

23rd January 2026



Histon & Impington
Brook Primary School

HIBPS Newsletter



Headteacher update

Dear Families,

On Monday, our school choir had the opportunity to take part in the Young Voices concert at London's O2 Arena, giving enthusiastic performances and representing our school brilliantly. Despite the late return, the children arrived the next morning buzzing with excitement and eager to share their incredible experience.

Two local midwives from The Rosie Hospital visited Reception to share insights into their work and how they care for families in our community. The children loved using stethoscopes and

looking after the babies in the role-play area and were thrilled to discover that one of the midwives had even delivered one of our Reception pupils!

A reminder that on Wednesday 4th February, 7:30–8:30pm, we will be hosting the parent talk 'Raising Kids in the Smartphone Era.' The evening will offer practical ideas on how to support children growing up in the age of smartphones, and we will be joined by one of the Assistant Principals from IVC.

Thank you,

Richard Bakker
Headteacher



Meridian
Trust



School News – Young Voices – The O2

On Monday 19th January 2026, 42 pupils from our school choir of Years 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed an unforgettable trip to London's O2 Arena to take part in Young Voices 2026 – the world's largest children's choir. The children sang their hearts out as part of the mass choir, performing a wide range of songs including Stargazing, Power in Me and a selection from the musical 'Wicked'.

Alongside the singing, the event featured energetic dance routines and exciting performances from special guest artists, making the experience even more inspiring. Our pupils represented the school brilliantly, showing huge enthusiasm and delivering fantastic performances throughout. Thank you to all parents and carers who supported the children in practising the songs at home.

Mr Pollard





KS1 and KS2 updates

Year 1 - looking at continents



Year 1 - using glockenspiels



Year 2 - Library visits!



Year 2 - Finding equal groups



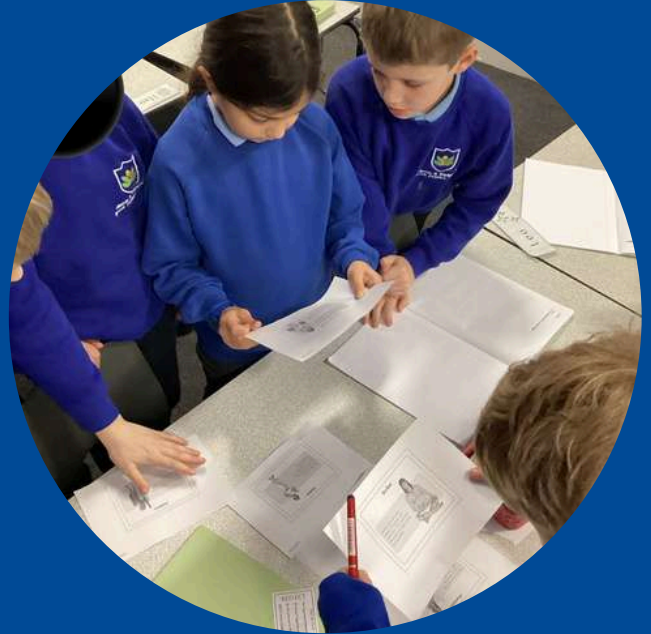


KS1 and KS2 updates

Year 3 – Designing using Tinkercad



Year 4 – exploring artifacts



Year 5 – History presentations



Year 5 – Brave colour in Art





KS1 and KS2 updates

Year 6 – Catch your Breath workshop



Year 6 – Catch your Breath workshop



Year 6 – investigating insulators



Year 6 – planning final pieces





Key Dates : This Term

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 27 th January	All Day	Years 1-6 Giant Journeys – Special Visit
Tuesday 27 th January	3.15pm	PTFA & Year 3 – Cake Sale
Wednesday 28 th January	5.30pm onwards	Year 6 – SATs Information Evening.
Friday 30 th January	10am – 11am	Year 4 Parents – Multiplication Tables Check Information Session
Wednesday 4 th February	7.30pm – 8.30pm	All Years – Parent Talk – Raising Kids in the Smart Phone Era – Location at HIBPS Hall –see poster below.
Friday 6 th February	8pm onwards	PTFA Quiz Night at The Brook
Thursday 12 th February	10–12.15pm	Selected Students – Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament
Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February	All Day – Every Day	School – Half Term Holiday
Tuesday 10 th March	Appointments from 3.30pm	All Years – Parents Consultation Evening Appts.
Wednesday 11 th March	3.15pm	PTFA & Year 2 – Cake Sale
Wednesday 11 th March	Appointments from 3.30pm	All Years – Parents Consultation Evening Appts.
Friday 20 th March	4.45pm–6pm	Reception & KS1 Classes – Movie Night
Monday 1 st – Wednesday 3 rd June	TBC	Year 6 – Residential Trip to Grafham Water Centre
Friday 12 th June	3.15pm–6pm	PTFA School Summer Fair
Monday 22 nd June & Tuesday 23 rd June	TBC	Year 6 – IVC Transition Days



**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

Histon & Impington

Parent Talk: Raising Kids in the Smartphone Era

Practical ideas and friendly conversation about helping kids thrive in the age of smartphones. We'll look at what's working for families right now and hear about the approach being taken by our local schools, including IVC. No judgement, just real talk.

