



Spring Term – Newsletter 1

Headteachers update

Dear Families,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you have all had a brilliant holiday and have managed to spend some quality time with your incredible children. The beginning of term has been full of excitement and enthusiasm although, staff included, I think everyone is a little tired 😊. The children have settled brilliantly including our new starters across the school. It has been lovely seeing you all again in the mornings and sharing a story or two, even though we could do with some slightly better weather.

Just before the Christmas we were delighted to be supporting Sebastian's Trust, a local charity close to our hearts. Your kind donations on Christmas Jumper Day raised an amazing **£322.65**. The festive period is never easy but your kindness has made a real difference to other families and children in the local community – thank you 😊. On the theme of fundraising, our amazing year 5 cohort (entrepreneurs of the future), organised and ran their 'Owlprentice'. The children did an incredible job where they were even battling for customers in the hall. The children made an astonishing profit of **£689.84** over the day, more importantly the children showed true determination, kindness, inclusivity and respect, towards their end goal – we could not be prouder of them all – you'll read more about it later 😊...

At Owlsmoor we are proud to be a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Most recently the staff and children were assessed for our SILVER award. I am delighted to say that we passed with flying colours which means Owlsmoor is now a UNICEF UK SILVER: Rights Aware School and the only one in the local area. It is an incredible achievement for the team and I hope you will join me in congratulating everyone involved. Keep an eye out for our new certificate and banner which will be on display very soon.



Finally, I just wanted to remind you all about the school start times. The children are expected in the classroom for registration by **8:45am**. The ONLY exemption for this is nursery who need to be in class by 9:00am. We are still having children turning up very late to school which is impacting their learning. We are also having the opposite problem where children, mainly years 5 and 6 are turning up to school just after 8am. Children should not be on the school site before 8:35am and it is not safe for them to be there on their own. If your child walks into school please encourage them to time their walks so they arrive closer to the desired time of 8:35am.

Thank you all so much for continued support, I know I always say it, but we can't do what we do without you. Take care, keep safe and be kind to one another.

Mr. Cope

Maths and English Superstars

A huge congratulations to our Maths and Writing Superstars for the month – keep up the good work 😊. ▲

A huge congratulations to our Maths and Writing Superstars for the month – keep up the good work 😊.

Class	Maths Superstars	Writing Superstars
Mrs Reed	Theo Flynn	Kezayah Ballyntine
Mrs Wood	Lucas Brown	Elijah Peebles
Miss Tomlinson / Mrs Garrod	Jack Barnett	Amelia Masterman
Miss Parr	Cody Law	Renée Chigumba
Miss Wakelin	Elodie Charles	Paige Stevenson
Ms Gardiner	Arlo Dowley	Niam Mehta
Mrs Read/Miss Holness	Freddie Haynes-Taylor	Rosie Nesbitt
Mrs Bruce/ Mrs Plumtree	Olivia Comley	Samuel Lacey
Mr Francis	Jacob Adams	Elsie Inions
Miss Hadley	Freddie Bull	Logan Campoverde Piguave
Miss Megrath	Sophie Willis	Freddie Tims
Miss Bess	Joshua Bruce	Madeline (Maddie)Potts
Mr Taylor	Pippa Toppin	Brooke Warren
Mrs Panesar	Nylah Fulat	Amaya Ranaweera
Mr Stevens	Eliza Lee	Emanuel Rapcia
Mr Saunders	Lara Shear	Isabelle Holland

Play Therapy starting at Owlsmoor

Families, we are currently developing the offer of play therapy over the coming months. This is a huge undertaking and one that requires some quite specific resources. We are asking that if you happen to be having or have had a clear out over the holiday period. If you have cleared out any of the following we would love to take any of the following off your hands:

