



Headteacher

NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM MS. PARKHOUSE

When I joined Sandy Lane back in April, I promised that we would work in true partnership with every family – and that continues to sit right at the heart of everything we do. Over the past few weeks, many of you will have noticed a number of staffing changes across the school. Some have been wonderful celebrations, others have been unexpected, and all of them have required us to be incredibly agile in how we organise our team. Our priority, as always, is to make sure your children continue to receive the highest quality teaching, care and consistency.

I also want to say a huge thank you. We've felt a great deal of kindness and understanding from parents and carers while we navigate these changes, and it really has made a difference. Your support has meant so much to the team, especially during what has been a challenging time behind the scenes.

Our staff have been going above and beyond to keep things running smoothly, and I want to publicly thank them for everything they're doing for the children and for each other. Their dedication does not go unnoticed.

As always, if you have any questions or worries, please do get in touch with me or your child's class teacher/TA. My door is open, and we're always happiest when we can talk things through calmly and directly. Thank you again for your continued support – it means more than you know. Together, we really can inspire limitless potential.

We are receiving dedicated and substantial support from several talented colleagues within our trust (GLT). These colleagues are adding vital capacity to assist us with the rapid improvements underway at Sandy Lane. Their involvement is extensive and highly operational; you will be seeing them actively engaged in the daily life of the school and hearing from them as they work alongside our pupils, staff and leadership team.

To foster confidence and ensure clarity, it is important that you know who these key individuals are. Sharing some background information about their qualifications and experience will demonstrate that they are exceptionally well-placed to support our work and, ultimately, your children's educational journey, helping us all to build trust in their helpful contribution to our success.



OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER



Ms Penn is our new Deputy Head, who is covering Ms Amor's maternity leave and works at Sandy Lane on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Ms Penn joins us from Park Hill Junior School in Croydon, another GLT school, where she taught for 18 years and served as Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Manager for the past eight.

Ms Penn brings extensive leadership expertise, including as a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a qualified SENCO. She specialises in Inclusion and SEND, holding a Master's degree in Education with a focus on SEND and literacy difficulties. Ms Penn also acts as a Lead Mentor for the University of Roehampton, supporting the development of trainee teachers.

Mr Cooper is adding capacity to the Headship Team and works at Sandy Lane on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Before moving into leadership, Mr Cooper taught in a range of year groups across the primary phase, gaining experience in schools of varying sizes from one-form to four-form entry.

He holds his headship qualification and has been in various senior roles in local authority-led schools and served as a school improvement consultant in a large Multi-Academy Trust. Mr Cooper is currently a Senior School Improvement Lead for Greenshaw Learning Trust primary schools, bringing this extensive expertise to our school with a clear focus on supporting us to achieve excellence.



Mr Maddison is adding capacity to the Headship Team and works at Sandy Lane on Thursdays and Fridays.

Mr Maddison works as a Senior School Improvement Leader for GLT. He provides professional development for teachers and schools around the school curriculum and also runs professional development for Early Career teachers.

Before joining GLT Luke was a headteacher for 10 years and before that, he was a senior leader in schools.





We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new representatives to the Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT) Pupil Parliament!

What is the GLT Pupil Parliament?

The Pupil Parliament is an exciting opportunity for our students to represent our school and work collaboratively with pupils from other GLT schools. It focuses on key issues important to young people, specifically Sustainability (caring for the environment and the future) and Belonging (making sure everyone in the school community feels included and welcome). Our representatives will attend meetings throughout the year, with a final meeting scheduled to take place at the Houses of Parliament!

How We Elected Our Members

The selection process for our two Key Stage 2 representatives was highly competitive:

1. Application: Interested pupils submitted a written Letter of Interest to Frau Marshall. These letters explained why they would be a brilliant representative, highlighting their passion for the themes of Sustainability and Belonging and outlining their leadership skills.
2. Selection: Frau Marshall and Miss Penn thoroughly reviewed the fantastic number of applications. The two members were selected based on the strength of their letters and their commitment to the Parliament's vision.

We are thrilled to introduce the two successful applicants who will be representing Sandy Lane Primary School:
Noah (Year 6, Penguins)
Sienna (Year 5, Meerkats)

Please join us in congratulating Noah and Sienna! They attended their first parliamentary meeting (the GLT South East Meeting) on November 12th at Coombe Wood School in Croydon. They will be feeding back to the rest of the school very soon....



Family Support Worker Role...

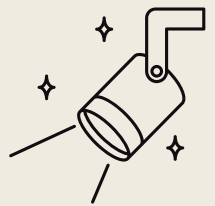
Thank you for your congratulations and encouragement around my new role as Family Support Worker at Sandy Lane. Many of you will have come across me in my role as school secretary. I am really excited about this new chapter and have many future plans on how we can work together and strengthen the Sandy Lane community.

We recently held a coffee morning for all Reception parents. It was so lovely to meet with parents and carers and future Sandy Laners. Please watch this space for future event dates.

Mrs Hurley



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



Thank you for the fantastic responses and feedback regarding the new Reasonable Adjustments / What Helps Me section of our streamlined Individual Learning Plans (ILPs). I have a real sense that children and parents feel we are genuinely working in collaboration to help all children to thrive at Sandy Lane. Your insights are invaluable as we shape the support your children receive every day.

