

BROOK BILLBOARD

Term Dates 2022 –
2023

Summer Term 1

Tuesday 18th April –
Friday 26th May

2023 Half Term holiday

Monday 29th May -
Friday 2nd June

Summer Term 2

Tuesday 6th June –
Friday 21st July



R.E.S.P.E.C.T

A WELLBEING MINDSET

Dear Parents and Carers

We have come to the beginning of a summer term which promises to be another action-packed and busy term and are pleased at how well our children are progressing. We often look back at the school in September at this time of year and it is so pleasing to see how our newcomers have settled into the Brook Family; how so many of our children have developed their core skills; how so many have begun to communicate more meaningfully and how many are growing into mature young men and women!

Awards

We have had a successful term this term in respect of awards: we have gained the Green Eco Flag; the silver International excellence award and now we have just been awarded the Quality mark for Physical Education and Physical Development. It is very rewarding to see that in our daily practice we are meeting nationally accredited standards and a big congratulations to all the staff who make these awards happen.

OFSTED

We are still waiting for OFSTED to come and inspect us – you will recall that we had a monitoring visit nearly 2 years ago which was very positive but we have not yet had the re-grading visit. You will also have seen on the news that the process has been very devastating for one Head teacher and her family. We are confident that our next inspection will be carried out respectfully and fairly and that your children's achievements will be celebrated appropriately; no school is perfect and there are always things that we are striving to do better. We are



immensely grateful to all of our families for your support of the work we do and for being our critical friends when necessary. I am sure that, when the phone call comes, you will continue to support us and help OFSTED understand the lived experiences of your children.

I have included a letter from Primary heads in Haringey that was sent to OFSTED to show you the strength of feeling in the profession at the moment.

Strikes

It is regrettable that the financial situation for schools is so dire that it is necessary for our teachers to take action through striking. This is absolutely not something they wish to do but feel that the lack of funding means that no school can deliver the quality of education our children deserve. Indeed, we have not had any increase in funding for six years but you will know how expensive everything has become. We are very worried about the future of the school and will keep you informed about the implications.

This term

This term already promises to be a busy and enjoyable one. Our Year 6 leavers went to Lambourne End straight after Easter for their 'Brook Goes Wild' Leavers' trip: this takes place in an outward bound centre in Essex and is a fabulous experience for them all. Many chose to stay overnight and so thanks to staff for facilitating this significant event. We also hope that the weather will improve so that our children can have more educational offsite experiences – we always try to keep the costs as minimal as possible but please do return the consent forms promptly as that helps us book the venues quickly.

We are also looking forward to our Coronation festival next Friday. There are lots of lovely things planned and I hope that you will look at the coronation song that Jaylen and Kayden Iyolo are singing on our website with some wonderful animations that one of our Year 6 pupils drew. Thanks to Maria Preftitsi for facilitating this.

Best wishes

Maureen and the Brook Staff



THANK YOU

A big thank you to two friends of The Brook School – Lesley Gadjahar and George Williams - who have donated crème eggs for an Easter egg hunt for each class and an egg for them to come home with.



Dear Parents/Carers

On Friday the 05th May we will be holding a day of celebrations to mark the coronation of King Charles! On the day, please send your child into school wearing **Red**, **White** or **Blue**.

Classes will be joining up to take part in a **“Make Some Noise for the Coronation March!”** We will be banging drums, shakers, making as much noise as possible and waving streamers as we have a march around the school premises together.

We are then going to have a joint picnic and a class “If I were King for Day” competition in the playground.





As I am sure you are aware, the Palace has created a special Coronation Quiche in honour of the coronation of King Charles. We would like to hold a Coronation Quiche or cake sale on the day. If you are able, please have a go at making the quiche or some cakes with your child and donate to our bake sale. The recipe for the Coronation Quiche can be found online. (www.bbcgoodfood.com) If you are able to make a quiche or cake please ensure they contain NO NUTS.