Sylvanian family figure sets/house or similar
Baby doll and pram



RESPECT – KIND – INCLUSIVE – DETERMINED - SAFE

Small toy cars, trucks, other vehicles
Hand puppets
Superhero figures
Small world play figures eg) animals, people, houses
Dolls house and figures
Sensory toys
Kids size Easel
Dinosaur, dragon, mythical creature figures
Dressing up clothes and accessories
Foam/plastic swords
Doctors play equipment kit
Barbie dolls or similar

If you are able to help, or know of anyone that can, please can all donations be brought to the FSA office located at the school reception. Any contributions, no matter how small would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

We did it! Rights Respecting School

We are pleased to announce that we have achieved our Rights Respecting schools Silver Award. Back in October, a group of children across all year groups and school teaching and non-teaching staff met with our Rights Respecting School assessor Katelyn. We spent the morning being interviewed about and showing her examples of how we support, discuss and understand the rights of all children at Owlsmoor Primary School.

During the interview process, the children spoke very confidently and articulately about a wide range of rights and demonstrated their understanding of how these are universal.

I was extremely proud of all of the children that took part in both the interview process and the journey that we have been on over the last few years to get us the Silver Award.

Katelyn our assessor, was extremely pleased and impressed with the children and the positive and amazing things that they had to say about our school.

'Thank you so much for hosting my visit to Owlsmoor Primary; it was a delight to meet you and feel the enthusiasm of your school community.'

Congratulations to all the pupils and adults of Owlsmoor Primary School. You are now officially recognised as a UNICEF UK Silver: Rights Aware school.



Miss Grant

RRSA Lead



We would like to wish you all a **Happy New Year** and hope you all had a lovely festive break. We would like to say a huge **Thank you** for all the heartfelt cards and gifts that we received before the holidays. We were totally overwhelmed.

The children have come back and settled in to the routine really well this week. They have been exploring the different activities and have loved sharing stories of their Christmas holidays with us. It is so lovely to have them all back.



This half term we will be looking at **People Who Help Us**, starting with the emergency services. We will also be looking at other services that help us in different ways like; shop keepers, dentists, vets, mechanics, etc. We are hoping to have a few surprise guest visitors during this topic too.

Resource donations

We are looking at developing our use of loose parts in Nursery and would really appreciate any donations of the following items:

- Milk bottle and yoghurt lids
- Wooden curtain rings
- Large smooth pebbles or stones and sea shells
- Cotton reels, tubes or toilet rolls



Miss Grant and the Team

Reception



Welcome back after what we hope was a Magical Christmas break. We would like to express our sincere thanks for the wonderful cards and gifts we received before the holiday. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Thank you to all the families who have worked with their children on their teddy words and reading over the holidays, we can defiantly notice the difference. Keep it up! This half term, in school, the children will be learning about:

Oral Hygiene – how to look after our teeth, how to clean them and which foods are best to eat in order to keep them healthy.

Freezing & Melting – why does ice form, how ice melts, artic animals, winter cloths etc

Winter – Looking at the changes in our natural environment and the weather.

Traditional tale – retelling stories, comparing characters and describing characters.

Chinese New Year – year of the dragon.

Science week – science experiments

Resource donations

This month we would really appreciate if you are getting rid of these items:

- Role play – play food
- Small world – castles, dolls houses, pirate ships and people or animals etc
- Puzzles (age appropriate) – please check all pieces are there

Learning at home

Please could we remind you that your child should be reading to you, every day, plus enjoying listening to their sharing book with an adult. They should also be practising their letter formation. By now, children have been exposed to all letters of the alphabet and it is a good idea to encourage the use of writing pencils and paper in their play at the weekends.

As always, if you have any concerns or issues you need to talk to us about, please email in or catch us at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your ongoing support, Mrs Layton-Matthews, Mrs Lourens and Miss Watkins



Year 1

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the lovely Christmas gifts you sent in, we all felt thoroughly spoilt and we have enjoyed hearing about all the things the children experienced over the Christmas holidays.

