



St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School

We act with love, build our faith and grow as people
"Let all that you do be done in love" - 1 Corinthians 16:14

Newsletter 21st November 2025

A message from the Headteacher - Mrs Mulholland

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in school! We started Anti-Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day, which was a fun and meaningful way for the children to celebrate difference and individuality. We are also very grateful to Tesco Stronger Starts, who came in to run workshops with both Year 1 and Year 2—these were engaging and very much enjoyed by all the children.

Our Remembrance Day celebrations were truly wonderful, even though we had to move them indoors due to the weather. Our annual fireworks evening was a fantastic community event, and once again, the PTA showed how much they do to support our school—they really do make such a difference. An amazing profit of £2600 was raised!

Our nursery children continue to settle in beautifully and are already such a valued part of the SMC family. We are incredibly proud of how quickly they have adapted to their new routines and are thriving in their first months at school.

We also warmly welcome back Mrs Tucker, our school SENDCo, who has returned after having her third baby! If you have any concerns or would like to arrange a meeting with Mrs Tucker, please email the office and they will be happy to make this for you.

Finally, a reminder about attendance. It is so important that every child is in school on time, every day. Our target is a minimum of 95% attendance, and we are proud to say that 134 children currently have 100% attendance! Let's keep up the great work so that we can celebrate even more children with certificates at the end of term.

With warmest wishes,
Anne Mulholland



School Diary

NOVEMBER

27 Year 2 Celebration of the Word - 9am

DECEMBER

2 For £2, wear purple in support of our wonderful Advent Charity, the Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Service (TYAC) in memory of Mr Raine's daughter, Natasha.

8 Yrs 1, 2 and 3 Nativity 2pm

9 Yrs 1, 2 and 3 Nativity 9:15am

11 Year Reception and Nursery Nativity 9:15am
Christmas Lunch
and Christmas Jumper Day

12 Year 4 Cake Sale 3:15pm

16 Years 4, 5 and 6 Carol Service 5pm

17 Years 4, 5 and 6 Carol Service 9am

19 Break up for Christmas Holidays at 1:30pm

JANUARY

6 Back to School - gates open at 8:35am

15 Applications close for Reception 26/27
School Census Day





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SMC Nursery



At SMC Nursery, we've had a wonderful few weeks exploring some exciting themes with the children. We have been learning about Remembrance in gentle, age-appropriate ways, creating poppy art and talking about being kind and thankful to each other. The children also loved discovering the magic of fireworks through colourful crafts and sensory play, whilst learning how to keep each other safe. Our fantastic topic of dinosaurs has been a huge hit too, with lots of roaring, excavating, and imaginative adventures! It's been lovely to see the children so engaged, happily settled into their routines, and building friendships across the setting.



Reception

What an exciting few weeks we've had in Reception! Our classroom has been full of curiosity, creativity and roars of enthusiasm as we explored the wonderful world of dinosaurs.

The children have loved learning the names and features of different dinosaurs. We've talked about what dinosaurs eat and discovered how their teeth give us clues—sharp, pointy teeth for meat eaters and flat, wide teeth for plant eaters. The children enjoyed comparing these differences and thinking like real palaeontologists!

In Drawing Club, we watched a clip from Andy's Dino Toybox to spark our imaginations. The children then created their very own dinosaurs and thought about all the exciting ways they might race each other. Their ideas were fantastic—from dinosaurs zooming with jetpacks to rolling downhill on colourful rollerskates! It has been wonderful to see their imaginations sparkle and come to life on paper.

In Maths, we have been exploring the idea of a whole number and the different parts that make it up. The children have enjoyed using practical resources and hands-on activities to deepen their understanding.

This week, the cold weather brought even more excitement. Our outdoor area was covered in ice, and the children were fascinated to discover how it had formed. We experimented with painting on ice and exploring its textures—lots of chilly, sparkly fun!

But the biggest surprise came when we discovered that some of our classroom dinosaurs had escaped outside during the night. We found them frozen in blocks of ice! The children worked together to help melt the ice using pipettes, carefully practising their 'pinchy fingers' to squeeze the ends. It was a brilliant mix of science, fine motor skills and imaginative play.

We've had such a wonderful time learning, exploring and creating. We can't wait to see where our next adventures take us!





