



## BOOKER PARK SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

**Message from the Principal:**

Thank you very much to those parents who came along to the MacMillan coffee morning on Monday, and to those who either contributed cakes or donations to go to a worthwhile cause - we raised £122 from parents' and staff's contributions. Special thanks to Logan's mum for her amazing cake creations (check out [Pam's Bake House](#) on Facebook) which were very much enjoyed by all, as were the wide range of cakes provided by Rachael Cooper who is clearly an expert baker on the quiet. It was really good to talk to those parents who came along, and we're keen to hear from parents who couldn't make it. What would you like to see by way of parents' events going forwards, and what times work the best for you?

Kerry Nicholson, our new Family Support Officer for Booker Park, started work on Monday of this week, and is keen to work with parents in setting up workshops or drop-ins that are going to appeal to the parent community. You can contact her on [knicholson@thevalefederation.com](mailto:knicholson@thevalefederation.com) or through the school reception. One of the topics that came up in chatting with parents was sometimes the lack of knowledge of what is 'out there', and how to access support. That's something we'll look to help with in Kerry's first few weeks.

I was helpfully reminded by a parent at the coffee morning that I hadn't said anything last week in this newsletter about Rob Butler's visit the previous week - apologies for that. Rob popped into a few classes and was able to get a good sample of what Booker Park is about. We talked a lot about staffing pressures over the past two years, and the changing nature of special education over recent times. He has invited us as a school to create his Christmas card for the Prime Minister, which we hope to share more of with you in the future.

**Best wishes,  
Bradley**

**Message from the Head of School:**

Thank you to those who attended the MacMillan coffee morning this week, and a big thank you to Pam and Rachael for the amazing cakes. They really were incredible!

There has been whole school training this week on the use of Clicker. This is software which can be used to support children's communication and to support early literacy skills. Staff accessed this training in their class groups which is always a beneficial way for teams to think about best to utilise this for their own class.

Have a good weekend.  
**Marianne**

### **Mission Statement**

**Together, overcoming barriers, enabling each  
child and young person to reach their full  
potential**



### Class update:

In Outdoor Learning this week, Swan Class have been using our Senses and finding things we can see, hear, and touch! Our story this half term is 'Walking through the Jungle' and we have been using our eyes and ears to find things in the jungle! We have also used the outdoor musical equipment to make loud and quiet noises and Kai and Tian even heard the trains go by! Harry, Mario, and Joshua enjoyed exploring the different textures we can feel. Well done Swan Class!



### **School Meals ORDERING FRIDAY 29th SEPTEMBER to MONDAY 9th OCTOBER 2023: CLOSING MONDAY**

- The Arbor school meals ordering will be **CLOSED on Monday 9th October to order all school meals** for the next half term (Monday 30th October to Tuesday 19th December 2023).
- Please access your school meals via the Arbor App or the online Arbor Portal to order your meal choice for your child school meals
  - The menu is available from our website - [click here](#) to view
    - You can choose any meal for any day
    - Payment of £3.00 per meal is to be paid via the Arbor App or Portal
- Any child without an ordered meal **WILL BE REQUIRED** to have a HOME SUPPLIED packed lunch



### **Vision**

A future where every child achieves the greatest level of independence, enabling them to become a valued member of society



MASKS and The Vale Federation are pleased to announce the annual Christmas Fayre is taking place at Booker Park School on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

We would like to extend the opportunity to any and all who would be willing to volunteer to help with this massive charity event.

If you would like to lend a helping hand, you can email [masks@thevalefederation.com](mailto:masks@thevalefederation.com) or let us know through the main reception. Please also see the form links below to volunteer.

There will be further communication regarding support and donations soon.