We have an exciting term planned with our history topic 'Toys in the Attic'. During this half term, we will be asking the question 'how have toys changed over time?' The children will have an opportunity to compare old and new toys. If you have any toys hidden in your attic, please do share them with your child and if you would be happy to, we would love to see them in class 😊.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our 'Cinema Experience' watching Toy Story. Over the next few weeks the children will have a chance to interact with and retell the story using some of the characters in our outside small world area.



In science, we are learning about materials. When you are out and about, please encourage the children to think about what objects are made from and why they are made from that particular material. For example, why were some older toys made from wood? Why are new toys mostly made from plastic?

Finally, we would be grateful for any donations of children's story CD's. We have a new CD player and headphones which will allow the children to listen to stories in class.

Year 1 Team

Year 2

Happy New Year and welcome back! Christmas already seems a distant memory but we wanted to say how amazing your children were in the nativity performance. We were so proud of them. A special thank you to our parent helpers who walked to the church with us and to all of the parents who made costumes and helped the children learn their lines. We would also like to say a very big thank you for the many gifts we received at Christmas and let you know how much we appreciate your generosity.

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH!

As we will be studying living things in science later this term, we would love the children to get involved in the RSPB's BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH!

This takes place from the **26th – 28th of January** and you can sign up and get involved here:



<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Our topic this term is 'If I had a dragon..'. If your child has any books that feature dragons or even dragon toys do encourage them to bring these in to share with the class. In geography we will be studying Japan and we are looking forward to teaching the children dragon dances in PE so if you have any old sheets that we can dye and use as 'dragon bodies' for this please do send them in.

We would like to remind you that reading at least 4x a week is still very important to the children's progress. Every time a child reads at home they put a bead in our 'reading jar' which is marked in five-minute intervals so the children can earn extra playtime. Do remind your children of this school-based reward when you are encouraging them to read at school.

Finally, we would like to say a special well done to Niam Mehta in Penguins who got through to the second stage of the BBC 500 Words competition. Good work Niam!

Year 2 Team

Year 3

Happy New Year to you all from the Year 3 Team! We hope you all had a fantastic festive break and would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you for the kind and generous gifts. We would also like to thank you for the overwhelming attendance at our carol service before the Christmas break and congratulate the children on a fantastic performance, which made us all feel very Christmassy indeed.



The children have settled back in beautifully and there is a real buzz around our new topic of the Stone Age that we are going to be learning about this term. We are looking forward to taking part in a Stone Age workshop on Monday 15th January to immerse the children in some hands-on learning for this topic. We have started to look at the story of Stone Age Boy in literacy and are looking forward to doing some Stone Age art.

Thank you for your support with the homework last term, homework books will be sent home this week with the next grid of activities. Just a reminder that the children choose 6 activities to complete over the half term including the reading task which is already in the book.

We are looking forward to an exciting Spring term.

Year 3 Team.

Year 4

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to the Spring Term! 😊

We want to say a huge thank you for all of your kindness and generosity during the Autumn term, it has been greatly appreciated.

A big well done to all of our Year 4 children for successfully completing their swimming lessons. The children did brilliantly. Thank you to all adults at home for your patience and support during this period.

Egyptian Workshop

In December, Year 4 had a special visitor. The children got to put their learning about the Ancient Egyptians into practice and explore the process of mummification in more depth. They had a fantastic (and gruesome) time bringing the past to life!



Exploring Tutankhamun's Tomb

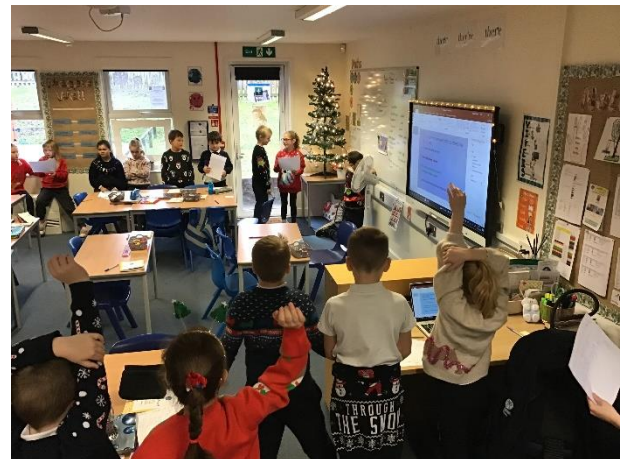
To support their learning in history, the children became archaeologists for a morning; discovering artefacts for with their own eyes that Howard Carter would have uncovered when he found Tutankhamun's tomb! They grabbed their torches, searched around the 'tomb' and took their learning into their own hands. While completing this activity, the children generated lots of ideas and questions about what they discovered.



