



Newsletter September 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It's wonderful to see our school community back together, full of energy and ready for the year ahead.

This term, we're focusing on high expectations, kindness, and a strong start to learning. We have a big focus on pupil leadership across the school and are encouraging our young people to take on leadership roles.

I am delighted to announce our House Captains and Vice Captains who were voted in by the children across the school:

	House Captain	Vice Captain
St Ann	Amelia	Nathaniel
St Bernadette	Nicole	Dominik
St Francis	Aoife	Lily
St Patrick	Roza	Carys

I look forward to working with you all to make this a successful and rewarding year for every child.

With warmest regards,
Mrs Philpott

We pray for the families who have experienced a bereavement over the summer and ask God to give them strength at this difficult time.

Let us Pray,

Heavenly Father, we come before you with heavy hearts, thinking of those who are grappling with grief and loss.

Just as Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus, we acknowledge the depth of human suffering.

Lord, grant strength and solace to those who are mourning, reminding them of Jesus' promise: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

May they find comfort in your presence and the support of their community.

Amen.

Attendance

Unbroken attendance at school is important for learning. However, there will be times when absence is unavoidable and acceptable.

The following reasons are not acceptable: shopping visits, care for family members, days out to theme parks or to attend concerts/shows, parents' work commitments or business trips, holidays taken in term time (including long weekends taken on Fridays and/or Mondays) or a parental illness.



School Pick-Up

A gentle reminder to please collect your child on time at the end of the school day. Timely pick-up helps ensure the smooth running of our after-school routines and keeps all children safe. Staff often have meetings and commitments, so we appreciate you arriving on time!

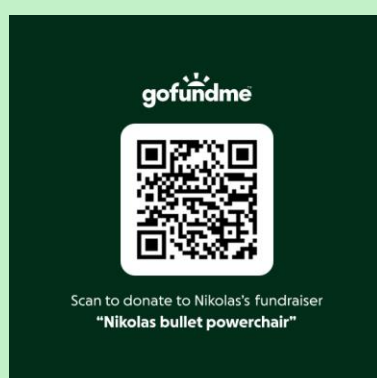
Parent Information

Diary Dates	Class	Event
Wednesday 17 th September	All	Start of year Mass with Fr Danny @ 9am (all parents welcome)
Friday 19 th September	Year R and 6	Buddy Assembly @ 9am (YR/6 Parents invited to attend)
Wednesday 24 th September	All	Flu Immunisation
Thursday 25 th September	Year 2	Windsor Castle Trip
WB 20 th October	Year 6	Residential Trip
Friday 24 th October	Year 2	Harvest Assembly @ 9am (Y2 parents welcome)
Friday 7 th November	Year 6	Oakwood Assembly @ 9am (Y6 parents welcome to attend)
Tuesday 11 th November	Year 4	Remembrance Assembly @ 9am (Y4 parents welcome to attend)
Wednesday 12 th November	All	SCHOOL PHOTOS
Friday 28 th November	Year 5	Christingle Service (Y5 parents welcome to attend)
Friday 5 th December	Year 3	Advent Assembly (Y3 parents welcome to attend)
Thursday 11 th /Friday 12 th December	Year R/1/2	NATIVITY @ 2pm
Wednesday 17 th December	KS2 (Y3,4,5,6)	Carol Concert at Church 6pm
Wednesday 17 th December	All	School Christmas Lunch

PARISH FUNDRAISING

Nikolas, an ex-pupil, is fundraising for a special wheelchair which will enable him to play football in league matches. He is a member of Farnham Wheelchair Football club and enjoys playing with the team. However, the wheelchair he is currently renting from the club is old and not set to play professional matches. Nikolas would like to raise £9200 so please give generously, if you can.

<https://gofund.me/eb5f777b8>



Y3 & 4 Trip to Windsor Great Park

We were delighted the Crown Estate invited us to join their annual Schools Day.



