is a non-maintained special school located in Wokingham Berkshire. We cater to students aged 7-16 and are designated Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) provision. We offer a trauma-informed but traditional school experience equivalent to mainstream education. Our curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of our young people, delivered in manageable chunks to ensure everyone can progress and achieve, regardless of their starting point.

During the tour, parents will have the opportunity to:

- Explore our facilities and classrooms,
- Meet dedicated teaching staff and pastoral staff
- Learn about our 'traditional' curriculum offer and examination pathways
- Learn about our extensive pastoral care and therapeutic support.
- Ask any questions they may have about the admissions process.

We believe that visiting our school will give a comprehensive understanding of the supportive learning environment we offer. Choosing a Secondary school is a crucial decision and we aim to help parents make an informed choice. Please share this invitation with prospective parents. Attendance will need to be confirmed by emailing us at referrals@highclose.org.uk or calling 01189 785767.



Claire Hughes
 Referrals Lead
 High Close School
 Wokingham
 RG40 1TS.

At **Brakenhale School**, our values of Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility permeate everything that we do. Our recent Ofsted inspection confirmed that our overall judgement is "Good" and that we provide "high expectations for student achievement", with a "calm and orderly atmosphere where students feel safe" - so please come along to experience our school.



Open Evening | Intake 2026/27
 Thursday 9th October 2025 | 18:00 -20:00

Academy in Action Tours
 During September and October

Rectory Lane, Bracknell, RG12 7BA • Tel: 01344 423041 • Email: mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk

For more info: www.brakenhale.co.uk




Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
 President: Hantsale Education Trust
 Benefactor (in company limited by guarantee)
 Registered Office: Barnardo's House, Tanners
 Lane, Sand Hingston Wood, Exton, Notts NG5
 Registered No. 8120 England. Registered
 Charity No. 218260 and 30557605

FR Regulator

Connecting Our Community...

LOADING NEW SKILLS...

GYMNASICS CLASSES **NINJA CLASSES** **DANCE CLASSES**

By Beth Tweddle
From Carthybeats
To Confidence
Make New Friends

TRY US FOR FREE!

Cymfinity Kids CLUBS | Book your FREE taster class today at gymfinitykids.com

King's Academy
Easthampstead Park

Year 6 Open Evening
16 September 2025

Complete the form below to book your place for our Open Evening.
Click here to book your place

Morning Tours
Monday 15 September -
Friday 26 September 2025
9:30am - 10:20am

Please phone reception on 01344 304567 to book a tour.

Ofsted Good Provider

SONNING family GLOW RUN

Run the sights of Sonning under torch light and enjoy a BBQ and Silent Disco afterwards

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER
BERKSHIRE COUNTY SPORTS CLUB

SONNING GLOW RUN

KIDS FUN RUN (1.5K MIN AGE 4): £5
ADULT GLOW RUN (5K MIN AGE 11): £24
FAMILY TICKET (2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN): £50

ALL ENTRANTS WILL RECEIVE A MEDAL AND GLOW STICKS

← SIGN UP HERE
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SONNINGGLOWRUN25](https://bit.ly/sonningglowrun25)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Complete the Summer Reading Challenge by 13 September 2025



Well done to everyone who has completed the Summer Reading Challenge to read six books over the summer! You have until the end of Saturday, 13 September to finish the challenge and visit your local library to collect your rewards and medal.

Mums in Mind Group

Our free six-week postnatal mental health course brings mums who are feeling low, anxious or overwhelmed together in a safe group setting

Suitable for mums of children under 18 months, living in Bracknell Forest

Get in touch to join the group
office@hsbf.org.uk / 01344 860025

Home-Start Bracknell Forest

SELF-CARE ISN'T SELFISH

Home-Start Bracknell Forest is a registered charity no 1160447