This is a once in a lifetime event and is British history being made in front of our eyes. This is also a great learning opportunity, so please take the time to talk to your children about it and please make sure you watch the coronation together with your children on Saturday the 06th May from 11.00am onwards.

If you have any questions or queries about this day, please feel free to ask

Kindest Regards

*Alison Walmsley
Leader of Learning
The Willow Primary School and Broadwaters Childrens Centre*



Haringey Early Years, Primary and Special Heads Association (HEYPSHA)

30/3/23

Dear Ms Spielman,

We write to you as the Haringey Early Years, Primary and Special Heads Association (HEYPSHA), a group of head teachers from 79 settings committed to working together to achieve the very best outcomes for our children and families.

We have been deeply shocked and saddened by the death of fellow head teacher, Ruth Perry, who recently took her own life. Whilst we do not claim to know all the details of the events leading up to Ruth's suicide, her family members have made it very clear that they believe it was directly linked to Ofsted's recent downgrading of Caversham Primary School from Outstanding to Inadequate. Unfortunately, this tragedy is one that we as head teachers can identify with; so we are shocked and saddened, but not surprised.

As a group of experienced head teachers who have worked with Ofsted for many years, we are acutely aware of the disproportionate pressure that comes with a school inspection and the huge toll that Ofsted visits take on school leaders and staff, regardless of the outcome. We are all familiar with the excessive stress and anxiety that come with operating under a school inspection system which feels punitive rather than supportive, and which often ultimately works against its own goal to improve schools.

Whilst we fully support the notion that educational establishments must be held to account for pupil outcomes and well-being, we do not support the high-stakes format of the current system. Perversely, school improvement is often, in fact, stifled in the lead up to inspections as schools become wary of the risks associated with innovation, a situation exacerbated by the fact that many Ofsted visits are now massively overdue. When inspectors do finally arrive, we find ourselves in the seemingly impossible situation of having to demonstrate flawless excellence in a two-day window under successive frameworks with ever changing goalposts. Moreover, these two-day 'shows' are performed at the mercy of 'all powerful' individuals or teams of Ofsted inspectors who may never have been head teachers themselves, who bring their own subjective approaches and who, in worst cases, 'go rogue'.

We have all heard the horror stories of inspections that have been unjustly derailed either by comments or events which are totally out of the school's control, or by inspectors unable to rationally implement the Ofsted framework. We all know cases where Ofsted's correct focus on pupil safeguarding has been used inappropriately and disproportionately by misguided inspectors. These are not vague myths we have heard on the grapevine, they are the personal recounts of colleagues who have experienced these devastating scenarios. We have also all witnessed the decline which these schools can then experience as pupil numbers drop, teacher retention and recruitment become almost impossible and – ultimately – pupils, families and the wider community suffer the consequences. And, of course, it is well known that schools who have the privilege to serve in the most disadvantaged communities also face the hardest challenge when it comes to having their work understood and recognised by Ofsted.

As committed professionals, we welcome and seek out external scrutiny and challenge, but this must be carried out in a way which is collaborative, and which encourages schools to celebrate their strengths and be open and honest about their areas for development. School inspection must be carried out with the clear goal of helping schools to do their best for children. We believe that attempting to summarise overall school performance in one-word judgements undermines this goal; it's time for grades to be



replaced with more detailed summaries which enable leaders, staff, parents/carers and other stakeholders to gain a more useful insight into what each school is doing well and what they need to work on. We feel that Ruth Perry's death is a watershed moment for Ofsted who would be foolish to ignore the ramifications of this tragic suicide and the unprecedented backlash against the school inspection system currently being voiced across the country. In solidarity with many thousands of our colleagues across the UK, we therefore call upon Ofsted to:

- halt the current inspection system;
- get back to your core purpose, to 'improve lives by raising standards in education';
- remember your own stated values, to put children first whilst being 'evidence-led, accountable and transparent';
- consider whether it may, in fact, be time not only for an evolution of Ofsted, but for a revolution, reinvention and rebrand – a complete overhaul for the 21st century;
- work closely with school leaders and other key stakeholders to make these changes;
- ensure that schools are inspected by those who have walked the walk, not just talked the talk;
- make certain that the use of one-word judgements becomes a thing of the past, where it belongs;
- embark on a new era of working collaboratively and supportively with schools whilst holding them to account, more in line with what research tells us leads to sustained school improvement; and
- ultimately help us to ensure that our schools are the very best they can be for our children.