Where

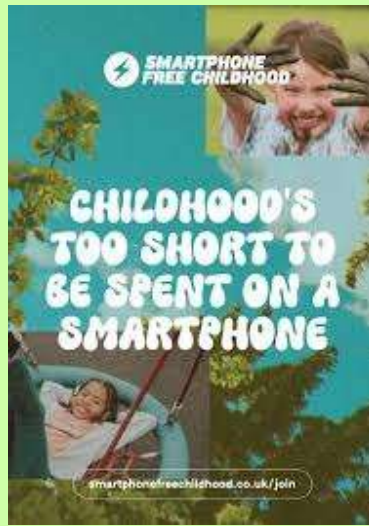
📍 Histon &
Impington Brook
Primary School

When

📅 Weds 4th
February 2026
🕒 7.30-8.30pm

✉ No need to RSVP...just come
along!

We will be joined
by Amy Ruffell,
Regional SFC
Lead and Chris
Gee, Assistant
Principal at
Impington
Village College



Dear Parents and Carers,

In a few short years smartphones and social media have become the new frontier of parenting, and families everywhere are having to navigate this with very little help or support.

After the success of our previous efforts, we are hosting another event for all Parents and Carers of Histon and Impington (and anyone else who is interested!) to discuss our children and their access to smartphones and social media.

If you have questions about how to approach the topic, would like to learn more about what others in our community are doing and have a chance to look at smartphone alternatives, then come along to chat with other parents and share perspectives and experiences.

Amy Ruffell, Cambridgeshire Regional Representative from the Smartphone Free Childhood movement will be there, alongside Chris Gee, Assistant Principal and Social Media Lead at Impington Village College.

We'd love you to join us for this judgment-free evening of open discussions at one of our local schools.

Best wishes from the Event Organisers...who are also a group of local parents!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.





Histon & Impington
Brook Primary School

PTFA

PTFA SPRING TERM EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES

JAN **UNIFORM SALES**

20 & 22 3.15pm, Brook School

JAN **PTFA MEETING**

WEDS 21 7.45pm, The Boot Histon

JAN **Y3 CAKE SALE**

TUES 27 3.15pm, Brook School

FEB **QUIZ NIGHT**

FRI 6 7.30pm, Brook School

Quiz tickets coming soon: pta-events.co.uk/hijs

FEB **Y2 CAKE SALE**

WEDS 11 3.15pm, Brook School

If you'd like to get involved with any event,
please email: hijspta@gmail.com



Histon & Impington
Brook Primary School

**HISTON AND IMPINGTON BROOK
PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA**

Cake Sale

**Tuesday 27th January
3.15pm**

**Our Y3 classes will be selling lots of delicious cakes for
everybody after school in the playground to raise
funds for our school.**

All cakes 50p or £1 – cash preferred!
Any queries, please email: hjspta@gmail.com



HI BROOK PTFA SPRING TERM RAFFLE

Your chance to win prizes from these local companies

SHEPRETH
WILDLIFE PARK

Cambridge University
Botanic Garden

TOE-TAL
FOOTCARE

THE
BOOT

ZAPT
LASER TAG
ULTIMATE OUTDOOR GAMING

Hill

Histon
Chop Shop

Ark

CAMBRIDGE
RUGBY

SALCOMBE
GIN

- ♥ £50 voucher The Boot, Histon
- ♥ 2 x Shepreth Wildlife Park tickets
- ♥ 4 x University Botanic Garden tickets
- ♥ Cambridge Rugby Club family ticket
- ♥ Zapt Laser Tag session for 2

- ♥ Histon Chop Shop voucher
- ♥ Ark Cambridge goodies
- ♥ Salcombe Pink Gin
- ♥ Toetal Footcare gift set
- ♥ Hamper from Hill Residential

- Raffle ticket booklets will be sent home from 23rd Jan.
- Tickets are £1 each – full details are on the booklets.
- Please return tickets & payment to the School Office by Fri 6th Feb to be entered into the draw.
- Winners will be drawn at the PTFA Quiz – but you don't need to be at the draw to enter.
- Winners will be notified via email after the event.

Any questions please email: hijsppta@gmail.com



Histon & Impington
Brook Primary School



PRESENTS THE PTFA

QUIZ NIGHT

WITH QUIZ MASTER MR BAKKER

FRI 6 FEBRUARY 2026

HI BROOK SCHOOL, OLD HALL

8PM

DOORS OPEN 7.30PM

£7

PP

BAR

CARD OR CASH

TEAMS OF UP TO 8 PEOPLE

Get tickets for your team:
bit.ly/3LHMjqi





Our Outside School Achievements!

We love seeing your fabulous achievements outside of school!

Please e-mail the office at office@brookprimary.co.uk if you have any achievements you would like to celebrate with everyone!

Please say if you and your child are happy for it to go in the Newsletter, in the school Celebration Assembly or on the Celebration Wall, or any combination of these.