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Year 1



We have had an exciting and very busy couple of weeks in class! We began our new History topic by learning what it means to be a historian. The children discovered that being a historian is a bit like being a detective—they look for clues to learn about the past. Year One explored pictures of old toys and discussed questions such as: Is this toy from the past? What might it be made of? How might children have played with it? The children loved investigating and sharing their ideas. Last week, the children brought in a modern toy from home. As a class, we compared our toys and looked at the different varieties that were in the classroom. We sorted the toys by different features such as whether they were soft or hard, made of plastic or not and whether they made a noise. This helped the children notice how toys have changed over time and how materials and technology have influenced their design.

Year One were also very lucky to welcome special visitors from Tesco! They taught us all about where our food—especially fruits and vegetables—comes from. Using a large world map, the children explored how far different foods travel before arriving in our local supermarkets including items from countries such as Holland and Mexico. The highlight was definitely tasting a variety of fruits and vegetables from around the world. The children were very excited and tried lots of new flavours! Year One are looking forward to all the exciting things happening during the rest of the term!



Year 2

What a fantastic few weeks Year 2 have had!

Maths- We have finished learning about addition and subtraction in Maths and have now moved on to working with shapes. The children have been focusing on creating shapes with vertical lines of symmetry this week and then counting their sides and vertices.

Tesco stronger starts visited Year 2 last week and taught us about where lots of different fruits come from all over the world. They even left some fruits for us to try!

English- We have been writing recount letters in English based off Little Red. Firstly, we deconstructed the text to identify features of a recount. Then, the children have written some brilliant sentences focusing on punctuating single-clause sentences, co-ordinating conjunctions to join clauses and modifying the verb and noun to include adverbials of time and expanded noun phrases.

Science - We have just completed our 'Seasonal Changes' topic in science and have now moved on to 'Materials'. The children were excited to hunt around the classroom, identifying objects and the materials needed to make them.

RE- This week, we thought about how to use our gifts to be a light to others. It was so wonderful to hear all the children complimenting each other on their gifts and seeing all their faces light up with appreciation and happiness for one another.

History & Geography – we have completed our investigations into the changes in technology over the last 60 years and have now begun our fieldwork topic to better understand the physical and human geography of our local area. So far, children have discovered how much green farmland and forest surrounds our local area.





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Year 3



Year 3 have had an incredibly busy and exciting few weeks, diving deeper into our topics with lots of enthusiasm and creativity. In History, we have continued exploring the Stone Age, learning more about how people lived, travelled, and survived during this fascinating period. This has linked beautifully to our English work, where the children have been writing detailed recounts inspired by Stone Age Boy. They are now beginning to plan their own Stone Age-themed stories, using rich vocabulary and imaginative settings to bring the past to life.

In Maths, we have been strengthening our addition and subtraction skills and are now beginning to move on to multiplication, exploring patterns, arrays, and early times-table knowledge. The children are becoming increasingly confident in applying their strategies and explaining their thinking.

In RE, our focus has been on Catholic Social Teaching, thinking carefully about how we can look after God's creation. The children have shared thoughtful ideas about caring for the environment and considering how small actions can make a big difference.

We also enjoyed a fantastic street dance workshop, where Year 3 showed great energy, rhythm, and teamwork. It was wonderful to see everyone giving the routines their all!

In Art, we have been developing our sculpture skills, creating 3D clay artwork inspired by Mexico. The children have loved exploring patterns, shapes, and cultural designs, resulting in some vibrant and expressive pieces. It has been a dynamic and creative few weeks, and Year 3 continue to impress with their hard work, imagination, and enthusiasm for learning!





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Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have truly been thriving in their learning. The children have continued to develop their times-tables knowledge, growing in confidence as they practise daily sound checks on TT Rockstars. At Parent's evening, it was a great pleasure to meet you all and share the children's successes and how well they have already settled into Year 4. As part of Anti-bullying week, children wore Odd socks to school. The message behind this being it does not matter if we are all different we can still work together. We also recorded on a tally chart, how many Acts of kindness we could carry out; like showing respect to others, including others in our games, holding a door open for others and checking in on a classmate who might be upset. Lots of children thought deeper when writing an acrostic poem for Odd Socks, they also loved designing their own odd socks.

