

# Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

What a fantastic way to end this half term with our exciting Science Week! The school has been alive with curiosity, creativity, and discovery as our children explored the wonders of science through hands-on experiments, workshops, and real-world experiences.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made this week so special. Our visitors and volunteers have inspired our young scientists with their knowledge, enthusiasm, and generosity of time. We love science at Broxbourne, and it was wonderful to celebrate the subject in such a hands-on way.

### Special thanks go to:

- Mrs O'Neill and Miss Petrou from Broxbourne Secondary School for their engaging sessions and demonstrations
- Mr O'Shea, Mr Pedley, Mr Watson and Mrs Greig-Hunt
- Miss Gaskin, who led fascinating workshops from Dino Fossils and Chromatography to Mini Viewers and even the Dissection of Hearts!
- Mrs Laing, our science subject leader, for putting on the week and making it such an exciting and memorable experience once again!

These memorable activities have brought science to life for our children!

### **A Wild Adventure – Hertfordshire Zoo Trip**

On Wednesday, Years 1 to 6 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Hertfordshire Zoo! The children had an enjoyable time seeing animals up close and learning about their habitats.

This year, our focus was on endangered species and the crucial role that zoos play in ensuring their conservation. The visit gave our children a deeper understanding of how humans can help protect threatened animals and highlighted the importance of caring for God's creation in all its diversity.

### **The Science Gadget Shop – A PTA Sell-Out Success!**

A big thank you to our amazing PTA for running the Science Gadget Shop! The children were thrilled with the gadgets and goodies on offer. We are so grateful to our PTA and everyone in our school community who supported this fantastic initiative.

### **Parents' Evenings – Working Together for Success**

It has been wonderful to meet so many members of our school community at this week's Parents' Evenings. We hope you found these

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

Broxbourne CE Primary School, Mill Lane, Broxbourne, EN10 7AY

Tel: 01992 462419  
Fax: 01992 462419

website: [www.broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk](http://www.broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk)  
email: [office@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk](mailto:office@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk)



Autumn Term Issue 8

23rd October 2025





sessions informative and that they gave you a clear picture of how your child is progressing and succeeding in our school. We also hope they provided an opportunity to discuss any areas to focus on moving forward.

### **Congratulations to Our Cross-Country Team!**

A big well done to all our children who have made this year's cross-country team! The event will take place on Friday 7th November at Broxbourne Secondary School, and spectators are very welcome to come and cheer. We hope to do well, and we encourage all team members to keep working hard in their training and preparation. Well done to all who attended our sessions over this half term and made fitness gains accordingly.

### **A Visit from Councillor Patsy Spears – Christmas Card Competition**

We were delighted to welcome Councillor Patsy Spears, the Mayor of Broxbourne, to our school this week. She introduced a Christmas card competition inviting our children to design a Caribbean-themed card for Trinidad and Tobago, where she is from. She spoke to us about the contrasts and commonalities of celebrating Christmas there, giving our children a fascinating insight into different traditions. Each child has been invited to design a card for her, which she will send in her role as Mayor.

As we come to the end of this half term, we give thanks for all who make our school such a caring and joyful community. From staff and volunteers to parents and children—thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. We look forward to welcoming our children back, refreshed and ready for more adventures in learning. We are reminded of the importance of understanding and resolving differences in our community.

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32*

We wish you all a joyful and restful half-term, offering the chance to recuperate and replenish before the excitement of the weeks leading up to Christmas. May this time allow families to connect, children to relax, and everyone to return refreshed and ready to continue learning, growing, and supporting one another.

Best wishes Paul Miller

### **POPPY SALE**

Poppies and other merchandise will be to be on sale from Monday, 3rd November. Items are individually priced..





## HALF TERM HOMEWORK!

This week, we were visited by the Mayor of Broxbourne, Cllr Patsy Spears. A member of the Windrush Generation, she previously worked as a midwife and is the first black, female Mayor of the area. We have been lucky enough to have had the Mayor visit our school on a number of occasions and this time, she wanted something special from us....

Patsy (she told us to call her this because she said her title was very official!) would like a child from a local primary schools to **design her Christmas card** this year.