Despite the weather, the staff and children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the beautiful grounds and taking part in the outdoor activities - forestry, farmyard animals, and tractor rides were a particular highlight! A huge thanks to Nick and Lynne at the Crown Estate for inviting our school along.

BIKEABILITY

Congratulations to our year 6 cyclists who took part in the Level 1 and 2 Bikeability. We are extremely proud of the perseverance and positivity you've shown this week.



SENSORY GARDEN

We were delighted when our year 6 leavers offered to renovate Sean's garden and create a sensory area for the children.

Our sincere thanks go to Aneta, Konrad and Kasia who led the project with the help of the parents of the 2025 leavers.

The children love the space and have enjoyed engaging in the activities. It is quite a transformation and we are incredibly grateful.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Jubilee Building Supplies, who generously donated sharp sand and crushed concrete for the sensory path.

TopTimber, who kindly donated wooden posts, concrete spurs, and timber.

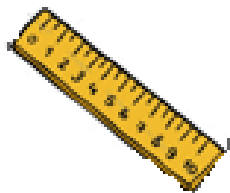
Mrs Black's father who made a beautiful plaque.



REMINDERS

Pencil Cases

A reminder that in September, we ask that all children from Y3 to Y6 to have a pencil case with the following items and for these items to be replenished through the year. Please name each item as things regularly seem to get misplaced in class.



- Pencil x 3
- Colouring pencils
- Whiteboard marker
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- 30cm clear ruler
- Glue Stick
- Purple Pen for editing
- Child-safe scissors



SCHOOL UNIFORM

WINTER UNIFORM

Winter school uniform is expected from **1st October**.

Blue Polo top with grey skirt, pinafore, shorts or trousers.

White, black or grey socks or grey tights.

Reminder about shoes:

We expect children to wear black school shoes not trainers.



PE DAYS

Please wear school PE kit: navy tracksuit and royal blue top with black or white trainers.

No jewellery should be worn on PE days

E-Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at @Cyberware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.06.2025

Be vigilant!

JUNIOR PARKRUN

What is Bracknell junior parkrun?

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds). Nearby Saturday parkrun events can be found [here](#).

When is it?

It is held every Sunday at 9:00am.

Where is it?

The event takes place at Great Hollands Recreation Ground, South Road, Bracknell, RG40 3EE. See [Course page](#) for more details.

What does it cost to join in?

Nothing - it's free! but please [register](#) before you first come along. Only ever register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a **scannable** copy of your barcode ([request a reminder](#)). If you forget it, [you won't get a time](#).

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SCHOOL DINNER INFORMATION



I am Beya, the school cook and I'd like to share information about one of our favourite snacks – did you know cucumbers can be classed as a fruit or a vegetable?

Our seasonal food hero is... **Cucumber!**

Did you know..

Cucumbers are part of the same family as **pumpkin, squash and watermelon!**

**"Cool as a
Cucumber"**

Cucumbers can actually cool down your blood temperature and ease swelling



Learn with
caterlink
feeding the imagination

One cucumber plant can produce 25 to 125 flowers which could turn into cucumbers!

Adding sliced cucumber to your water can make it really tasty

Gherkins and cornichons are small cucumbers which have been pickled!

Cucumbers are more than 90% water

That's why they're great in beauty products, for hydrating your hair and skin



WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Help give our fundraising a boost
- Win up to £25,000

BUY TICKETS



Supporting





**LIMITED AFTERNOON SESSIONS STILL
AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

Register Today!

We provide a welcoming, caring and safe place where children learn through their play and grow in confidence.

Our highly qualified staff encourage children to explore and be active across our varied facilities which includes our extensive indoor setting, a covered patio, tarmacked playground and use of the school field and woodland areas.

We have a limited number of sessions available for 12 noon – 3pm term time only. These can also be topped up with afternoon clubs which finish by 6pm (this does incur additional charge).



