

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It has been a joyful start to the term, filled with achievement, enthusiasm, and thanksgiving. We are delighted to welcome 24 of our 30 EY1 children to school this week, with the remaining children joining us on Monday. We look forward to being at our full complement and sharing the coming year together as one school family.

Summer Reading Challenge Success

We are extremely proud to celebrate a record 81 children completing the Summer Reading Challenge this year. This is a wonderful achievement, showing both commitment and a love of reading that we hope will continue to grow.

House Tournament Underway

Our first House Tournament of the year began this week for Year 3 and Year 4 girls. After two exciting matches, there is still everything to play for. With 3 for a win, 2 for a draw and 1 for playing, the current points stand as follows:

- **Red Squirrels 4**
- **Blue Badgers 3**
- **Green Hedgehogs 4**
- **Yellow Foxes 5**

We look forward to the final matches next Tuesday, before the Year 3 and 4 boys take to the field the following day. Well done to all who have represented their houses to date and to our House Captains and Sports Ambassadors for organising these.

Focus Charity for the Year

Following a whole school vote, we are pleased to announce that our focus charity for this year has been chosen and we will be supporting the British Red Cross. As part of our three-year cycle of local, national, and global charities, the children have once again shown great thoughtfulness in their choice. We look forward to sharing more details and fundraising activities as the year progresses.

Clubs and Enrichment

Our extra-curricular clubs restarted this week with great enthusiasm. Rock Steady, choir, dance, and a variety of sports clubs all began, with excellent attendance from children across the school. In total, 154 children benefitted from these additional activities and opportunities – chapeau Broxbourne!

Thank you to staff and visiting coaches for their time and energy in supporting these opportunities.

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

Autumn Term Issue 2

12th September 2025





District Cross-Country

Looking ahead, the Year 3-6 District Cross-Country competition will take place on the afternoon of Friday 7th November. Training sessions will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at lunchtime from next week, giving children the opportunity to prepare and aim for a place on the school team. There will be a run off nearer the time to determine the team and starting now will give us plenty of training time to really develop our fitness and stamina.

Prayer Together

It was a blessing to gather yesterday at our first Hear Our Prayer parental prayer group of the new school year. Time spent together in prayer is an important part of our school community, and we give thanks for those who joined us for this special time. The group meets on the first Thursday of each half term 9:00-9:20am and we give thanks for those who were able to join us for the first time.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

We look forward to welcoming you to our school at our class meetings next Wednesday. Please note that these are for parents and carers only and the timings were detailed on last week's newsletter.

Headteacher's Reflection

At the beginning of this new academic year, I am struck by how much we already have to celebrate. From the learning and focus in class to the achievements of our readers and athletes, to the creativity and uptake in our clubs, and the warmth of our prayer gatherings, there is much for which we give thanks. Our school is not only a place of learning, but also a place of belonging, faith, and joy. May we continue to walk together in hope, supporting one another as we grow in wisdom, kindness, and love.

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

We wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes Paul Miller



CLUBS THIS TERM

DAY	CLUB	TIME	DAY	CLUB	TIME
Monday	Y1&Y2 Multiskills Club & KS2 Cross Country Training	Lunchtime	Wednesday	Y1-Y6 Warren Club*	Lunchtime
	Y3&Y4 Football Club	3-4.00pm		Y3&Y4 Basketball Club	Lunchtime
	Y5&Y6 Netball Club	3-4.00pm		Y3&Y4 Netball Club	3-4.00pm
Tuesday	Y5&Y6 Basketball Club	Lunchtime		Y5&Y6 Football Club	3-4.00pm
	Y3-Y6 Choir Club	3.10-4.30pm	Thursday	KS2 Cross Country Training	Lunchtime
	Y1&Y2 Multiskills Club	3-4.00pm		KS2 Art Club	3-4.15pm

*by invitation only

REMINDER: PTA AGM FRIDAY 19th 2025 9:10am IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Next Friday, 19th September is our PTA AGM and we hope you can join us after drop off for a swift meeting in our school hall. The meeting starts at 9:10am. All are very welcome. We extend this invitation to all of our new parents to hear about the amazing work our PTA do in support of our school and the difference this makes.

Please collect a nomination form should you wish to be considered for a role.

Please speak to a member of the PTA should you wish to know more about what is involved beforehand.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Your PTA



IMPORTANT NOTICE: CHANGE TO SCHOOL MENU

Please be aware that the menu has been updated for Thursday, 2nd October. If you have already submitted a meal choice for your child on this date, we kindly ask that you log in and select again from the revised options.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding.



