



WEEK BEGINNING 10TH FEBRUARY

Events this week:

Tuesday 11 th February	Year 4 Ufton Court trip
Wednesday 12 th February	Parents evening
Thursday 13 th February	Years 3 & 4 athletics
	Parents evening

Looking forwards: (dates/times may be subject to change)

Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st February	HALF TERM WEEK
Tuesday 25 th February	Family Learning – Acorns
Friday 28 th February	Family Learning – Year 2
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
	PTA Book sale in School Hall
Monday 10 th March – Friday 14 th March	Science Week
Thursday 13 th March	Author Visit
	PTA Disco Infants – 5.00pm – 5.50pm – Juniors – 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Friday 14 th March	Maths Day
	Years 3 & 4 Cricket Skills
Thursday 20 th March	Family Learning – Year 4
	Year 5 & 6 Hockey
Friday 21 st March	Comic Relief
Tuesday 25 th March	Year 5 Easter Experience at Church
Thursday 27 th March	RockSteady concert
Friday 28 th March	Mother's Day sale
	Years 3 & 4 mixed football
Tuesday 1 st April	Years 3 & 4 Tag Rugby
Thursday 3 rd	Church Service
Friday 4 th April	Easter Bonnet parade
	END OF TERM – 1.30 FINISH

Don't forget you can see key events on the school website Calendar page

<https://www.stmichaelsesthampstead.com/diary/grid/2024/10/>

Message

Dear families of St Michael's,

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Parents Meetings next week and sharing your child's progress with you. The Spring term is often the time when we see the children's learning really take off and I love to hear from them about their successes and how they have overcome some struggles – mainly, they tell me, by keeping on trying and practising!

The school team has expanded recently with the introduction of 2 student teachers, Miss Benson in year 1 and Miss Quelcutti in year 2. Both these teachers are on their final placements before beginning their qualified teaching careers. We welcome them both and look forward to watching them develop their skills with our talented team.

As we welcome new staff, we are also saying farewell to Ms Shepherd who will be leaving us at the end of the week to begin her maternity leave. We wish her and her growing family all the very best and look forward to meeting her new arrival at some point soon.

At St Michael's we know that the children enjoy their sport and PE and it has been fantastic to see how many external competitions our school has participated so far this year and many more to come. A huge shout out to our year 5/6 athletics team. Through their talents and hard work, the school reached the athletics finals for the first time and came in fourth place out of the 12 teams who made it through. A fabulous achievement!



Enjoy your half term break when it arrives, and we look forward to seeing you back in school on 24th February.

Best wishes
Caroline Johnson
Headteacher

Attendance

As I am sure you are aware, schools have a statutory duty to monitor attendance, inform families and endeavour to ensure children attend all possible sessions. The school team regularly monitor attendance rates, and we will be sending out letters to parents of children whose ytd attendance is below 90%. The DfE class this level of absence as Persistent Absence (>10%) and this equates to 4 weeks of school missed across the year.

We would expect to see attendance improve for these children over the following half term. If this does not happen, we will invite you for a meeting in school to try to support you in overcoming any barriers to attendance. For most children this does happen as their absence is due to a period of sickness or other circumstances.

Lateness

We are also monitoring late arrivals to school. The class and school doors are open from 8:40am and will close at 8:50am. Children arriving after this time need to come through the school office. Where we are aware of repeated late arrivals you will be notified by letter of how much time in school has been missed and a request that this been improved. If there are particular circumstances which are causing the lateness please contact the office for advice. As has been previously stated even a few minutes can be disruptive to the children, the rest of the class and the office team.

Healthy Snacks

Please ensure that your child has a healthy snack for breaktime. Crisps, chocolate and overly sugary snacks are actively discouraged by staff due to their impact on energy levels. Quick sugar highs followed by crashing lows are not helpful to learning or behaviour.

We appreciate your support with this important part of the children's development of a healthy lifestyle



Head Teacher Award Winners

- Acorns - **Heidi** – for showing maturity, especially in her reading and writing
- Year 1 - **Lukas** – for aiming high in maths
- Year 2 - **Amy** – for having a positive attitude towards all of her learning and working hard
- Year 3 - **Franklin and Adela** – for working exceptionally hard in their English writing
- Year 4 - **Osione** – for her consistent focus and diligence in all she does – well done!
- Year 5 - **Jack** – for trying his best in lessons and on his time tables and asking for help when he needs it.
- Year 6 - **Leonora** – for being motivated to achieve in all areas of her learning





**PRESTIGE SPORTS
COACHING**

FEBURAY HALF TERM CAMP

**£20 per day or
£90 for the full week
Ages 5-11 years**

SAVE THE DATE



**17TH FEB - 21ST FEB 2025
WILDRIDINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Visit Our Website:

www.prestigesportscoaching.com/holiday-camps



Classical Ballet Workshop

for children age 6 to 12 years
Saturday 15 February 10am to 11.30am
at Bracknell Library



Fancy trying ballet in a less formal setting? Led by one of the dancers from the Black British ballet project, this fun and accessible ballet workshop introduces you to the basic ballet movements and will be followed by a short Q&A with the session leader.



