

9th January 2026



Histon & Impington
Brook Primary School

HIBPS Newsletter



Headteacher update

Dear Families,

Happy New Year!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back this week and get back into the flow of a new term. Some inclement weather has not dampened our spirits!

On page 5 of the newsletter, you will find updates dates for this term, including trips and events such as parent/carer consultations in March.

Next week we look forward to library visits for Year 1 and also a trip for Year 3 children to The Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge - very exciting! Thank you as ever to families giving their time to support these events.

Whilst the weather remains cold, please do ensure that children are coming to school with warm clothing.

Thank you,

Richard Bakker
Headteacher





KS1 and KS2 updates

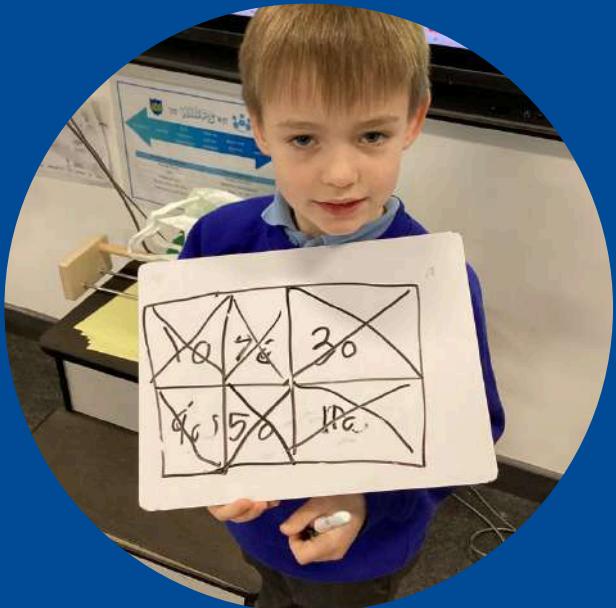
Year 1 – sorting recycling!



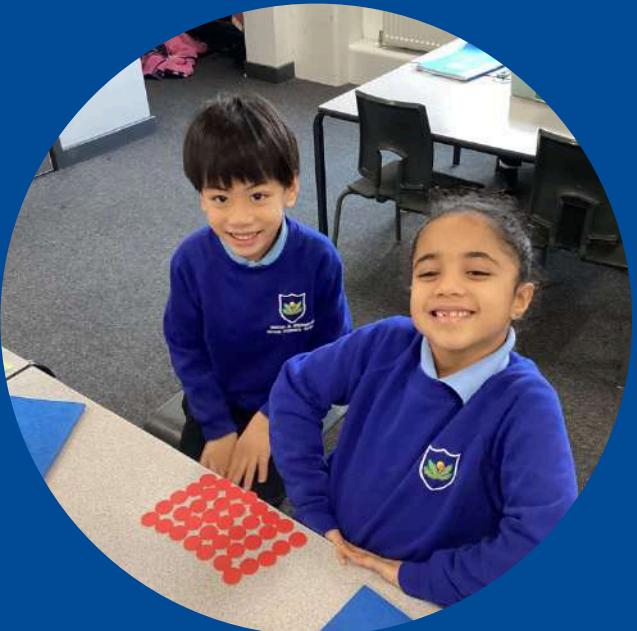
Year 2 – exploring puppets in DT



Year 2- times table bingo!



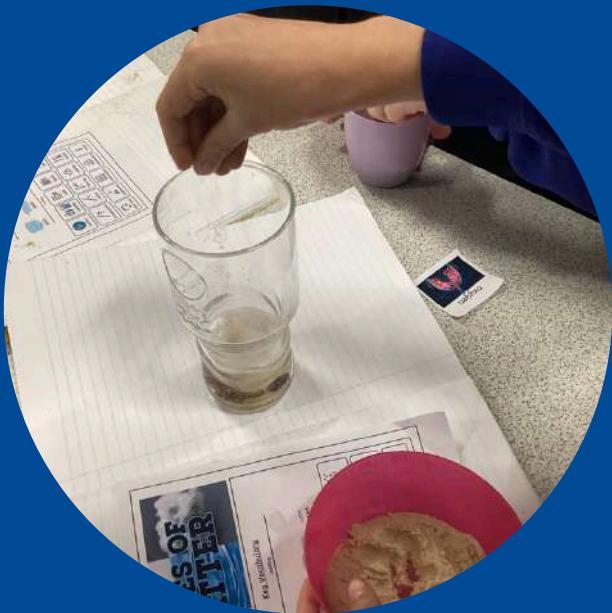
Year 2 -enjoying mathematical arrays!