The children have also engaged brilliantly in their swimming lessons and are excited as they prepare for their upcoming survival session next week. Their enthusiasm and progress have been wonderful to see. Children engaged so well in a Street Dance workshop which they were brilliant at when learning new steps and keeping in sync with the music.



In DT, Year 4 have been learning about chocolate that cares, exploring Fairtrade and its values. This links beautifully to our Catholic Social Teaching, where we focus on caring for creation and respecting all people, including rights and responsibilities. All children loved the chocolate tasting lesson, where they became chocolate researches and gave their opinions on a variety of chocolate that they tasted. Some enjoyed the aromas, including the texture and appearance. This will help them design their very own chocolate bark that they'll make using Fair trade ingredients.

In R.E as part of our CST learning, we have reflected deeply on loving and caring for one another. We also studied the New Commandment in John's Gospel, in which Jesus teaches us to love one another. Children enjoyed learning about Pope Francis's letter Fratelli Tutti, which is rooted in fraternal love and reminds us to care for our global home. The children explored how we can break down the "walls of the heart" through kindness, caring, and helping others, never leaving anyone out as we are all neighbours. Children had rich discussions on this and made excellent links to the parable of the Good Samaritan. In English, the children have been fully immersed in their learning. They have been exploring the features of diary writing, inspired by Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Well done to all our budding authors—they have worked superbly over the past few weeks. Well done Year 4!!!



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Year 5



Our Design Technology unit on textiles is now underway, and the children have made an excellent start. Their sewing skills have been very impressive, and we are excited to see the final products come together in the coming weeks.

The children also took part in an exciting street dance workshop, where they thoroughly enjoyed learning new routines and confidently showing off their fantastic moves.

As we enter the festive season, the children have been busy rehearsing for our Christmas Carols. We are very grateful to Mr. Cannon, who is kindly supporting the children with their vocal techniques and musical arrangements. His guidance has helped the children grow in confidence, and their singing is sounding lovely. In English, we have been studying recount and letter writing. The children have been analysing the key features of effective letters, including distinguishing between fact and opinion, maintaining clear chronological order, and using rhetorical questions to engage the reader. They are now preparing to write their own recount letters using these skills with increasing independence.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm Year 5 have shown this term, and we look forward to sharing more of their wonderful learning with you in the weeks ahead..



Year 5 have been busy with a wonderful range of learning and experiences over the past few weeks. We were fortunate to welcome staff from The Oakwood Centre, who delivered a thoughtful presentation about the Christian message of security in God's love. They spoke beautifully about how, as Christians, we are reassured by the unconditional love God shows us through Jesus. When we know we are loved no matter what, we gain the confidence to take risks, grow, and flourish without fear of failure. It was inspiring for the children to reflect on how this kind of freedom can shape their own lives.

Year 5 also attended a meaningful Remembrance service, where we observed a two-minute silence to honour those who lost their lives. It was touching to see several children proudly wearing their Cubs, Brownies, and Scouts uniforms as a sign of respect and remembrance.

In RE, we have been exploring aspects of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly looking at how we can be leaders who show compassion, stand up for the marginalised and follow Jesus' footsteps. We have also discussed themes of forgiveness, dignity, and how our actions can help build a respectful community both in and outside of school.

In Maths, the children have been working incredibly hard on fractions, including converting mixed numbers to improper fractions and applying this knowledge to problem-solving. They have shown great perseverance, and all their practice is really helping to embed these important skills.





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Year 6



Over the last few weeks, in English, we have been working on understanding the features of a Non-chronological report with a view to writing our own version based on the theme of fictional outlaws, pirates and bandits and in order to do this, we created our own fictional characters.

In Maths, we have moved on to equivalent fractions and how to simplify them. In order to do this the children have used their knowledge of factors and division to help with simplifying them. They have then applied this knowledge to ordering fractions and placing them on a number line.

There are cross curricular links between our Science and DT topics and these are both based on electrical circuits. In Science we have looked at the components in a circuit and what happens if one of these elements does not work. Over the following weeks the children will look at special effects and how they can reproduce special effects through the use of switches, buzzers, motors and bulbs. These special effects will then be added to a gothic structure/model that they will design and make in DT to give the effect of a scary house or building.

