Newsletter

Friday 19th September 2025

A Small School on a Big Adventure

Upcoming events next week:

- NHS Flu Immunisations - Monday
- Outdoor Learning Day **offsite** – Saplings, Wednesday (forest school clothes and packed lunch please)

IMPORTANT: Parking and Road Safety outside school

The path leading from school down to the village is used by pupils who walk home. Please can drivers be aware of this when parking and driving outside school. At the end of the path on the school side, there is a place where children will cross to get to the path on the other side. Please can this be left clear so children can cross safely. Thank you for your support.

NEWS: Sharing the Learning Events

This year we are introducing a new idea – Sharing the Learning. Over the year, we wil invite parents and carers into school towards the end of the day so children can share an aspect of their learning with you.

This starts at the end of this term on the following dates:

Tuesday 14th October – Mighty Oaks
Wednesday 15th October – Young Oaks
Thursday 16th October – Saplings
Friday 17th October – Little Acorns

The events will run from 2.45pm until 3.15pm and you will be able to take your child home after the session.

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION: Artificial Intelligence (AI)

At Brook, we continuously monitor and improve our safeguarding approach and currently we are ensuring children are safe with the use of AI and developing this area within our safeguarding policies. This factsheet (From 'The Key') has been designed for parents and carers on the subject:

AI risks: parent/carer factsheet

What is AI?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the use of computer systems to solve problems and make decisions. It's already a part of everyday life – for example, AI is used to give you personalised suggestions on social media, shopping sites or route-planning apps.

Generative AI takes a written prompt and runs it through an algorithm to generate new, 'natural'-seeming content. Tools include:

- Chatbots such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini and Grammarly, which generate text
- Text-to-image programs like DALL-E and Midjourney, which create images
- Text-to-video programs, which create videos

AI technology is developing rapidly, and these tools will only improve over time. For example, they'll be able to create more convincing images or videos.

Many AI tools are free to access, and some can be used to generate inappropriate content.

What are the safeguarding risks to my child?

AI might be involved in:

- **Hacking and scams** – text-generation tools can write convincing emails and text messages to trick children into giving people access to their social media or banking accounts
- **AI-generated child sexual abuse images** – some text-to-image tools or image-altering apps (often called 'nudifying' apps) could be used to create sexually explicit pictures of children – this might be for sexual gratification or as a means of bullying another pupil
- **'Deepfake' pornography** – putting a real person's face into pornographic videos for sexual gratification or to humiliate the person being put in the images. AI technology is used to alter the person's facial expressions to make the video look more convincing
- **'Catfishing' and 'sextortion'** – criminals can use AI-generated profile pictures to appear younger than they are to befriend and groom children and young people, and then ask for information and/or images from them (e.g. nude or semi-nude photos). They can then use this to extort the child or young person into giving them money
- **Fake news and misinformation** – text-to-image tools can be used to create convincing fake photos of world events, which could be used to promote certain beliefs (including hateful ones)
- **AI chatbot relationships** – some AI tools allow children to chat and build a relationship with a fake person. These relationships can become very intense, and the AI may make dangerous or inappropriate suggestions

Signs to look out for

If your child is facing a safeguarding issue online, they might:

- Spend more time online, or more time offline
- Be up late online, or complain of being tired because they were online all night
- Receive a lot of messages and notifications on their phone
- Have stronger emotional responses or outbursts when they are online – they may get unusually angry, upset or distant after checking their phone or using their computer/tablet
- Be secretive about their use of the internet or a device – they may refuse to show you their phone or device, or refuse to tell you what they get up to online

What can we do at home?

We talk about the risks of AI in school, but this is always more effective if the conversations happen at home, too.

You can help keep your child safe by:

- **Talking about AI** – you can talk about both what it's good for, and where it can be more dangerous
- **Being aware of what they're doing online** – most social media apps have ways for parents/carers to monitor their child's activity
- **Listening to them** if they tell you anything that's worrying them – don't blame them for anything that's happened

DIARY DATE: Open events for Sept 26 new Reception

Please spread the word! We are hosting two events as well as a series of stay and play sessions. If you can help share this on social media groups or in your own local area, please pop in and grab some leaflets.

BROOK SCHOOL
A Small School on a Big Adventure

Open Events

Monday 27th October at 9.30am

or

Monday 17th November at 4.00pm

We are now taking bookings for our Open Events for new Reception places (Children starting school September 2026) and we would love to show you our school.

The events will include a short presentation, a tour of the school and an opportunity for families to spend time in our Reception Classroom - Little Acorns.

Stay and Play Sessions

Wed 26th November, Wed 3rd December, Wed 10th December

2.00pm - 3.00pm

We are also able to book you and your child in for one or all Stay and Play sessions. These provide further opportunities to spend time in Little Acorns.

For more information about our school, please visit our website:
www.brook-ashford.kent.sch.uk

To book any of the above, please contact our school office
via phone: 01233812614 or via email: office@brook-ashford.kent.sch.uk

Calendar

Every effort will be made to keep these dates in place but please be aware, changes may occur.

Updates/changes are highlighted.

TERM 1 – 2025/26			
Week	**Day/Date**	**Event**	**Further information**
4	Mon 22nd Sept	NHS Flu Immunisations	
	Wed 24th Sept	Environment-led learning – Saplings	Off-site
5	Tues 30th Sept	Environment-led learning – Mighty Oaks	On-site
6	Tues 7th Oct	Environment-led learning – Young Oaks	On-site
	Wed 8th Oct	Environment-led learning – Saplings	On-site
	Thurs 9th Oct	Class Assembly – Mighty Oaks	Hall, 9am, all welcome
	Fri 10th Oct	Mental Health Day – wear yellow	
7		***Black History Week***	
	w/c 13th Oct	Parents' Evening Meetings	
	Thurs 16th Oct	Individual School Photos	
	Tues 14th Oct	Sharing the Learning – Mighty Oaks	2.45pm, classroom, all welcome
	Wed 15th Oct	Sharing the Learning – Young Oaks	2.45pm, classroom, all welcome
	Thurs 16th Oct	Sharing the Learning – Saplings	2.45pm, classroom, all welcome
	Fri 17th Oct	Sharing the Learning – Little Acorns	2.45pm, classroom, all welcome
	Fri 17th Oct	Harvest Festival – St. Mary's Church	Church, 9.30am, all welcome
	Fri 17th Oct	BRILLIANT BROOK DAY - Enrichment	Discrimination theme
	Fri 17th Oct	***End of Term 1***	

Key dates for the year ahead:

15th Dec, 2pm – Little Acorns and Saplings Nativity
16th Dec, 2pm – Mighty Oaks and Young Oaks Christmas presentation
19th Dec, 9.30am – Christmas Service at Church
19th – 21st Jan – Mighty Oaks residential
2nd April, 9.30am - Easter Service at Church
26th June – Sports Day and Summer Fair