

October 2025



Message from Mrs Mathie

What a busy (and long) first half term!

I trust that those of you who were able to attend, found your recent Parents' Evening appointments informative and it gave you the opportunity to hear how your child is settling back into school. It was lovely to see so many of you in school and to hear the feedback that you shared with us.

Our year 4 and 5 children will head off on their residential trip when we return after half term. I am sure that they will have a fun-filled few days and relish the opportunity to develop their independence and learn new skills. I know that they will make me proud and be positive ambassadors for Battling Brook.

I would like to welcome Hayley Starmer as our new Chair of Trustees. Hayley has been part of our Trustee Board since October 2023 and brings with her a wealth of passion and experience. I am sure that Hayley will contact you directly over the coming weeks to introduce herself and outline her plans for the coming year.

Finally, we are increasingly seeing parents asking school related questions on local social media sites. I would urge all parents, should they be unsure on anything relating to Battling Brook to reach out to the school rather than this method as it is possible that you receive opinions rather than a factual response. It can also be detrimental to our school reputation. Just drop us an email or ask a question on the School Gateway app/Class Dojo or even call the office – there are lots of ways of ensuring that you get the right information from the correct source.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. On behalf of myself and all of the team at Battling Brook, we wish you a restful half term break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 27th October.

Kind regards
Mrs Mathie

School Applications

The deadline for high school applications is fast approaching. If you haven't yet done so, please apply before 31/10/25.

If your child is due to start reception in Autumn 2026, please make your application prior to 15th January 2025.

Preschool applications for 2026 places will close on Friday 31st October, we have a few places remaining so get in touch quickly!

Considerate Parking

Sadly, we are receiving increasing numbers of complaints from local residents regarding inconsiderate and unsafe parking in the area during drop off and pick up times.

We regularly send home reminders regarding this matter and would ask that all parents/carers show consideration for our neighbours and for the safety of all in our school community.

We are restricted in what we can do to support this so have requested that the local PCSO/traffic warden attend during these busy periods to monitor and ensure that all road users are following the rules.

Christmas Performances

Our fabulous Christmas performances will take place at the following times/dates:

- 02/12/2025 – Y4 Christmas Performance (pm)
- 04/12/2025 – Y4 Christmas Performance (am)
- 16/12/2025 - RKV Nativity Performance (9am)
- 17/12/2025 – RJS Nativity Performance (9am)
- 18/12/2025 – RLB Nativity Performance (9am).

Full details will be sent home closer to the events.

Parental Contributions

There appears to be some confusion from a small number of parents regarding this so thought I would address it as a whole school matter. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the vast majority of parents who always support the school with prompt payment and appreciate the importance of our offerings and how beneficial they are to their children, it is very much appreciated.

As a school, we request parental contributions to enable us to provide enhanced opportunities to your children. We believe that the children will benefit from these and that it will support their learning and development. Such opportunities include trips, theme days and visiting performance companies. The school do not receive money to offer these. In a lot of cases, we use the main school budget to subsidise the costs to our families to keep charges to a minimum. **Schools are not allowed to make a profit** from any learning activities (in fact we are audited annually to ensure that we do not), therefore most offerings run at a loss and these costs are covered by the school. We would love to be able to cover the charges for all experiences but this simply is not possible given the current under-funding in schools.

We try very hard to maintain a balance of offering excellent and valuable genuine learning opportunities whilst also remaining mindful of any additional costs to parents. We are always keeping this under review – for example, we welcome a professional drama company to school in November each year in order to offer an arts/performance opportunity. This costs much less than attending a theatre which would include the cost of travel. Watching the children engage and enjoy the performance is wonderful and something that many of our children may not experience if we were not to offer it. Without the support of parents, we are not in a position to continue to provide these experiences. If parents choose not to contribute then it is not an option for the school to cover costs as we do not have the funding to enable this, we simply have to remove the trip/opportunity.

We appreciate that financially times are hard for everyone at the moment and some more so than others. If you find yourself in a position of financial hardship and unable to contribute then we can support applications for funding support and free school meal applications. You may also be entitled to Pupil Premium. This is a means tested government payment that is made to the school. The school then allocate a credit of £100 to cover costs such as trips or towards the cost of uniform. You can check your eligibility by completing an online application using this link (<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>). I would urge all parents to take a few minutes to do this as the school also receives additional funding if you are eligible. Please also speak to us – a confidential, private conversation, explaining any individual circumstances can provide us with key background information to allow us to better support you and your child.

BB Alumni

As previously advised, we are dedicating a section of our newsletter to our past pupils and their life after Battling Brook.

Former Battling Brook student Alfie Dignum has recently been awarded a contract as a scholar at Leicester City FC. This ensures that Alfie is a full time professional for the next two years at least. Off the back of this, he has signed for an agent. Earlier this year, Alfie played in Latvia, winning The Riga Cup. In the summer, Alfie played in Florida in a prestigious global tournament, The Adidas Generation Cup (teams from 16 countries, five continents). More recently, Alfie has been selected by Wales U18 to tour Japan and he also flew out to play Japan, Australia and Japanese club side, Niigata.

Alfie's football journey began at Battling Brook. Dave Stoker, who ran the after school club, suggested he joined a football team, some years back. Alfie was part of the Battling Brook team that reached the National Finals, playing at Birmingham City's St Andrews stadium coached by Mr Fellows.

We love to hear what our past pupils are up to and hope that are current pupils will be inspired by their achievements. As I am sure you will agree that Alfie has done incredibly well and we look forward to following his career closely!

If you or someone you know would like to feature, please send the details to vcropper@battlingbrook.uk



Key Dates

October

20th – 24th: Half Term

Monday 27th: School Opens

Wednesday 29th-Friday 31st: Kingswood Residential

November

Wednesday 12th: 3TK Class Assembly

Friday 14th: Whole School Pantomime

Wednesday 19th: 3GJ Class Assembly

Thursday 20th: PTFA Discos

Wednesday 26th: 3TN Class Assembly

Wednesday 26th – Friday 28th: Y2 Triumph Factory Trip
(1 class per day – TBA)

December

Friday 5th: Y4 Warner Bros Trip

Saturday 6th: PTFA Christmas Fayre

Thursday 11th: Y1/Y2 Christingle Service

Friday 12th: Christmas Jumper/Christmas Lunch Day

Friday 19th: School Closes