In PE we are concentrating on Invasion Games. These games involve the children working in teams and incorporate many skills. These include skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting for attacking, and marking and intercepting for defending. Key movement skills include dodging, swerving, and changing direction, while strategic skills involve teamwork and creating space to outmanoeuvre their opponents. There are also opportunities within these games to practice refereeing skills.





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Next PTA meeting: Friday 23rd January @7pm all welcome: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86033339450...>

Keep up to date with the PTA: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Smcpta>

PROFIT RAISED YEAR-TO-DATE:



How to help us raise funds:



If you are into trying your luck and hoping to win a lottery, please support our school by buying your tickets through this link:

<https://www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk/support/st-margaret-clitherow-catholic-primary-school-pta>



easyfundraising partners with over 7,500 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmcpta>



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Announcing:



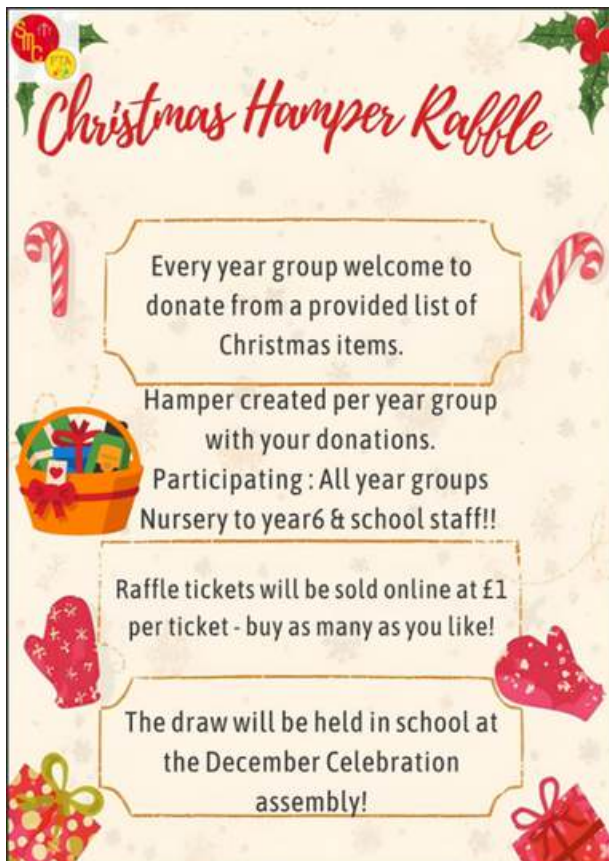
If you would like to help us with:

- Keeping financial records
- Organising floats for events
- Helping to apply for event licenses

Please get in touch.

PTA events coming up:

Christmas Hamper Raffle: Details to follow



Friday 12th December: Year 4 Bake Sale





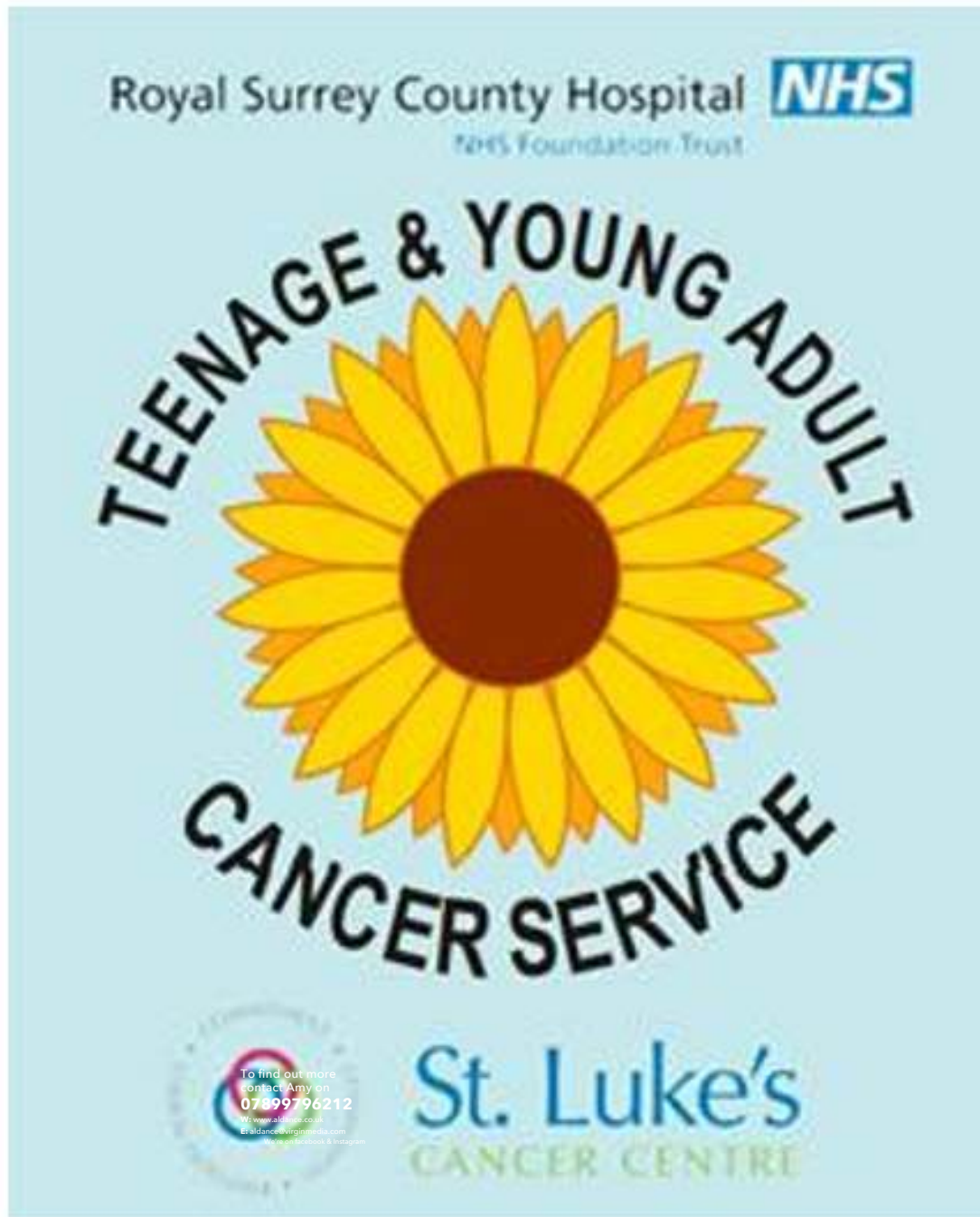
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Other Information



**Please support the St Margaret Clitherow Advent
Charity Collection by donating via the QR code to the**

Natasha Hannah Marisa - Fund for TYAC

**Your support will provide fun days out for families of
young people facing a cancer diagnosis in the local
area.**



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Other Information



FOOTBALL & SPORTS HOLIDAY CAMPS

AGES 4-12 YEARS OLD

5-12 YEAR OLDS
9AM - 3PM
4 YEAR OLDS
9AM - 1PM
GROUP CITY FOOTBALL

FROM £18.50 PER DAY



OUR VENUES

FOOTBALL

WOODLEY | WOODFORD PARK
BRACKNELL | GARTH HILL COLLEGE
CAVERSHAM | THAMESIDE PRIMARY
SLOUGH | CLAYCOTS SCHOOL
WOKINGHAM | FLOREAT MONTAGUE

MULTI-SPORTS

CAVERSHAM | THAMESIDE PRIMARY
WINDSOR | HILLTOP FIRST SCHOOL
WOODLEY | SOUTH LAKE PRIMARY
ARBORFIELD | FARLEY HILL PRIMARY
BRACKNELL | ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY
MAIDENHEAD | ST LUKE'S PRIMARY
READING | NEW TOWN PRIMARY
SLOUGH | CLAYCOTS SCHOOL
WHITLEY | GEOFFREY FIELDS JUNIORS

WWW.U-SPORTS.CO.UK/HOLIDAY-CAMPS



HATCHLINGS

@ CROWTHORNE RUGBY CLUB
SUNDAY MORNINGS 10AM-11AM

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL
SECRETARY@CROWTHORNERFC.CO.UK



OPEN TO CHILDREN IN YEARS 1, 2 & 3 TO EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF RUGBY IN A SAFE, FUN AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT!

GIVE A GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS

Pledge a gift and help us to share the Christmas Message



We would like to invite our wonderful parish community to consider donating a Christmas gift for those around us who are most in need.