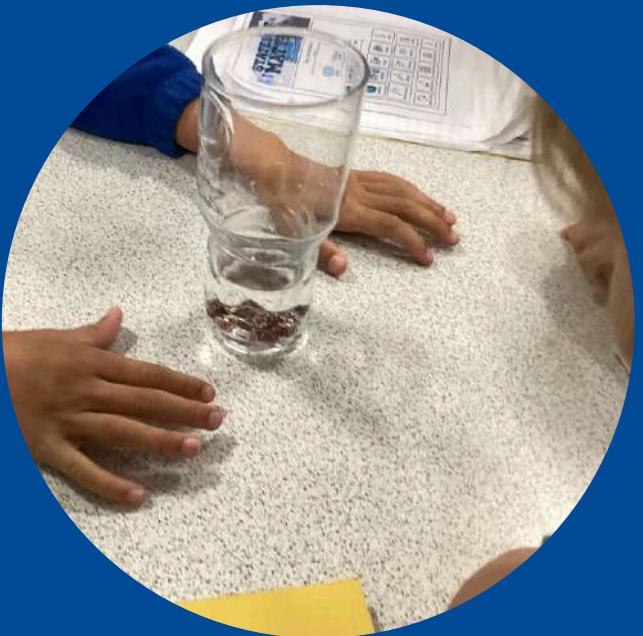


KS1 and KS2 updates

Year 3 – investigating properties



Year 3 – investigating properties



Year 4 – Winter Owl designs



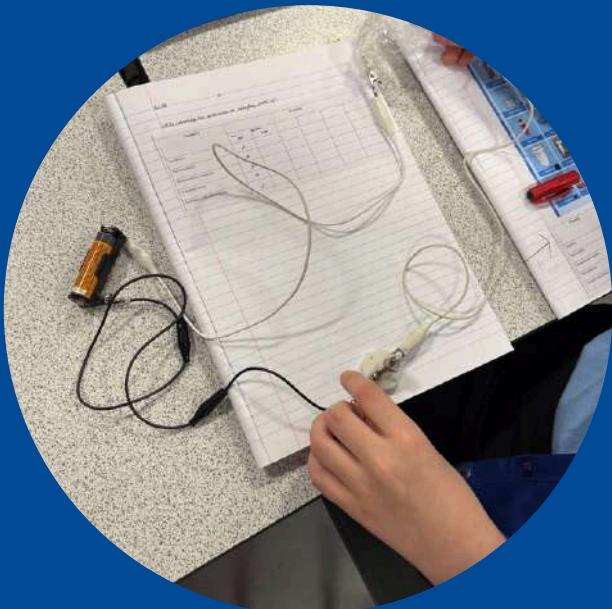
Year 4 – Winter Owl designs





KS1 and KS2 updates

Year 5 – testing materials in science



Year 6 – investigating materials



Year 6 – investigating materials



Year 6 – exploring fractions and decimals





Key Dates : This Term

Monday 14th January	All Day	Year 3 – Fitzwilliam Museum Visit
Monday 19th January	All Day and Eve	School Choir at Young Voices Concert O2 London.
Tuesday 20th January	Morning	Year 6 – Catch Your Breath Vaping Workshop
Wednesday 28th January	TBC	Year 6 – SATs Information Evening.
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February	All Day – Every Day	School – Half Term Holiday
Tuesday 10th March	Appointments from 3.30pm	All Years – Parents Consultation Evening Appts.
Wednesday 11th March	Appointments from 3.30pm	All Years – Parents Consultation Evening Appts.
Friday 27th March	-	Last Day of the Spring Term
Monday 22nd June	TBC	Year 6 – IVC Transition Days
Tuesday 23rd June	TBC	Year 6 – IVC Transition Days

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-18-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.



READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of *Wired*, *TechRadar*, *Tom's Guide*, *The Evening Standard* and *The New Statesman*.



See full reference list on our website

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Parent Reminders



UNNAMED LOST PROPERTY - We recently had another sort out of all the unnamed lost property. This has built up since the holidays. Can we please remind you to label all possessions.

If there is no name it can not find it's way back to you. Unfortunately unnamed lost property has to be given to charity or thrown out if it is not claimed by anyone. Please have a look through if you think you may be missing anything.

Head Lice

There has been a few cases of Head Lice reported.

Unfortunately head-lice are very common in young children, they are easily passed from head-to-head.

The following link to the NHS has information on what to look out for and how to treat.

[Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

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.

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.



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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**

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.



Well Done Ayla!

Ayla attended her first Showjumping competition at the College of West Anglia at Milton with her pony Lady.

They ended up 4th in the 50cm and 3rd in the 60cm!
What a fantastic achievement!

Well Done Verity!

Verity wanted to share that she managed to swim 350 metres front crawl in her Distance Week challenge at her swimming lessons.





Great Job Julie, Eira and Sophia!

Who braved a chilly morning last Sunday to run in the Cross Country Championship event at St. Neots. They saw Helena and Dom there too and a few other familiar faces from the Brook and the Park School "it was a fun morning"

Well done everyone who took part!



DC SPORTS CLUBS FOR 2026!



DC Sports

**THURSDAY - RUNNING
CLUB: 8.00 - 8.40AM
(YR 4, 5 & 6)**

**THURSDAY - MULTI
SPORTS CLUB: 3.30 -
4.30PM (YR 4, 5 & 6)**

**FRIDAY - RUNNING CLUB:
8.00 - 8.40AM
(YR 1, 2 & 3)**

**FRIDAY - MULTI SPORTS
CLUB: 3.30 - 4.30PM
(YR 1, 2 & 3)**



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WWW.DC-SPORTS.CO.UK

BOOK NOW!