We would be more than happy to work with you to achieve all of the above and implore you not to miss the opportunity for change that the tragic death of Ruth Perry has brought about. Whilst we do not intend to attempt to block access for Ofsted inspectors into our schools, in order to protect ourselves, our staff and our pupils from the potential harm of derailed inspections we will suspend cooperation during any visit where inspectors 'go rogue', and insist that the inspection is halted whilst further advice is sought.

Yours,

HEYPSHA Head Teachers

cc

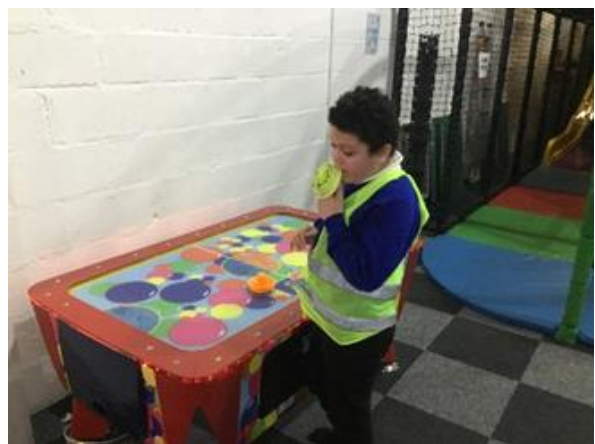
- All HEYPSHA school governing bodies, staff and parent/carers communities via HEYPSHA head teachers
- Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education
- David Lammy MP for Tottenham
- Catherine West MP for Hornsey and Wood Green
- Councillor Peray Ahmet, Leader of Haringey Council
- Councillor Zena Brabazon, Haringey Cabinet Member for Children, Schools & Families
- Andy Donald, Chief Executive of Haringey Council
- Ann Graham, Director of Haringey Children's Services
- Jane Edwards, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning in Haringey
- James Page, CEO of Haringey Education Partnership
- Marc Issacs, Haringey Council Head of News
- The NAHT
- The NEU
- The Guardian
- The Times
- BBC/ITN/Channel 4News



The Brook Photo Gallery



Ladybird Class discovering what dissolves in water!