Pranav's team 'Archeological Intelligence' of CERC (Cambridge Electronics and Robotics Club) has won the Best Robot Design Award in the Regionals of First Lego League Championship this week!

They were competing with 8 other teams who gave their very best!

What an amazing achievement!

Well done Pranav and Archeological Intelligence, great job!

Eirini and Anna's Fundraising Challenge!



Eirini and Anna have started a fundraising challenge, aiming to run 150k between them in 6 weeks!

We have decided to set ourselves a running challenge to fundraise for charity. We are planning to run 150 kilometres between us within 6 consecutive weeks, having started on 13/01/2026.

Our chosen charities are Arthur Rank Hospice and Centrepont.

- Arthur Rank Hospice supports people living in Cambridgeshire with an advanced serious illness or a life-limiting condition and those in need of end-of-life care.*
 - Centrepont is the UK's leading youth homelessness charity, they support over 15,000 young people every year and campaign to end youth homelessness by 2037.*
- We have selected these charities as we believe they both serve important causes and together they cover a wide range of issues. We greatly appreciate any donations, big or small. Thank you in advance for supporting both us and these charities.*

Here is the link to their fundraising page:

<https://gvwhl.com/APXK4>

Please support Eirini and Anna if you can,

What a wonderful challenge to take on. You are amazing!

We look forward to hearing all about your progress.

Goodluck!



Your Education Inclusion Family Advisor



Jurate Trumpickiene


Education Inclusion Family Advisors offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed and confidential environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour
- Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence
- Any other family challenges you might be facing

As Education Inclusion Family Advisors, we offer support in various ways:

- Up to six 1:1 sessions with parents/carers (virtually or face to face in your child's school on request)
- Workshops on specific topics (currently held virtually)
- Signposting to other services such as parenting courses and support services

For more information, please speak to your school's office, contact me directly on 07767048838

 Jurate.Trumpickiene@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
or by using this link or QR code to request support

<https://forms.office.com/e/MK4VD8wiFt>



Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter January 2026

A Bit About Me

Hi, my name is Jurate Trumpickiene, I'm your school's link EIFA. As an EIFA I offer advice and strategies to parents and carers with a Primary School aged child that may be experiencing some challenges such as routines, sleep, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviour, worries or self-esteem. If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these topics, just contact me on the details below.



Parenting Top Tip

Building Independence in Children

A key way to help children become more independent is by giving them chances to solve problems on their own. As parents, it's natural to want to step in when we see our child struggling — we often assume they must be stressed or frustrated. But many times, they're simply learning.

Instead of fixing things right away, try taking a step back. Allow them to make mistakes, try again, and figure things out at their own pace — this is how all of us learn. Maybe your child is working on tying their shoelaces, taking longer than expected to complete a puzzle, or navigating a tricky moment with a friend who isn't sharing. Before jumping in, pause and see whether they actually ask for help.

You can continue supporting their independence by acknowledging the effort.

Activity Idea



Letting your child lead the play

Set aside an agreed time with no distractions where possible and let your child teach you something they are good at, like to do or facts they know. This could mean you may be gaming, dancing, singing, making slime, learning magic tricks and sports skills, or solving maths questions. Child led play and interaction works with all ages and is great for connection.

Another Resource – EIFA Workshops

To book, please see the EIFA workshops poster or contact your EIFA.

- **Sibling Rivalry** 13/01/2025 @ 12:00–13:30
- **Understanding and responding to Challenging Behaviours** – 15/01/2025, 12:00–13:30
- **Sleep** – 20/01/2025, 12:00–13:30
- **Sleep** – 20/01/2025, 18:00–19:30
- **Supporting your Child with Feelings of Anger** – 22/01/2025, 12:00–13:30
- **Supporting your Child with Feelings of Worry** – 27/01/2025, 12:00–13:30
- **Supporting your Child with Feelings of Anger** – 02/02/2025, 18:00–19:30
- **Supporting your Child with Feelings of Worry** – 05/02/2025, 18:00–19:30
- **Family Wellbeing** - 10/02/2025, 12-13:30

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? **Pinpoint** (www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For **Cambridgeshire's Local Offer** go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer

Contact me directly on 07767048838 or

☐ Jurate.Trumpickiene@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<https://forms.office.com/e/MK4VD8wiFt>





Parent Reminders



UNNAMED LOST PROPERTY - There is still a lot of unnamed lost property at School Reception, please come and have a look surely someone is missing a coat!

Can we please remind you to label all your possessions!

If there is no name it can not find its way back to you. Unfortunately unnamed lost property has to be given to charity or thrown out if it is not claimed by anyone.

Attendance

- **Reminder that if your child will not be attending school, due to an illness or a medical appointment, that you should e-mail or call the school before 9am on that day and any subsequent days to let us know why they will be absent, please give detail where possible.**
- **If your child has an incidence of sickness or diarrhea they will only be able to return 48hrs after the last incident.**
If you call at busy times your call may go to answer machine, messages do come through to e-mail.
- **Absence of more than ½ a day (1 session of attendance) for any other reason will require a written Term Time Absence Request in advance for which there is a form at the School Office.**

Thank you for your co-operation!