Price: free Booking: essential

To book: use the QR code to book on Eventbrite, ask at the desk at Bracknell Library or call 01344 423149



February half term fun at Bracknell Forest Family Hubs

Join us at one of our play and activity sessions. These sessions are free to attend, and no booking is required. Please be aware sessions may be busy.

- **Monday, 17 February – 1.30pm to 2.30pm**
at **The Rowans Family Hub**: Young parents (up to age 25) stay and play
- **Tuesday, 18 February**
9.30am to 10.30am at **The Alders Family Hub**:
Lego and Duplo maths taster session (children aged 2-4)
1.30pm to 2.30pm at **The Oaks Family Hub**: Family play
- **Wednesday, 19 February – 9.30am to 10.30am**
at **The Rowans Family Hub**: Family play
- **Thursday, 20 February – 10am to 11am**
at **The Alders Family Hub**: Junk modelling
- **Friday, 21 February – 9.30am to 10.30am**
at **The Rowans Family Hub**: Active play
(This session is for families with under fives.)



Email: early.help@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
Call: 01344 354382
Facebook: [Bracknell Forest Family Hubs](https://www.facebook.com/BracknellForestFamilyHubs)
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/family-hubs

Little Gems have just released a new date for our 3 part ADHD course.

ADHD Course *Hosted by Parenting Special Children:*

Session 1: Provides an insight into what ADHD is. Learn about the challenges & concerns often raised. Explore strengths and opportunities related to ADHD.

Session 2: Learn to understand children's anxiety and how this relates to ADHD.

Session 3: Gain an understanding of attention deficit behaviours & how to manage these

A 3-week course

ADHD SUPPORT

For Parents & carers of children aged 3 and over, primary & secondary school aged children.

Online:

Thursday 6th, 13th & 20th March 2025 7pm – 9pm

Booking link : <https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/adhd-course-berkshire-east-mar-2025/>

The GEMS Team

www.gems4health.com



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. <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 24 th March 2025 (16 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 3 rd April 2025 (16 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	9.30 – 11.30 am
Monday 28 th April 2025 (16 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Supporting Children to get a Healthy Night's Sleep <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The different sleep issues facing our families.• Tips on how to get a good night's sleep.• Help children develop good sleeping habits.	
Wednesday 12 th March 2025 (16 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	9.30 – 11.30 am
Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13) <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 4 th March 2025 (14 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm

Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		
Thursday 27 th February 2025 (13 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	9.30 – 11.30 am	
Tuesday 6 th May 2025 (16 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
Supporting a smooth transition from Year R to Year 1 and beyond (not school specific) <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		
Thursday 27 th February 2025 (15 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
Reducing Sibling Rivalry <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (12 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
Single Parent, Separated and Blended families – supporting children to cope with different family dynamics. <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (5 spaces) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm	
Supporting a smooth secondary school Transition (YR 5/6 parents) <i>A 2-hour session looking at:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (7 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		

Established by the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC), Safer Internet Day is celebrated around the world. This year, on Tuesday 11th February 2025, it will be celebrated with the theme:

'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'

How can I get involved?

UKSIC Resources

As usual, the UKSIC have created some fantastic resources, which includes top tips, help and advice and quizzes to help you start a conversation with your child. Find out more here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Your free Self-Help Tool Centre from Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online have several free tools that you can use to help protect you and your family. The tools include checking a website, how to spot a phishing email, how to check your social media footprint as well as a fun tool to see if you can spot what has been generated by AI.

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/selfhelpcentre/>

Free Cyber Action Plan from the NCSC

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have a wealth of advice and tips on how to protect you and your family online, including a short questionnaire to assess how you can improve your cyber security. Once completed, they will provide you with a personalised plan:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/you-your-family>

How to deal with online scams: a parent guide from Parent Zone

Parent Zone have published an article outlining how to deal with online scams. The article includes how to report scams, further support, and preventive measures you can put in place:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-deal-online-scams-parent-guide>

Interactive online scams guide from Internet Matters

Internet Matters have produced an interactive guide to help you understand scams. They also provide further links to additional resources. Find out more here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-online-scams-guide/>

Resources from London Grid for Learning (LGfL)

LGfL have produced this video titled "Life Online - What Grownups Just Don't Get!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lde52EtjJlQ>

In addition, they have a selection of resources available here:

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/home>