Targeted Intervention in our Indoor and Outdoor Den

In our constant effort to ensure that children are benefitting fully from the targeted provision that we provide here at Sandy Lane, we are refining the focus and length of our Indoor and Outdoor Den intervention sessions. The Den sessions are designed to be a short-term intervention with measurable targets. Our goal is to ensure that as many children as possible can access this fantastic provision when they need it most, helping them quickly build skills and confidence before returning successfully to their class routines.

To ensure this provision leads to clear, targeted progress, we have introduced a robust way to measure its impact: the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). All children accessing the Den sessions are now completing the SDQ before and after a term's worth of sessions.

The SDQ is a brief, widely used measure that helps staff identify key areas related to a child's:

- Emotions (e.g., worries, fears).
- Conduct (e.g., behaviour, following rules).
- Hyperactivity and inattention
- Peer relationships
- Prosocial behaviour (positive social skills).

By using the SDQ as a baseline and a final measure, we can clearly track the impact of the Den sessions on a child's social and emotional wellbeing. This ensures that the intervention is targeted, effective, and truly benefits the children who access it, allowing us to maintain the Den as a short-term, high-impact provision. We are dedicated to ensuring every child receives the support they need to succeed and grow confidently at Sandy Lane.

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) Nursery Sing-a-long - 2.50pm
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

Connecting Our Community...

Bracknell Forest Libraries: Exciting November News!

[LINK HERE](#)

The latest newsletter from Bracknell Forest Libraries is packed with events and ways to get involved this month.

 **Bracknell Library Celebration Day: Saturday, 29 November (11am - 2pm)**

Join the special celebration day marking the "Our Freedom: Then and Now" project. The event features:

'The Freedom Tree of Bracknell' (11am): A performance of a newly commissioned fairy tale by children's author Catherine Emmett, presented with music and storytelling. All ages are welcome.

Printmaking Bookmark Craft (12pm): Join artist Areej Abdi after the performance to design your own bookmark using fun printmaking techniques.

Reading Freedom Trees Unveiling: View the beautiful 'reading freedom trees' created by artist Areej Abdi before they head to their permanent home libraries.

Get Involved: Contribute to the 'reading freedom trees' by decorating your own leaf with reflections on freedom. Ask library staff for a template and drop it in by Friday, 22 November.

History and Literary Events

History Talk - The History of New Towns: Join Colin Bird from The Bracknell Forest Society on Friday, 14 November (2pm-3pm) at Bracknell Library to explore the utopian vision behind post-war new towns, including Bracknell. (Free, drop-in event).

History Walk Leaflet: Pick up a new self-guided leaflet from any library to discover the evolution of Bracknell's High Street since 1949.

Jane Austen's 250th Anniversary: Celebrate in December (1st-16th) with a special scavenger hunt across all libraries. Find a hidden Austen-themed bookmark to win a free book reservation! Displays of her beloved novels will also be featured.

Christmas Events

Look out for the December newsletter for details on Christmas parties, festive crafts, and a visit from Father Christmas at regular children's groups!

Connecting Our Community...

Bracknell Forest's Family Services Directory and Additional Needs Info Hub (SEND Local Offer)



Providing free, impartial information and advice about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and all other family matters.

- SEND information all in one place - how to access services and support including Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Education, childcare and early years funding
- Leisure and holiday activities
- Advice and support services
- Brokerage service for those struggling to find childcare



Family Information Service: fis@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
01344 353133
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/localdirectory



Where can I get help with an EHCP?

Where is my nearest baby clinic?

I'm struggling with my child's behaviour - where can I get help?

How do I apply for childcare funding?

Life is expensive. We can help.

First Days Mobile Support Hub



Please come along to one of our Mobile Support Hubs. Our van carries seasonal items and you can meet our Family Support Team who will be able to talk through how we can help you with other essentials.

January to March 2026

1st Tuesday - excluding 6th Jan

Priestwood Community Hall 09:30-10:30
Kerith Centre Bracknell 10:45-12:00

4th Monday (except Bank Holidays)

Shinfield School Green Centre 12:30-13:30

2nd Wednesday

Woodley Precinct 10:00-12:00
Highfield Park Wargrave 12:30-13:15
Pennfields Twyford 13:30-14:00

4th Wednesday

Woodley Precinct 10:00-12:00
Rainbow Centre Winnersh 12:30-13:00

3rd Wednesday

Kerith Centre Bracknell 10:00-11:00
Great Hollands Community Centre 11:30-12:30



Registered Charity in England & Wales 1157855

01189 219338
www.firstdays.net

Information for parents and carers

NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Drop-in flu clinics

At Foundation House, Windsor SL4 4LE

We are holding drop-in clinics for your child's flu vaccination on the following dates:

- 18.11.25 14:30-16:30
- 27.11.25 14:30-16:00
- 5.12.25 12:00-16:00



If you haven't completed a consent form yet, you can complete one using the information sent by your child's school or complete one at the clinic with one of the team.

Goto the address below to share your views and ideas

cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/feedback

Your ad here

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!)