In the past, you have responded with overwhelming generosity to this appeal and, as a result, we have distributed Christmas gifts to our Local Care Homes, Our housebound and many needy families in the local community, Bracknell LIFE House.

This year, once again, we would like to distribute your gifts to these places:

You can choose to give from any or all the following options:

- Give a gift of sweet treats e.g. for adults - boxed sweet biscuits or confectionery; for children - boxes or stockings of confectionery.
- Give a gift of toiletry treats e.g. boxed gift sets for women, men or children
- Give a gift for a mother or child at the Berkshire Women's Aid Refuge or Bracknell LIFE House. If you would like to do this, then please contact the Pastoral Care team for details of children's ages, either by email: pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

We can only accept the gift items specified above and these must be new, unused and, if edible, unopened and well within their sell by dates.

**** Please bring your donated items to St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Parish Hall after mass on:**

Saturday 29th November / Saturday 6th December - before mass
Sunday 30th November / Sunday 7th December 9.30am - 12.00pm
Sunday 14th December between 9.30am - 12.00pm

Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
39 Bracknell Walk, Bracknell RG12 1HA

Bracknell Forest's Family Services Directory and Additional Needs Info Hub (SEND Local Offer)



Providing free, impartial information and advice about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and all other family matters.

- SEND information all in one place - how to access services and support including Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Education, childcare and early years funding
- Leisure and holiday activities
- Advice and support services
- Brokerage service for those struggling to find childcare

Family Information Service: fls@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
01344 353133
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/localdirectory



Where can I get help with an EHCP?

Where is my nearest baby clinic?

I'm struggling with my child's behaviour - where can I get help?

How do I apply for childcare funding?



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Supporting Your Children Workshops 2025 - 2026

To book a space email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Each course is a **standalone 2-hour session**, is universal (not specific for SEND) and for **adults supporting not the children themselves so please arrange childcare if needed**

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

Please only book if you are **going to be able to attend** to avoid other parents missing out.

All sessions unless stated otherwise take place at The Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Supporting Children to Overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries Exploring how anxiety affects primary aged children learning simple, effective techniques to support children to overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries.	
Wednesday 14th January 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 13th April 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 8th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way A session exploring positive behaviour strategies enabling parents to gain practical tools for handling challenging behaviours with confidence and care.	
Monday 12th January 2026	9.30 – 11.30 am
Thursday 05th March 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Thursday 23rd April 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 22nd June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting your pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13) An insight into parenting, looking at positive behaviour strategies, different ways to strengthen communication / connection with your pre-teen child.	
Wednesday 4th February 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting your teen in a Positive Way (aged 13 – 16) A session focused on using positive approaches to guide teenage behaviour, building stronger communication and connection during the teen years.	
Thursday 12th February 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back Gain practical tips, leaving you inspired and equipped to help children bounce back stronger; no matter what life throws their way	
Monday 26th January 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Transition to secondary school Gain practical tips, share experiences, and learn how to support your child through the exciting, sometimes challenging transition to secondary school.	
Monday 29th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Transition: Reception to Year 1 and beyond The move from Yr R to 1 is a big step in your child's learning journey. Session helps parents understand what the transition involves and how to support.	
Thursday 25th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
A healthy night's sleep Sleep is essential for children's wellbeing, learning, and behaviour. Get practical tips to help children build healthy, lasting sleep habits	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	

Reducing Sibling Rivalry A supportive session, to give parents and caregivers tools to strengthen sibling bonds, whilst creating a calm and connected family environment.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Family Dynamics Family life comes in many forms, and every child deserves to feel secure / supported. Session offers practical guidance navigating varying dynamics.	
Monday 9th February 2026	9.30 – 11.30



Information for
parents and carers



Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Drop-in flu clinics

At Foundation House, Windsor SL4 4LE

We are holding drop-in clinics for your child's flu vaccination on the following dates:

- 18.11.25 14:30-16:30
- 27.11.25 14:30-16:00
- 5.12.25 12:00-16:00

If you haven't completed a consent form yet, you can complete one using the information sent by your child's school or complete one at the clinic with one of the team



Goto the address below to share your views and ideas

cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/feedback

Link to Raring to Go Magazine:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/ascotbracknellandwokingham/winter2025/>