DONATIONS FOR OUR ROLE PLAY AREA

We are looking to refresh our role play resources and would be very grateful for any donations of suitable clothes for baby dolls. If you have any outgrown baby clothes or accessories at home, they would be put to very good use in school.

We are also looking for donations of small world objects (e.g pirates / insects) and any alphabet puzzles or number puzzles 1-10 or 1-20 in good condition.

We are also in need of old saucepans, cake tins or cooking utensils to enhance our play kitchen area. If you have any spare items you no longer need, please bring them into the school office.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.





ROAD SAFETY

For health and safety reasons, may we remind **all** parents that it is **not permitted** to drive up to school to drop off or collect children at the start or end of the school day, **for EY1 sessions that finish at lunchtime** or for after school activities, **whatever the weather.**

This is essential for emergency vehicle access to the school at all times.

In exceptional circumstances, e.g. if one of your children is unwell, please contact the office and verbal permission will be granted for a specific day, once details of your registration have been logged. If permission is necessary for a longer period of time, please contact the office with the details and a written permission slip can then be issued by the Headteacher. This must be placed in a visible position in the car on every occasion that the car is brought up to school.

Volunteer helpers are allowed to bring their cars to school on the days that they are helping, providing full identification details of their car are noted on their arrival.

Parents, including volunteers, who have permission to bring their car to school are requested to park in either the school or visitor car park. If the car parks are full, please park on the riverside part of the tow path, opposite the allotments, **NOT** near school gates. **In addition, please keep the entrance to the tow path at the Church end clear at all times for emergency vehicles and general access.**

All children should also be reminded that they must walk within the fenced pathway next to the allotments when arriving at and leaving school. Please ensure those children who walk to school on their own are also aware of this. This is to ensure their safety when cars may be using the road.

Please could all parents dropping off and picking up from **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club** drive carefully and at a safe speed along the tow path, whilst being courteous to other users of the path. Please also park in the visitor spaces and walk



A RECOMMENDATION FROM MRS CATLIN!

MEET THE GRUFFALO
AT THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY 18TH & SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Stories with the Gruffalo and fairy Tara from Tiny Ts Theatre (approx 20mins)

Meet the Gruffalo and fairy Tara - a chance to take some photos!

A free Gruffalo Christmas tree decoration!

Gruffalo drawing and sheet activities in the tearoom

Gruffalo biscuits available in the tearoom, along with our usual tasty menu.

Drawing competition, judged by local children's book illustrator, Laura Trinder.

£8/CHILD
(INC 1 FREE ADULT)
0-12M GO FREE!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO BOOK TICKETS,
PLEASE VISIT:**
themagicofchristmas.net/events



SNACKS

Children in EYFS & KS1 are provided with fruit or vegetables each break time as part of the Government's Fruit & Vegetable Scheme. In KS2, if children wish to have a snack at break time, they need to bring in their own. It is requested that only fruit or vegetables be provided. It can be fresh or dried. We encourage parents to avoid high sugar fruit snacks e.g. Fruit Winders as these are not nutritionally appropriate for school. If your child has a medical need, where they may need something alternative, please speak to the school and provide a supporting letter from your GP. Thank you for your support with this.



SANDWICH LUNCHES

In line with our healthy eating programme, the following guidelines are set out to parents regarding foods to be included/excluded in sandwich lunches.

- ◆ To supplement sandwiches/rolls/savoury lunchtime foods, children are encouraged to include healthy options in their lunchboxes.
- ◆ Cake, biscuits, mini biscuits or biscuit bars e.g. Penguin bars are permitted, but only as part of their packed lunch.
- ◆ Children should not bring actual sweets or bars of chocolate to school.
- ◆ Exceptions will be made for children with particular medical needs by agreement with the Headteacher.



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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>



Family Lives Free Autumn Term Parenting Groups

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group
Friday 26th September to 7 November 9.45am to 11.45am OR

Tuesday 14 October to 25 November 7.00pm to 9.00pm

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our free online group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group
Thursday 2 October to 13 November 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Dads Together (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 5 November to 10 December 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Calling all Dads - join our free online group, come along and receive support from other dads and learn how to change the way you communicate with your child, respond better and feel more in control.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop
Autumn term dates to be confirmed

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop
Autumn term dates to be confirmed

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop
Autumn term dates to be confirmed



SCAN ME!

For more information, please contact Louise on 0204 522 8700/8701, or email services@familylives.org.uk. Please scan our QR code for our referral form.



Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2025



28th Of September
10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now >



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

HOUSE POINT LEADERS

This week's winners are.....

Green Hedgehogs



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!

