

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

A Joyful Harvest Celebration at St Augustine's Church

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." – Psalm 24:1

It was wonderful to gather as a school community in St Augustine's Church today for our Harvest celebration. The church was filled with prayer, worship, and the spirit of thankfulness, reminding us of the importance of care for one another, both near and far.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of families in bringing in such a wonderful array of produce. These donations will support local people in need and contributions to the Bishop of St Albans' chosen focus appeal – Mission Direct – Rewrite Their Futures.

Well done to all the individual readers who took part in the service, and to everyone for the fantastic singing. It was truly uplifting to see the church filled with joy and generosity.

Girls' House Football – A Fantastic Start!

The Year 5 and 6 Girls' House Football competition began this week, with the first two rounds played with great spirit, teamwork, and determination. Every player represented their house with pride.

After the first two rounds, the points are as follows:

	Green Hedgehogs 4
	Blue Badgers 5
	Red Squirrels 5
	Yellow Foxes 2

It is a very close contest, and all is still to play for. Well done to everyone who took part—you should be very proud of yourselves! Matches conclude next Tuesday and the Year 5 and 6 boys start on the Wednesday.

Looking Ahead

This week has reminded us of the strength of our school community. Whether gathered in worship, cheering on the football teams, or supporting those in our local community, it is wonderful to see our values of Compassion, Service and Perseverance in action.

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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We would ask for prayers for those families in our school who are experiencing personal challenges and entering difficult times. We pray that God and his protection is with each of you across this period.

*"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."*
Isaiah 41:10

Wishing you all a pleasant and restful weekend.

Best wishes Paul Miller

HOUSE POINT LEADERS

This week's winners are.....

Blue Badgers



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!



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH.**

**Standing Firm
in Power and Pride**

Celebrating Black History Month: Standing Firm in Power and Pride

This October, our school proudly celebrates Black History Month with this year's theme, *Standing Firm in Power and Pride*. While Black history is threaded throughout our curriculum all year, we believe it's important to highlight a diverse range of inspiring figures during this special month. Each class will participate in meaningful activities and discussions around this year's chosen theme.

A whole-school homework project invites every pupil to design a square featuring an image, word, or symbol that represents someone or something from Black History or culture that inspires them. These squares will be combined to create a vibrant, giant 'quilt' display, symbolising our collective strength and unity as a community.

Spare squares will be available in the foyer for parents, carers, and family members who wish to join in this celebration by contributing their own squares. We look forward to seeing our community come together to honour and learn from the powerful stories and achievements in Black History.

PTA DOUGHNUT SALE

Friday, 10th October after school in the KS2 playground





PTA: We Need Your Help!

We are fortunate to have a fabulous PTA that support the school by raising extra funds that enable the school to provide items and experiences for the children that they would not otherwise be able to access.

We appreciate that most parents work and must juggle a lot with school admin, after school clubs, childcare and life in general (we do too!). It's a lot! But did you know there are lots of ways to contribute to the PTA without giving up hours and hours of your time.

We have set out below a list of ways that you can help without having to commit to meetings or time in school – we hope you find this informative. If you are unsure or need information about the charity registration and would like to discuss with someone please email: pta@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk and someone will get back to you.

Donate - be generous!

We ask for donations throughout the year of things like unwanted gifts, teddy bears, chocolate/sweets and bottles. All these items are used in the fairs to create stalls for the children (and adults!) to play on and as gifts for the gift sales. Without these donations our overheads increase significantly as we then must source the prizes using funds raised. So please when asked to donate please be as generous as you can be as this makes a real difference.

We also ask that any good condition, logoed uniform or school dresses be donated for the preloved uniform sales.

Cover your rota slot

A few times a year we need the wider school community to step up and give an hour of their time to help set up the major events and to [wo]man the stalls for those events outside of working hours. Please do your bit if you can. Remember grandparents, dads and family members can all cover the stall for you if you can't leave the kids. It really is lovely to work on the stalls for these event and get to see the children having a blast. Without helper for stalls, we can't run the events.

Corporate Matching Schemes

Many firms do charity matching where they will match your own fundraising efforts for a charity cause. The PTA is a registered charity (charity no: 1062809) and usually qualifies these schemes. If you work for a firm that does this or have a business contact, you can ask please do!

Community Project Days

Many firms do community days where employees can spend time in the community working on a project, helping a charity. Ask if you can spend that time at the school helping set up an event or running e.g. a gift sale. All our events raise money for a registered charity!



PTA: We Need Your Help!

Sign up to earn as you go schemes

easyfundraising
 The PTA gets a small percentage of some online purchases, you simply chose 'Broxbourne C of E PTA' as your chosen cause. Please scan the QR code to find us and start raising money now.



SCAN ME

STIKINS® BUY NAME LABELS
 Use Code: 36141

If you are buying name labels for your child's uniform, shoes, water bottles, coats etc. please buy from Stikins, and use our code – its gives 30% commission back to the school.

Apply for Grants

There are lots of grants available to schools for fundraising projects. We are always on the lookout for them and apply for them where we can but if you see anything advertising grants or know of any /hear of any that might work for us please do get in touch. Even better if you have some spare time while at your desk apply on our behalf!



PTA Donation Rules Checklist

When donating something to the PIA please think before you donate and use the checklist below to save our volunteers time sifting through items we cannot use:



Teddies/toys/books

- Is it clean?
- Are all the pieces/pages there?
- Is the book appropriate for sale school?
- Would you be happy to receive it in the condition it is in?



Food/drink/toiletries

- Is it in date?
- Is it unopened/unused?
- Would you be happy to receive it in the condition it is in?



Uniform

- Would you buy it?
- Is it stained?
- Does it have holes in?
- Is it off colour?

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 EA SPORTS FC 26



Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>



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BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Alice—Year 4—Unexpected Twist



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.