**LARGE WOODLAND
PLAY AREA**

If you, or any of your friends, are interested,
for further information please either:

- visit our website <http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/about-footsteps/>
- contact us on 01355 425246
- email secretary@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk.

Please note that admission to the nursery does not secure a St. Joseph's Catholic school place; applications to St. Joseph's School must be made through the local authority.

Supporting Your Children - Workshops

To book a space please email your full name to Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

These sessions are universal (not specific for SEND) and for adults supporting **not** the children themselves so **please arrange childcare if needed**

Each course is a **standalone 2-hour session** - please be aware that spaces are offered on a **first come first served basis** and parents should not just turn up.

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book onto the sessions if you are **going to be able to attend** to avoid other parents missing out on the opportunity to have a place or let me know if you can no longer attend.

Helping children to overcome anxious thoughts and worries.

A 2-hour session looking at:

- What happens when children become anxious?
- Impact current events have had on children's mental health.
- Techniques for helping children deal with their fears / worries.



Monday 27th January 2025 **(11 spaces)**
@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Gain insight into your parenting style / relationship with your child.
- Learn or revisit positive ways of managing behaviour!
- Strategies to deal with unacceptable behaviours.



Thursday 23rd January 2025 **(7 spaces)**
@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Monday 10th February 2025 **(16 spaces)**
@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

9.30 – 11.30 am

Supporting Children to get a Healthy Night's Sleep

A 2-hour session looking at:

- The different sleep issues facing our families.
- Tips on how to get a good night's sleep.
- Help children develop good sleeping habits.



Thursday 13th February 2025 **(15 spaces)**
@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

9.30 – 11.30 am

Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13)

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Gain insight into the impact of your parenting style!
- Positive techniques for managing older children's behaviour.
- Boosting your relationship and communication with your child.



Tuesday 28th January 2025 **(14 spaces)**
@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

9.30 – 11.30 am

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Please only book onto the sessions if you are **going to be able to attend** to avoid other parents missing out on the opportunity to have a place or let me know if you can no longer attend.

Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back A 2-hour session looking at: - How to build your child's natural resilience. - Encouraging your child's positive social skills. - Encouraging children out of their comfort zone and not to give up.		
Wednesday 5 th February 2025 (13 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
Thursday 27 th February 2025 (16 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	9.30 – 11.30 am	
Supporting a smooth transition from Year R to Year 1 and beyond (not school specific) A 2-hour session looking at: - What's involved in transition from reception to year 1. - The best ways to support the transition. - Boosting your child's resilience to cope with the change		
Tuesday 11 th February 2025 (15 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	9.30 – 11.30 am	
Thursday 27 th February 2025 (15 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
Reducing Sibling Rivalry A 2-hour session looking at: - Encouraging a more harmonious sibling relationship - Learn / revisit techniques for children to cope with being a sibling. - Boosting children's emotional literacy		
Monday 3 rd March 2025 (14 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
Single Parent, Separated and Blended families – supporting children to cope with different family dynamics. A 2-hour session looking at: - Different family dynamics and how they can work. - Parental conflict resolutions - Being the best parent that you can be for your child		
Wednesday 12 th February 2025 (10 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
Supporting a smooth secondary school Transition (YR 5/6 parents) A 2-hour session looking at: - What the transition involves - The positives and concerns of transitioning to a new setting - Boosting your child's ability to have a smooth transition		
Monday 10 th March 2025 (9 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
If there are no suitable dates, please let me know so that I can add you to the waiting list for future sessions		



Year 6

To

Year 7

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

Open for
admissions
2026



MORE than
you imagine,
for LESS than
you expect

**St Joseph's is the best
value school in Reading
and Berkshire**

Our fees may be the lowest
in the area, but our standards
remain among the highest.



JOIN US FOR OUR

SHOWCASE SENIOR OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 6-9PM

Head's talk, tours and fun interactive
department activities



SCAN OR CLICK
HERE TO BOOK

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
READING • BERKSHIRE



Independent school for boys
and girls, from ages 3 to 18