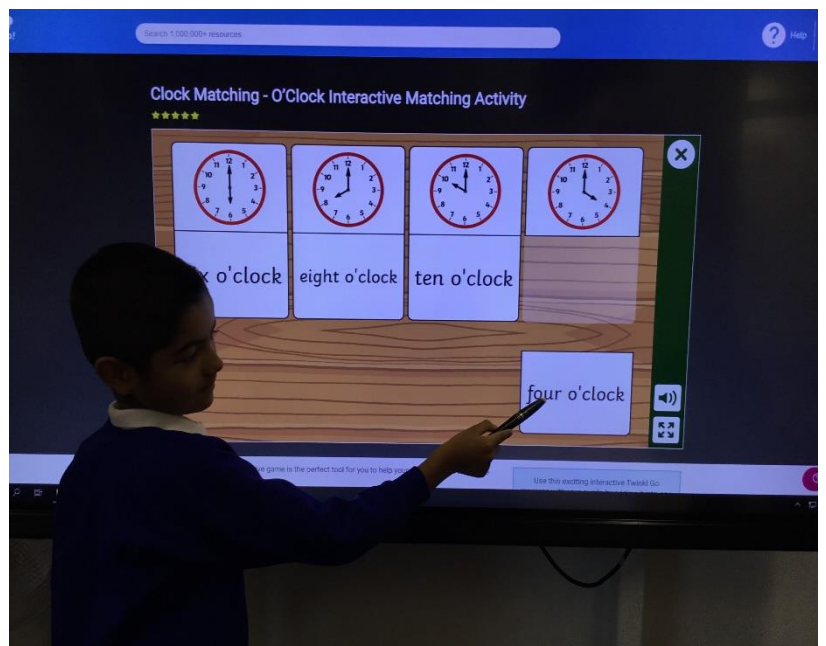
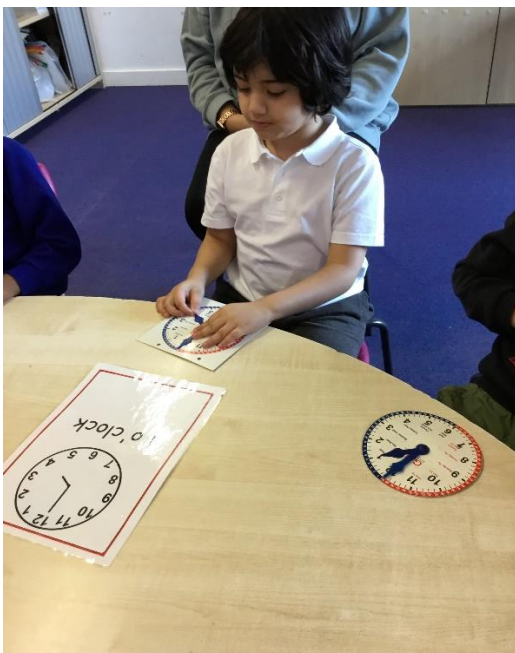


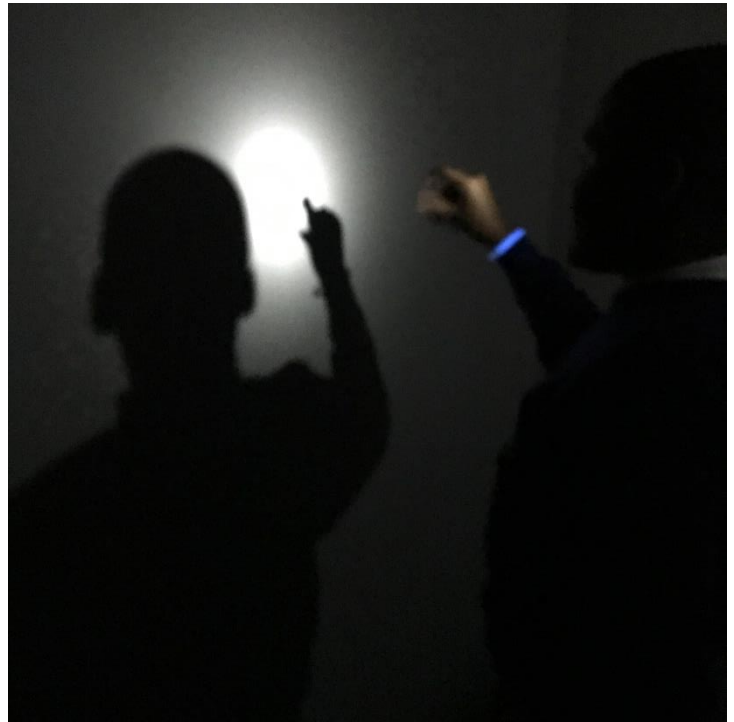
Nightingale Class visiting the pet shop and kid zone!





Bumblebee Class learning how to tell the time!





Swift Class have been learning about 'light' for science this term. The pupils in the class had a fantastic time exploring various different light sources. As well as learning how to make shadow puppets.





ON Wednesday 29th March Honeysuckle class visited Highbury fields playground and the little Angel theatre. The visit was a fantastic opportunity for the class to consolidate learning from the literacy scheme of work as well as PE and PSED. The visit was funded by the Brook's charity which we are all grateful for.