In PSHE, the children have been practising their debating skills. They are becoming confident at sharing their ideas with their peers and listening to the views of others.



Festive Party!



The children had a fantastic time singing and dancing to Festive music, enjoying a festive snack or two and playing board games at our class parties on the last week of term!





On the **15th of January 2024**, we will be visiting the Mandir. Please ensure all children bring a named packed lunch and water bottle to school with them on this day. We are a nut free school, so we would like to kindly remind you that the children's lunches should not contain any products with nuts (including Nutella).

We hope you have had a restful festive period, thank you for your continued support.

The Year 4 team.

Year 5

Happy New year!

Welcome back! December was an incredible month filled with exciting learning opportunities and festive joy. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the families who supported their children in preparing for their stalls and to everyone who attended and purchased their wonderful products. This enriching experience not only resulted in a fantastic total of £904, making a profit of £689.84 but it also provided the children with a glimpse into the world of business.

We are thrilled to share that the funds raised will be dedicated to enhancing the children's experiences. We plan to invest in engaging resources, such as LEGO sets and hope to buy the children a snack during their trip to the theatre.

Our preparations for the 'Rudolph Rave' were great fun! A big congratulations to all the children who put their best foot forward, showcasing their moves - even if dancing isn't necessarily their thing. A huge thankyou to the adults who cheered on our performers. 😊

Additionally, the Y5 teachers and TAs want to thank you for the lovely cards and gifts we received. We truly appreciate your thoughtful gestures.

As we begin our very busy Spring term, please could we politely request that the children are in school by 8.45 promptly so we can fully utilise learning time.

This term we will continue to learn how to play the trombones led by a teacher from Berkshire Maestros. Kiwis class will also have the opportunity to learn to play them too.

Our history topic during the Spring term is 'The Vikings'. In our science lessons we will be learning about the properties of materials and conducting a number of scientific investigations.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. We look forward to continuing this learning journey with your children.

As always, if you have anything you would like to discuss with us, please pop in to see us at the end of the day or send an email via the school office.

The Year 5 team.





Year 6

Happy New Year to you all.

It may seem like a long time ago but December (whilst only here for half of it) was once again a busy month in Year 6!

As the children had finished their termly assessments by the end of November they were able to enjoy the last two weeks of term.

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Maths saw us studying measures, learning to convert between a range of those measures including imperial with metric systems which made the children glad that we no longer work in pounds and ounces! In English, the children got to add in an extra chapter to Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets which they all enjoyed greatly. Both classes thoroughly enjoyed decorating their doors for the competition in school with Kites in particular looking somewhat different in their offering.

We would like to thank the children (and their helpers at home) for the fantastic homework that came in throughout December. The trend towards edible homework was something that the adults and children enjoyed alike although it did lead to Mr Saunders gaining about 3kg in custard cream weight before the holiday!

Luckily, the children themselves were able to come up with a routine for the Rudolph Rave as the combined dancing skills of Messrs Saunders and Stevens weren't called into action so that Y6 were able to perform with aplomb in front of the gathered audience.

All the adults in Year 6 would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who sent cards or gave them gifts for Christmas. It's incredibly kind of you and hugely appreciated.