Volunteer signup <https://forms.office.com/e/XpU8tAkWqg>  
External stallholder signup <https://forms.office.com/e/gdt8ggTLUJ>



### **Santa's gone on Holiday- mind filling in?**

Old Saint Nick has had a bit of a scheduling issue and has booked his long-awaited trip to Hawaii the same week as our Christmas Fayre, so we need someone to "play the part"

We are looking for volunteers to play Santa for The Vale Federation and Masks Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

If you are interested, please email [masks@thevalefederation.com](mailto:masks@thevalefederation.com) (Beard and suit will be provided) or fill out the form via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/GSYySsWUb6>



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*“Once the school term had started, I went along to Booker Park School to meet staff and see some of the excellent facilities it has for its 240 pupils with complex needs. The principal and I discussed the challenges for special schools, and I’ll be discussing the points he raised with ministers at the Department for Education.”*

### **Welcome to our new Family Support Officer at Booker Park, Kerry Nicholson**



Firstly, I would like to say a big hello to you all. My name is Kerry, and I am your new Family Support Officer here at Booker Park.

I have previously worked in the community for Bucks Fire Service, Housing Officer for a social housing provider and have also worked for the NHS in doctors’ surgeries. Some of you may also recognise me from The Healthy Living Centre.

I live just outside Aylesbury with my two children and two cats. When not working I enjoy a mini adventure from exploring new places and hiking, to doing crazy things like abseiling down the County Council building in Aylesbury.

I am here to support your needs no matter how big or small. That can be anything from helping with forms that need completing, signposting to services that can help you and your family, and to also improve the life outcomes and opportunities for school-aged students and their families by providing a range of family support interventions and activities (including holiday activities) in the near future.

Whilst I am currently enjoying spending time getting to know all our pupils here at Booker Park, I would welcome any suggestions where you think the school could help you more. Is that more groups, learning opportunities for families, or even more information on other services in the area. Please feel free to contact me.

### **How can you contact me?**

Please call the main desk who will be able to direct your call to me at Booker Park between 8:30am and 4:00pm Monday to Friday or email me at [knicholson@thevalefederation.com](mailto:knicholson@thevalefederation.com). I will also be regularly at the front door for the morning drop offs and end of day collections so please come and say hi.

I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

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## Masks for MASKS – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

On **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October** we will be holding our annual fundraising day **Masks for MASKS** to raise money for the school charity MASKS. We invite all students to wear a mask in return for a suggested donation of sweets or chocolates which will be used in our tombola at the Christmas Fayre.

The mask can be anything you choose and is open to your interpretation. We fully understand some children wouldn't want to wear a mask so really anything goes! Other ideas include a **special hat, crown, tiara, or earmuffs; alternatively, you could go for face paint, or a henna tattoo on the hand.** You could even mask a different part of the body by wearing **special gloves or socks.**

MASKS is our school charity and all funds raised will be used to benefit the children of the Vale Federation.

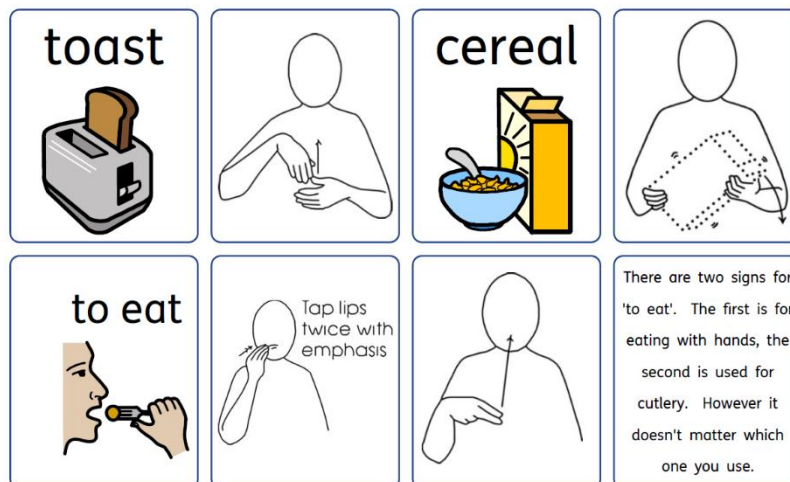
If you work for a company that you think might participate in this event, please do encourage them to do so.

We can provide further information regarding MASKS and collecting tins if this would be helpful.

Please contact [masks@thevalefederation.com](mailto:masks@thevalefederation.com) for further details.