Your half-term homework is to design a Christmas card for the Mayor. The design should have a **Caribbean Christmas** theme to represent her family and cultural background. To help us understand a little more about this, Patsy spoke to us about how Christmas is celebrated in **Trinidad and Tobago**.

Patsy said that Christmas is so popular in her home that they can **celebrate twice!** In December and in July. Almost every building, including houses and government buildings are **highly decorated with lights**. Sometimes, she says, these can be very 'over the top'.

There is a lot of **music** played. As well as **carols** and **hymns** and **Christmas songs** (even white Christmas although it never snows at Christmas in the Caribbean!) people play **steel pans** and often perform a special type of music called **parang**. People go **carolling** from house to house and then stop to have **tea and cake**.

Patsy said **food** was very important at Christmas time. **Christmas rum cake** is very special and children help their families make this in September. Drinks they have include **ginger beer**, **sorrell** and a grown up drink called **ponch de creme**.

Often, Christmas dinner includes lots of meats- especially **ham**- and **pastelles** ( a meat-filled cornmeal pie). Special Christmas treats for her when she lived in Tobago included **apples and grapes** because they don't grow there so they couldn't have them often.

Patsy said going to **church** is very important to her and she and her family often go at **Midnight on Christmas Eve**. She then often spends Christmas day on the **beach** and said she especially likes being near the **coconut trees**.

Lots of **poinsettia** grow in Tobago and Patsy likes these as her favourite colour is **red**. Her favourite hymn is **Silent Night**. Patsy said that in Trinidad and Tobago, people often **clean** and repaint their entire houses before Christmas so they can have a fresh start.

Your cards must be handed in by **4th November**. A few will be chosen from each class to be sent to the Mayoral office for Patsy to choose from. She will then chose a shortlist and a winner. The winner's card will be used as her official Christmas card this year and the winner and some runners up will be invited to go for tea and cake with the Mayor.

We look forward to seeing your entries. Good luck!



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN YEAR 1

In Year 1, we learnt about Rosa Parks and the bravery she showed on the bus. We watched a video to learn what happened and read the Little People, Big Dreams book about her life. We decided that she is brave, courageous, kind, determined and a hero. We made Hero Hats to display these words. Look how amazing they are!



## CROSS-COUNTRY

On Friday, 7th November several school teams will compete in a district cross-country race at Broxbourne Secondary School. If your child has been selected, please ensure they have their full PE kit and trainers with them on this day. 6 boys and 6 girls will comprise the team for Year 3 and 4 combined and another 6 boys and 6 girls for Year 5 and 6 combined. There is still time to get a Park Run or some fitness training in during half term...!





### **A TASTE OF DIWALI!**

A huge thank you to Mrs Nevatia from all the staff for her very generous selection of delicious food she brought in to help us celebrate Diwali. Everything was beautifully prepared and absolutely delicious! It was such a thoughtful gesture and a wonderful way to share the joy and spirit of this special festival with everyone at school.

Also thank you to Mr and Mrs Panchal for the delicious crackers they provided for Year 1 and Year 4.



### **BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU**

Daisy—EY2—On the Water!



**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.



## **KINGFISHER COUNCIL FUNDRAISING SUCCESS**

This week in assembly, the Kingfisher Council were very proud to present their fundraising cheque to HABS Family Support. Mrs Andrews and the children worked hard throughout the last academic year to raise money for this fantastic local organisation, and it was wonderful to celebrate their efforts together as a school community. Well done to the Kingfisher Council for their commitment, enthusiasm, and teamwork!



## **EY2 (RECEPTION) ADMISSIONS**

If your child reaches five years old between 1st September 2026 and 31st August 2027, you should apply for a place within 2026-2027 admissions. Applications open for EY2 admissions on Monday, 3rd November. Information and Supplementary Information Forms can be collected from the school office, or from clicking the link below to the Admissions page on our school website.

The closing date for applications is Thursday, 15th January.

Thank you.

