



Headteacher

NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM MS. PARKHOUSE

Welcome Back to Term 2! I hope you all had a restful half-term break. I want to start by saying how incredibly proud I am of the brilliant start we've had to the academic year. The energy and enthusiasm from our pupils has been great, and it sets us up perfectly for the term ahead.

Inevitably, as is often the case in schools, we have faced some challenges to staffing recently. We know that consistency is vital, and for any disruption this has caused to your children's classes, I sincerely apologise. Please know that we are working hard to minimise the impact. I want to extend a huge thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate these necessary adjustments. Your support makes a real difference.

Our Year 6 pupils are have been enjoying their residential trip, this week and I truly hope they are having a fantastic time making lifelong memories! I hope that the Year 6 children who remained at school are having a great week tackling the 'Team Bracknell' activities with Ms. Waters.

I am genuinely excited for the term ahead! Not only do we have the wonderful Christmas festivities and events to look forward to, but we also have key priorities to focus on as a whole school. Our main whole-school priority this term will be on improving our learning environments across the school. Furthermore, we will be working hard to further establish our behaviour curriculum and routines. This ensures that every single child can learn in a safe, productive, and disruption-free environment.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. Here's to a fantastic Term 2!



OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER



TERM 2 KEY DATES

Monday 3rd November	First Day of Term 2 - All children back in school
3rd - 7th November	Year 6 Residential
11th November	Y1 and Y2 Cinema trip - AM
13th November	Reception Toy Workshop 09:00am - 15:00pm
18th & 19th November	Parent Consultations - 3:30 - 6:30 pm
19th November	Y3 and Y4 Cinema trip
27th November	Y5 and Y6 Cinema trip
1st December	SLSA Christmas Gift Room Event in Eagles
2nd December	Rocksteady Concert (9.15am and 2.30pm)
8th December	SLSA Christmas Gift Room Event in Eagles
8th December	Nursery Sing-a-long - 9:15am (doors open at 9am)
9th December	Y1/2 Nativity and Carol Concert 9:15am (doors open at 9am) Year 1 parents showing 2:15pm (doors open at 2pm) Year 2 parents showing
10th December	Y3/4 Carol Concert - 9:15am (doors open at 9am)
1st - 11th December	Year 5 Bikability
11th December	Christmas Jumper Day - normal school uniform to be worn please, with the addition of a Christmas Jumper/Christmas Accessory
11th December	SLSA Christmas Mini-Fayre
12th December	Reception Nativity - 9:15am (doors open 9am)
15th December	Choir to attend Residential homes (during school time)
15th December	Choir - Christmas parent performance - Upper Hall, 3.30pm
16th December	Y5/6 Carol Concert - 9:15am (doors open at 9am)
17th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 19th December	Last day of Term 2 - finish at 2pm

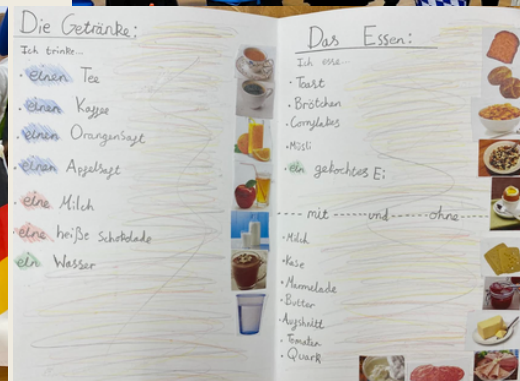
Christmas Break: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January 2026
School reopens on Tuesday, 6th January 2026



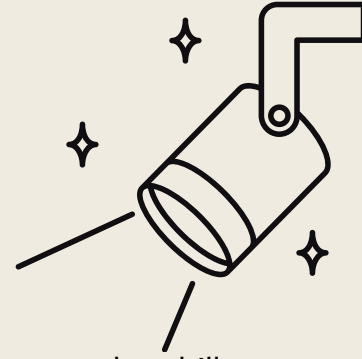
Our Reception children showed their thoughtfulness by making individual poppies to contribute to the Remembrance Day display at Tesco Warfield.

German Breakfast

Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful 'German Breakfast' on Tuesday to celebrate their learning about food and drink preferences and to practise their café dialogues. Excellent table mats, menus and waiter service! A BIG danke schön to @lidl Wokingham for providing the food and drink and to our kitchen staff for warming the Brötchen!



Spotlight on SEND: Building the Brain's 'Control Centre'



For this issue, we're focusing on Executive Functioning (EF) Skills. These are the skills our brains use to manage tasks, control behaviour, and learn new things—essentially, the 'air traffic control' for the brain! While these skills are an essential focus for children with specific SEND (like ADHD or Autism), strengthening them benefits every single pupil.

What are Executive Functioning Skills?

They include:

- Working Memory: Remembering instructions long enough to complete a task.
- Flexible Thinking: Being able to shift gears, see another point of view, or adapt when a plan changes.
- Self-Control: Managing emotions and impulses.
- Planning & Prioritising: Thinking ahead and knowing what step comes next.

Home Strategies to Boost EF

You can help your child build these crucial skills through simple, everyday activities:
Use 'First, Then' Language: This is a simple but powerful tool for teaching planning and motivation.

Example: "First clear the dinner plates, then you can watch a cartoon." This clearly outlines the sequence and reward.

Externalise Time: Help your child see time rather than just hear it.

Try using a visual timer (a clock with a colour bar that disappears) for specific tasks like homework, tidying up, or getting ready for school.

Break Down Big Jobs: Don't just say, "Tidy your room." Break it into three or four manageable steps and write them down.