Looking ahead, our topic for this half-term is Victorians, with Victorian Day being on Friday 12th January. We will be looking at life in Victorian Times with the children all reading Street Child so that they get to see what life was like for a child from a poor background during that era. Children will be writing biographies of prevalent Victorians to study some people in greater detail as well. There are lots of other highlights coming up with the curriculum for this term and we look forward to sharing them in future Newsletters.

Thank you all once again for your ongoing support,

Year 6 Team

Kingfishers and Wrens

Welcome back and we hope you had a wonderful Christmas break! We would all like to say a huge 'Thank you!' for our lovely cards and gifts.

The time running up to Christmas was magical with the children – they were so excited and loved all the activities. The pantomime on the last day of term was a great start to the Christmas holidays, especially following the Rudolf Rave. They all loved it, as did the staff!



The children have all settled in nicely after the break. We have a busy term ahead – Kingfishers are starting off with the topic of Dinosaurs – our first story is ‘Dear Dinosaur’. Wrens are enjoying some traditional tales.

KEY DATES

Friday 12 th January 2024	Year Victorian Day
Monday 15 th January 2024	Year 3 Stone Age Workshop at School
Monday 15 th January 2024	Year 4 to Mandir
Wednesday 17 th January 2024	Reception and Year 1 to watch puppet show at school.
Thursday 18 th January 2024	Herons Class Assembly
Friday 26 th January 2024	Kiwis Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Friday 2 nd February 2024	Pelicans Class Assembly (9am school hall)
W/C 5 th February 2024	Science Week
Wednesday 7 th February 2024	Family Forum 18:00 – 20:00
Friday 9 th February 2024	Break for Half Term at 3:15pm
Friday 1 st March 2024	Chaffinches Class Assembly (9am school hall)
W/C 4 th March 2024	Book Week
Friday 8 th March 2024	Dress Up as Characters for WBD
Wednesday 13 th March 2024	EYFS – Spring Celebration (Time TBC)
Wednesday 13 th March 2024	Year 5 to Woking Theatre
Friday 15 th March 2024	Red Nose day (more details to follow)
Thursday 21 st March 2024	World Poetry Day
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Flamingos Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Parents Consultations (Remote) (more details to follow)
Thursday 28 th March 2024	School Finishes at 2:00pm for Easter Holidays
Monday 15 th April 2024	Children return to school at 8:45am
Monday 29 th April 2024-Friday 3 rd May 2024	Year 5 Bikeability (more details to follow)
Friday 3 rd May 2024	Toucans Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Friday 9 th May 2024	Woodpeckers Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Thursday 16 th May 2024	Year 1 to Windsor Castle
Friday 17 th May 2024	Year 5 to Maxwell Zoo
Friday 24 th May 2024	Emus Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Friday 21 st June 2024	Year 4 to Ufton Court
Monday 24 th June 2024 – Friday 28 th June 2024	Year 6 Residential to Bushcraft
Monday 1 st July 2024	Reception and KS1 Sports Day (Time TBC)

Tuesday 2 nd July 2024	Nursery Sport Day (Time TBC)
Friday 5 th July 2024	KS2 Sports Day (Time TBC)
REMAINING INSET DAYS - 2023 – 2024	
Monday 3 rd June Monday 22 nd July Tuesday 23 rd July	

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR - 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term 2024

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Pupils Start on Wednesday 4th September 2024

October Half Term - Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 4th November 2024

Pupils start on Tuesday 5th November 2024

Autumn Term ends on – Friday 20th December 2024 at 2.00pm

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring Term 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 6th January 2025

Pupils start on Tuesday 7th January 2025

February Half Term – Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Pupils start on Monday 24th February 2025

Spring Term ends on Friday 4th April 2025 at 2.00pm

Spring holiday: Monday 7 April 2025 to Monday 21 April 2025

Good Friday: 18 April 2025, Easter Monday 21 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Pupils start on Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Public Bank Holiday (School Closed) Monday 5th May 2025

May holiday: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 2nd June 2025

Pupils start on Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Summer Term ends on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 2pm.

in2sport

in2care

Tour Of Africa

Holiday Camp

12th - 16th February 2024

Hammond Junior School, Lightwater

Holy Trinity School, Woking

Owlsmoor Primary School, Sandhurst

Priory School, Slough

Upton House School, Windsor

Whitegrove Primary School, Bracknell

in2sport.magicbooking.co.uk

in2care.magicbooking.co.uk

9am - 3pm from £22
8am - 5pm from £28

*Prices vary from site to site

Some Themed Crafts & Sports
examples to get excited about!

