



Dear Families and Friends,

### **Half Term update – Autumn 2019**

As I write this, the leaves on the trees have started to turn from greens to oranges and browns, the weather has started to become cooler and the mornings and evenings are darker. It always surprises me how quickly the weeks fly past – it does not seem 5 minutes ago that we were welcoming everyone back to school after the summer break.

At the start of this new academic year, we welcomed 32 new pupils and their families to Brookfields School, all of whom have settled in well. In addition to welcoming new pupils, we have welcomed 19 new members of staff to the school, all of whom are contributing well to life at Brookfields School.

The biggest point of interest for this past half term was receiving 'the telephone call' from Ofsted on 10<sup>th</sup> September to let us know that we would be inspected on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September! We had been anticipating that our Ofsted 'window of opportunity' would not open until March 2020. However, we embraced this opportunity and welcomed the two Ofsted Inspectors. It was an opportunity to share with them the developments we have made to the curriculum and our approaches since we were last inspected. I am sure you will join me in thanking and congratulating the amazing team of highly skilled, knowledgeable and creative professionals we have at Brookfields School for all their hard work, dedication and determination to make a difference, all of which was validated by Ofsted through their judgement of OUTSTANDING. I would also like to thank those of you who took the time either to chat with the inspectors on the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> when you were in school or completed the Ofsted survey.

The judgement of Outstanding is even more precious as the bar has been raised even higher by the new Ofsted Inspection Framework. We learnt a couple of weeks ago that, at a training session being held on the south coast, attendees were informed that of all the 2000 schools (mainstream and special) that had been inspected in September 2019, there was only one special school that had maintained its previous designation of outstanding....that was us, Brookfields School!

I am sure that you have been able to read a copy of the report published by Ofsted, if not you can access the report from the link below:

<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50115292>

### **Parent and Families Questionnaire 2019**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who completed the Parent and Families Questionnaire which was sent out towards the end of last academic year. I would like to share with you the following:

- 223 questionnaires were sent out and 60 were returned
- Families who either answered 'Strongly Disagree' or 'Disagree' have been invited to discuss their responses with senior members of staff
- 97% said that the teaching at Brookfields School is outstanding
- 92% said that they were pleased with the overall progress their child was making
- 97% said that they felt involved in their child's education

- 93% said that Brookfields School provides them with the information they need to know about their child's education
- 98% said that Brookfields School works hard at developing positive relationships with families
- 92% said that they felt included in their child's education
- 100% said that Brookfields School keeps their child safe
- 100% said that Brookfields School is well managed and led

Families said...

"We are very happy with the support the school gives us and our child"

"Everyone is always very friendly and helpful"

"I am always very impressed with the politeness of the students"

"Our child is developing some great life skills"

"Staff always go the extra mile and do the extra hours which is very much appreciated"

"Brookfields is a safe and familiar place for my child"

"We have always felt included at Brookfields"

"It is important to keep parents informed about what their child is learning and how they are doing – disappointingly, this does not happen consistently"

"My child is so much happier now that he is attending Brookfields School"

"The home/school communication book is great"

Please do not hesitate to contact the school for more information about the 2019 Questionnaire.

### **Here are some dates for your diary.....**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November - Coffee Morning from 9.45am-11.15am

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – PTA Christmas Shopping Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November - 'Families Matter' Parent course first session 7pm-9pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – 'Children in Need' day

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November - Creative Arts Fundraising Evening at Pangbourne College 6.30pm

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Coffee Morning 9.45am - 11.15am

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – PTA Christmas Bazaar 12.00 – 3pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Key Stage 4 Production

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Primary Production and Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – last day of term, pupils finish at 1pm

I hope you all have a good and safe half term break and we look forward to seeing all the pupils back at school on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

Kind regards,



Brandon Mills  
Head Teacher

