

# Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term Issue 8

7th March 2025



## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

What a busy and fantastic week we enjoyed, with some long overdue signs of spring weather and exciting achievements!

Our indoor athletics teams shone on Friday, and the early morning practices have obviously paid off! Congratulations to our Year 3/4 team who took home first place, and to our Year 5/6 team who came in a strong second out of the 8 schools involved. We looked speedy and smart in our new athletics vests. Some slick baton changing was seen and all team members contributed and played their part – well done, everyone!. Thank you very much to Mr Andy Wilson for funding our new athletics vests for our school – this is both kind and generous.

On Friday, we also had the privilege of participating in World Day of Prayer at St Augustine's Church. It was a meaningful and moving experience, and it was great to be involved in such an important global event.

World Book Day was filled with fun and creativity, with students celebrating their love of reading in all sorts of imaginative ways. Reading is such a vitally important skill and a love of books and reading is one of the most important aspects our school can instil in your child. Please do support us in reading with your child every evening so that they become fluent and capable readers, ready to explore the world of literature.

A huge congratulations to our four talented chess players, Thomas, Ruben, Emilio, and Henry, who represented the school at last week's county tournament. We are proud of their dedication and teamwork. Whilst the competition was tough and of a high standard, the sporting behaviour shown by our team was exceptional.

And finally, a big round of applause to Mr. Tom Carroll, who was awarded a Borough of Broxbourne Award for his 40 years of outstanding voluntary service last week, which includes his dedication and commitment to our school and community are truly inspiring!

Hopefully, there will be more moments of success and joy this week and across the final four weeks of the spring term as we approach Easter.

Wishing you all successful weeks.

***Dream, Believe and Achieve with God***

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## **CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE: A TRUE COMMUNITY HERO**

It is with great pride and admiration that we celebrate the exceptional dedication and selflessness of one of our most valued community members, Mr Tom Carroll, who was honoured with the prestigious Borough of Broxbourne Award last Thursday for his outstanding service. With 40 years of unwavering commitment to helping others, Mr Carroll has truly made a lasting impact on many lives. The recognition of his contributions with the Borough of Broxbourne Award is a fitting tribute to this remarkable lifelong journey of service.

As Headteacher, it was a privilege to attend the award ceremony and witness this well-deserved recognition of such a dedicated individual. Mr Carroll has gone above and beyond to support our school and the broader community. His tireless contributions include leading the school Chess Club for an incredible 15 years, offering students a chance to develop their strategic thinking, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

In addition to his work with the Chess Club, Mr Carroll has previously served as a valued School Governor, always with the best interests of our children and the school's future at heart. His passion for education and commitment to making a difference has been felt throughout the school and beyond.

Over the years, Mr Carroll has also demonstrated remarkable fundraising skills, raising over £20,000 to help the school develop its premises and meet the 10% obligation towards essential premises works. These funds have been instrumental in improving the school's facilities and creating a better environment for all of our children.

Thank you, Mr Carroll, for your continued support, your incredible work, and your lasting legacy of kindness and service. We are so grateful to have had you as part of our community for all these years. You are a true inspiration, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside you for many more years to come.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!





### **KINGFISHER COUNCIL**

This week we carried out an Easter Penalty Shoot Out. We raised an amazing £151 for HABS Family Support.



Thank you all for your support and generosity.

**Mrs Andrews and the Kingfisher Council Representatives**

### **THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**



**OUR INDOOR ATHLETICS WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP!**



**HOUSE POINT LEADERS**

This week's winners are.....

**Yellow Foxes**



**REMINDER:** The House that wins the House Cup for the greatest number of weeks each term will enjoy a non-uniform day in the final week of term. The children should wear an item of clothing in their house colour!

## **CHESS CHAMPIONS!**

This week four of our boys represented our school at a county wide chess competition at Simon Balle School. The boys played valiantly and empathetically. This was a really high-pressured competition, with so much to remember, including only using one hand and turning your clock off at the end of your move. It was a pleasure to see our young people being so sporting in reminding their opponents that they had not turned off their clock and applauding their opponents with their moves. Our children are old beyond their years.

We won the first round and in the second round we won two and lost two; at this point we were in the top three teams. However, the pressure got to us and in the third and fourth around we suffered more defeats.

The boys were disappointed, however, are already talking about the next competition and what more they can do. The boys were a credit to our school and it was a real pleasure to have gone with them. Thank you to Mr Carroll, who was the official escort and amazing chess teacher and has run the chess club across this year and the 13 years prior to this! The school and Chess Club hugely appreciate your ongoing service and support. Thank you also to Mrs Catlin for additionally accompanying the quintet of one Grand and four Mini-Chess Masters!!!





Friday  
14<sup>th</sup> March



PTA

Disco

£2 Per Child

BUY TICKETS ON THE PTA WEBSITE  
OR PAY ON THE NIGHT.

EY and KS1: 5:00pm to 6:00pm

KS2: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Sweets | Treats | Drinks | Glow Sticks  
Nail Painting | Face Painting | Lucky Dip

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

## 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

## 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

## 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

## 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

## 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

## 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

## 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

## 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

## 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

## 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

### Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.





## SEN COFFEE MORNING

12TH MARCH

PTA Pre-loved Uniform Sale and Coffee Morning (including SEN Coffee Morning)

9:00am Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March straight after drop-off in the school hall.

Please do join us for an informal catch-up, cake and a cuppa!!!

Donations of home baked or shop bought packets of cakes would be very welcome.



### Coffee Morning for SEND parents/carers

Group discussion on  
everyday challenges

Informal help and  
support from local  
organisations

Which services  
can I have access  
to?

Come and join us for a chat!

Want to speak to other  
parents of children  
with SEND?



## BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Elliott—Year 3—Fing

George—Year 5—The Switch



**REMINDER:** Birthday books should be new and age appropriate for the year your child is currently in.

We hope you both had a lovely day! If you wish to donate a birthday book, please send in via your child and we will put in the library for everyone to enjoy. Thank you.