Football
Tournament

Desert
Shoebox
Scenes

Chess

Pyramid
Craft

Volleyball

Djembe
Drums

camps@in-2-group.co.uk

in **2** sport in **2** care

Tour Of Africa Holiday Camp

12th - 16th February 2024

20% off -
Tour20

Expires Friday 19th
January

10% off -
AFRICA10

Expires Wednesday
31st January

camps@in-2-group.co.uk

RESPECT – KIND – INCLUSIVE – DETERMINED - SAFE

Supporting Your Children Workshops

To book a space please email your full name to Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

These courses are universal (not specific for SEND or particular ages) and for adults supporting children **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

A 2-hour session looking at:

- 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



Wednesday 10th January 2024 (5 spaces remaining)

9.30 – 11.30 am

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre.

Monday 5th February 2024 (7 spaces remaining)

6.30 – 8.30 pm

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre.

Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Gain insight into your parenting style / relationship with your child.
- Learn or revisit positive ways of managing behaviour!
- Strategies to deal with unacceptable behaviours



Monday 15th January 2024 (7 spaces remaining)

9.30 – 11.30 am

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Thursday 22nd February 2024 (7 spaces remaining)

6.30 – 8.30 pm

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Supporting Children to get a Healthy Night's Sleep

A 2-hour session looking at:

- The different sleep issues facing our families.
- Tips on how to get a good night's sleep.
- Help children develop good sleeping habits



Monday 26th February 2024 (12 spaces remaining)

6.30 – 8.30 pm

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13)

A 2-hour session looking at:

- 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



Friday 1st March 2024 (11 spaces remaining)

9.30 – 11.30

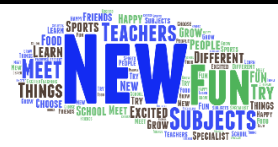
@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Reducing Sibling Rivalry

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Encouraging a more harmonious sibling relationship
- Learn / revisit techniques for children to cope with being a sibling.
- Boosting children's emotional literacy



Monday 5 th February 2024 (14 spaces remaining) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre.	9.30 – 11.30
Single Parent, Separated and Blended families – supporting children to cope with different family dynamics. 	
A 2-hour session looking at: - Different family dynamics and how they can work - Parental conflict resolutions - Being the best parent that you can be for your child	
Thursday 1 st February 2024 (13 spaces remaining) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	9.30 – 11.30 am
Tuesday 5 th March 2024 (13 spaces remaining) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Supporting a smooth transition to secondary school (YR 5/6 parents) 	
A 2-hour session looking at: - What the transition involves - The positives and concerns of transitioning to a new setting - Boosting your child's ability to have a smooth transition	
Tuesday 16 th April 2024 (14 spaces remaining) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Thursday 23 rd May 2024 (15 spaces remaining) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Wednesday 5 th June 2024 (11 spaces remaining) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	9.30 – 11.30 am
We're also delivering at the following schools please book direct with the school.	
St. Josephs	03/06/24
St. Michaels EH	04/06/24
The Pines School	07/06/24
Great Hollands	11/06/24
Meadow Vale	12/06/24
	9 – 11
	9 – 11
	9 – 11
	1 – 3
	9 - 11
Supporting a smooth transition from Year R to Year 1 and beyond 	
A 2-hour session looking at: - 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	
Friday 3 rd May 2024 (15 spaces remaining) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	9.30 – 11.30 am
Tuesday 7 th May 2024 (14 spaces remaining) @ Bracknell Open Learning Centre	6.30 – 8.30 pm