



Newsletter May 2026

Congratulations!

We'd like to share the wonderful news that Mrs Smith gave birth to a healthy baby boy in February. Both Mum and baby are doing well, and all of the staff loved meeting him recently when he came into school.

We're also delighted to share that Mr McLoughlin and his wife are expecting a baby very soon! I'm sure you'll join us in wishing them all the very best. We can't wait to meet their new little one when they arrive.

Outdoor Play and Learning

At Bankfields Primary School, we believe that outdoor play is essential for our children's development. Our OPAL provision continues to grow from strength to strength with the children accessing and enjoying a range of activities every lunchtime. We will continue to monitor each play zone carefully and regularly review our risk-benefit assessments to ensure that all children are safe whilst playing outdoors and the risks are reduced as far as possible. We are proud to share that we recently obtained our GOLD OPAL AWARD, which recognises the offer that we have created for our pupils to enhance their outdoor play and learning opportunities.



Breakfast Club from September 2026

We are delighted to announce that from September 2026, our breakfast club offer will be extended with the support of the DfE Breakfast Club funding. From September, Breakfast Club will be open from **7:50am – 8:50am** each morning as we are aware that some parents need to be at work early, so we hope that these extra 10 minutes will help. Due to us receiving funding, we are able to reduce the costs to all parents, and from September, prices will be reduced to **£2.00 per day** for those wanting to access the **full breakfast club from 7:50am**.

For those requiring some breakfast club time, but not the full hour, we will be offering parents the opportunity to bring their children in from **8:20am – 8:50am each day free of charge**. However, if you would like your child to access the early breakfast club from 7:50am, then the charge will be payable. It

is important to note that **bookings must be made online via Parent Mail a minimum of 48 hours in advance.** This is because we are expecting an increase in pupils attending breakfast club in September with this new offer, so we have to ensure we have sufficient staff on duty each day. The online booking system will replace the current paper version that we have from September 2026. Until then, there are no changes to the current system.



Staffing Changes for September 2026

As we move towards the last half term of the academic year, it is the time where we share staffing updates with you in preparation for the new school year (it will be here before we know it!). At the end of this school year, we will be saying goodbye to Mr Andrews who will be leaving Bankfields to take up his new role at Dormanstown Primary Academy. Mr Andrews has been such an asset to Bankfields, and we know that the staff, pupils and parents are all incredibly fond of him. We wish Mr Andrews the very best of luck with the next stage of his career and would like to thank him for his commitment, hard work and dedication to Bankfields Primary School over the last four years.

Mrs Whittle will also be leaving us at the end of this academic year after an incredibly successful year here at Bankfields. Mrs Whittle has been a fantastic addition to our staff team, and we are incredibly grateful for all of her hard work and everything she has done for the children this year. We wish her the best of luck with her future roles.

Mr Davison has been working with us since January as part of Mrs Smith's maternity cover. Mr Davison will be leaving us at the end of the academic year but again, we are so grateful for the hard work and commitment he has shown to the children of Bankfields and for all of the additional days he has volunteered to come into school for us. We would like to also wish Mr Davison the very best of luck with his future roles.

As we have slightly smaller classes in lower school next year, we are making a reduction in the number of classes we have across the whole school. Our aim is always to try and keep class sizes as small as possible, whilst focusing on teaching a strong curriculum that is progressive and built on key knowledge and skills. In order to keep class sizes below 30 in Years 3 and 4 next year, we will be mixing those classes, so there will be three Y3/4 mixed classes. This is something that a number of other schools do, and the teachers in those year groups are incredibly skilled and able to adapt teaching for children of all ages and abilities. If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to come into school to speak with me or the Lower School Phase Leader, Mr Bennett.

Development of the Building and Grounds

As I shared in a previous update, we want to develop the hill area of the top playground to further enhance playtimes. Due to your generous support at our many fundraising events, we are able to proceed with the first stage of this work over the summer holidays. We will be having a safe, rubber surface fitted at the base of the hill and a new slide will be fitted into the centre of the two hilled areas, where there is already a natural slope. We then aim to build on this year on year, by installing other climbing equipment. We are really excited for the next stage of our outdoor development and hope that the children will enjoy this new addition to the playground.

As a school, safety and security is of paramount importance to us. Over the last several months, we have been seeking quotes to have an intercom and electronic buzzer access fitted onto the gates at the front of the school. Once the plans for this have been finalized, it will mean that the front of the school will be locked during the school day, and access will only be possible through the intercom as the office staff will open the gates to visitors. Several parents and carers have spoken to me about this over the last school year, and I agree that this is a necessary safeguarding addition.

Nut-Free School

We'd just like to remind all parents and carers that we are a nut-free school as several pupils have an allergy to nuts and nut products. Therefore, no items containing nuts can be brought into school or put into packed lunches. Thank you for your support in keeping all our pupils safe.



Summer Half Term

We'd like to wish you all the very best for the half-term break. We hope you all get some time to relax with your families – especially our Year 6 pupils who have recently finished their SATs! We are so proud of the hard work, determination and resilience they have shown not just during SATs week, but throughout the year. They are a real credit to their families, and you should be so proud of them.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday 1st June for a VERY busy half term filled with sports days, leavers shows, trips, visitors and lots of exciting new learning! Thank you for all of your ongoing support to our school and for sharing our commitment to doing the very best for all of our pupils.

With kind regards,

Mrs Gatenby - Head Teacher