Example: 1. Put all clothes in the hamper. 2. Put all books on the shelf. 3. Put toys in the toy box.

Play Games: Simple board games (like Snakes and Ladders or Connect Four) require focus, memory, and impulse control—all vital EF skills!

By practicing these simple skills at home, you are creating strong foundations for resilience and independence in all aspects of your child's life.

Connecting Our Community...



LITTLE WARRIORS, BIG DREAMS

UNLEASH THEIR INNER CHAMPION

- KICKBOXING & JIU-JITSU CLASSES
- AGES 2.5 & UP
- BRACKNELL



KIDS MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES JOIN NOW!

2 FREE CLASSES WITH THIS FLYER
WWW.KONG-MARTIALARTS.COM
01344 560086



Kids' Scottish Dancing Classes

St. John's Children's Scottish Dancing, Crowthorne

Scottish country dancing is a joyful way for children to stay active, learn new skills, and make lasting friendships. With lively music, group formations, and energetic steps, it's the perfect blend of teamwork, fitness and fun!

Why get involved?

- ✔ Builds confidence
- ✔ Promotes teamwork and friendship
- ✔ Improves fitness, posture and flexibility
- ✔ Develops coordination and balance
- ✔ Enhances memory and focus
- ✔ It's really fun!

RSCDS qualified teachers

AFFILIATED TO THE **rscds**

FIND OUT MORE >> www.stjohnsscscd.co.uk
stj.juniors@gmail.com Find us on 



FREE AUDITION

IN BRACKNELL

FOR

Annie JR.

EXPERIENCE FREE THEATRE TRAINING - PERFORM IN A STAGE PRODUCTION - JOIN THE BTA FAMILY

9TH NOVEMBER
10AM-11AM & 11AM-12PM

LOCATION:
Jennett's Park Community Association
1 Tawny Owl Square
Bracknell
RG12 8EB

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE AUDITION AT:
www.thebritishtheatreacademy.com



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Students are invited to participate in our photography competition inspired by their "Favourite Christmas Memory". The competition offers students aged 7-16 the opportunity to win prizes for themselves and their schools and to see their photography on display at our Howden Christmas Racing Weekend.

HOW TO ENTER

Entry Requirements
Submit a digital landscape photograph capturing your Favourite Christmas Memory alongside a short paragraph explaining why the photograph is important to you.

Age Categories
Junior - Primary Schools (ages 7-11)
Senior - Secondary Schools (ages 11-16)

Judge
Entries will be judged by royal photographer, Millie Pilkington. One of the UK's most respected and accomplished portrait photographers, Millie's commissions range from informal family portraits to the private wedding photographs of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales, and her work has appeared widely in the UK and international press. Find out more about Millie at milliepilkington.co.uk

PRIZES

- ➔ £1,000 to spend on photographic equipment for winning schools
- ➔ £100 of John Lewis vouchers for winning photographers
- ➔ Overall winning photograph to appear in the Ascot racecard on 19 and 20 December
- ➔ Winning photographs to be displayed in the Ascot Grandstand on 19 and 20 December

ENTRY DEADLINE
14TH NOV 2025

Please send entries to csr@ascot.com alongside your name, age and school. Please send image in jpeg format.
Winners announced - 3rd December 2025
Prize giving - 20th December 2025 at Ascot Racecourse

ASCOT RACECOURSE SUPPORTS

Connecting Our Community...

The Rock Project
School of Rock & Pop

AGED 7-18? WANT TO PLAY IN A BAND?

**JOIN OUR BRAND NEW WEEKLY SESSIONS
IN BRACKNELL AND BASINGSTOKE!**

All abilities welcome!
Instruments can be provided
Learn bass, guitar, drums or vocals
Fill in our online enquiry form now (OR code) to be sent full info and then get booked in!
Learn in your lessons - play in a band each week - gig for friends and family every July!

FREE TRIAL SESSION!
Booking Essential

SCAN HERE
to fill out our enquiry form

LEARN - PLAY - GIG

THE ROCK PROJECT BRACKNELL & BASINGSTOKE
www.therockproject.com



You Are Not Alone - Free Parent Online Drop-In

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our **no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers.**

First Tuesday of every month
7pm - 8.30pm
Platform: Zoom



Erik Wagter - host of the drop-in

What these sessions are all about

We've created a safe, non-judgemental space where parents can bring their questions, share worries and connect with others who 'get it'.

Topics often included:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone

What parents can expect to take away:

- Feeling heard, appreciated, and understood
- Knowing they are seen as the experts on their own child and family
- Feeling hopeful and having gained practical ideas

Who runs the sessions?

I'm Erik Wagter, co-founder of Autism Family Support Service. Alongside being a social worker, trainer and Solution Focused family coach, I also bring over two decades of personal lived family experience of autism.

If you would like to join please send an email to sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send you the Zoom link.

Autism Family Support Service
www.autismfamilysupportservice.com



Looking After Little Teeth

Now accepting new NHS patients - no cost to families

Children should visit the dentist as soon as their first baby tooth appears. Early check-ups help spot problems before they start and build confidence in the dental chair. Regular visits make dental care feel familiar, reduce anxiety, and set the foundation for a lifetime of healthy teeth.

Let's make brushing, smiling, and visiting the dentist a normal part of growing up!

Call 01344 484466 to book onto
Chloe's Children's Clinic



Perfect Smile Bracknell (Crossways)
01344 484466



Email us at:

secretary@sandyanebracknell.com

With one page posters and we will endeavour to include it in our newsletter (please avoid emails with lots of text!)