**Please do bear in mind that this is a fun, light-hearted event and therefore we ask that no one wears scary Halloween masks.**

### Signs of the Week:



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**Think Behaviour:**

**EXPECTATIONS- THE CHILDREN**

friends

## Makachat Cafe

**When:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
9:45am – 11.00am

**Where:** Stocklake Park School.

halloween

Come and learn Makaton with Denyse.

Meet some old friends, make some new friends, bring your friends, bring your family! Have a biscuit, chocolate, a cup of tea or coffee. Brush up on your Makaton skills or learn some new signs.

For more information please contact Denyse at: [donaig@thevalefederation.com](mailto:donaig@thevalefederation.com)

All parents and carers from both Booker Park and Stocklake Park school are invited to join Denyse at the Makachat café at Stocklake Park School on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. We meet every half term to learn or brush up on Makaton signs/skills. We also have time for a tea, coffee, juice and more importantly biscuits and cakes. If you would like to attend, please turn up at Stocklake Park school, no need to book in advance.

If there are any signs you would like to learn but are unable to attend the Makacafe, please contact me at [drcraig@thevalefederation.com](mailto:drcraig@thevalefederation.com). I will put the signs in the weekly bulletin.

Thank you,

**Denyse**

**Vision**

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## Affinity Badminton

### 24 Hour Badminton Marathon

8am 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – 7am 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Centre Aylesbury HP19 9HH



Join us for a SEN Children's Party! 4-5pm

Refreshments Available

Entry by donations – CASH ONLY

Booker Park is a large primary special school of 235 pupils for children with a broad diversity of complex needs including Profound and Multiple, Severe and Moderate Learning Difficulties.



### To raise money for Booker Park School



Get Involved!

Contact:  
KRISTEN 07731788435

Organised by  
Affinity  
Badminton



### Local Information: HS2 Railway Works:

Summary of the works taking place on the A41/Blackgrove Road are as follows:

- Due to the utility works in preparation for the A41 realignment, traffic management will be in place on **Blackgrove Road from Monday 16 October to Friday 21 October 9:30am to 3:30pm** and;
- Traffic management will be in place on the **A41 from Monday 16 October to Friday 21 October 8:00pm to 6:00am**

Summary of the works taking place on the A418 Oxford Road are as follows:

- Due to utility and de-vegetation works in preparation for the A418 realignment, traffic management will be in place on the **A418 Oxford Road from Monday 9 October to Tuesday 10 October from 9:00am to 3:00pm**

Summary of the works taking place on the Waddesdon Greenway are as follows:

- Monday 23 to Friday 27 October – Footpath closure. These dates are updated from our previous notification.
- This is so a temporary footpath/cycle path/bridleway crossing can be built which will ensure the public can continue to pass safely across the route of the railway, unimpeded by our works site.
- The diversion will be open for use from Saturday 28 October.



Mental Health  
Support Team  
Buckinghamshire

### MALE CARERS DROP IN

### LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

#### WHAT WE CAN OFFER:

- UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ANXIETY
- LOW MOOD
- SELF-ESTEEM AND RESILANCE
- UNDERSTANDING COMMON CHILDHOOD BEHAVIOURS
- SIGNPOSTING



#### WHAT'S DIFFERENT:

THE GROUP IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR MALE CARERS PROVIDING A SAFE NON-JUDGEMENTAL SPACE TO ACCESS ADVICE AND SUPPORT



Venue: Princes Risborough Family Centre  
Time: 7pm - 8pm  
Date: 11th October 2023  
[www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/bucks/mhst](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/bucks/mhst)  
[buksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:buksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)  
01865 904 566

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Autumn 2023 Theme: Courage	
Date	Event
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' evening
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Makachat Café (Stocklake Park)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Masks for MASKS
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term
Half term 21 <sup>st</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> October Theme: Friendship and Kindness	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fair (MASKS)
4 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> December	TPP meetings and target setting
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production – The Jolly Snowman
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas jumper day
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production – The Jolly Snowman
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

Have a great weekend.

**Bradley Taylor**  
Principal



Booker Park School  
Stoke Leys Close, Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire, HP21 9ET.

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