[Admissions | Broxbourne CE Primary School](#)



## **WINTER READS CHALLENGE RETURNS!**

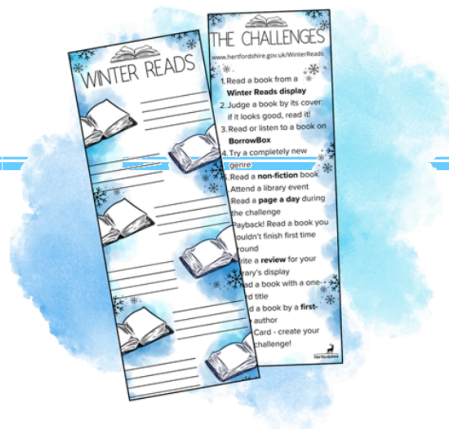
We're delighted to share that the Winter Reads Challenge is returning for 2025–26! Running from Saturday 1st November to Saturday 31st January, this exciting initiative from Hertfordshire Libraries encourages children — and adults — to stay inspired and engaged with reading throughout the winter months.

The aim is simple: complete six fun, book-related challenges by the end of January for a chance to win some fantastic prizes, including an iPad! The challenge is free to join — all you need is a library membership and a quick visit to your local library to pick up a challenge card.

There's something for everyone this year. For those who prefer a gentle start, the challenges can be simple and flexible — you can even use one book to complete two challenges. For the creative readers, there are new non-reading tasks such as drawing your favourite book character or writing a short winter story or poem. And for those who like to set their own goals, the Wild Card Challenge offers the chance to make it truly personal.

Winter Reads is open to all ages, making it a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy reading together during the colder months.

We hope many of our children and families will take part — and we can't wait to hear all about your Winter Reads adventures!



## **CHANGES TO BREAKFAST / AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

Please may we ask that if you need to make any changes to Breakfast or After School Club, you email [bcasc@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk](mailto:bcasc@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk). Verbal messages given over the telephone or via the office are easily forgotten when the office is busy!

Thank you.

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).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like *The Witcher* and *Halo*.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like *Power Rangers* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, to comic book characters including *Batman*. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

### 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.



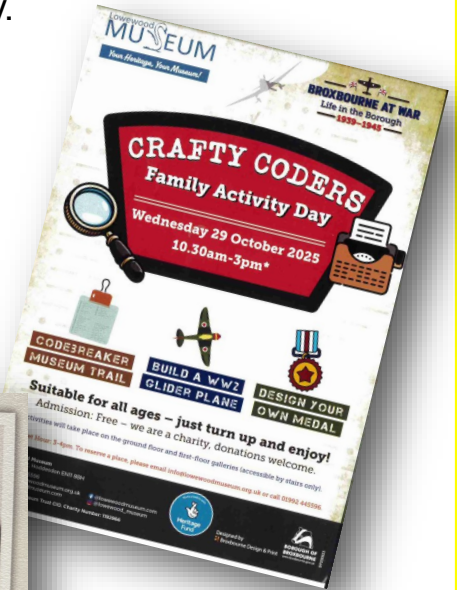
## BROXBOURNE'S WARTIME GARDENERS

A big thank you to one of our parents for sharing information about the WWII exhibition currently on display at Lowewood Museum. The exhibition includes a fascinating section on the borough's 'Digging for Victory' efforts — and even features Broxbourne CE Primary School children growing vegetables in the school grounds during the war!

It's wonderful to see our school's history so proudly represented. If you're visiting the museum for the coding activity day or another event, be sure to take a look at this special part of the display.



Children at Broxbourne School 'Dig for Victory', 1940.



## EDI FORUM

The EDI Form will take place at 9am on 12th November. This forum is a great opportunity for the all members of the school community to contribute to the development of the school, ensuring that everybody feels welcomed, recognised, included and supported. **EVERYONE** is welcome to attend.





BROXBOURNE CE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# AUTUMN DISCO

LIVE DJ, SWEETS,  
NAIL AND TATTOO STALLS,  
DRINKS AND MORE!

Nov  
7th

EY & K1 – 5PM  
KS2 – 6.30PM

TICKETS: £2 EACH

COME AND SHOW US YOUR MOVES!

## YEAR 6

World War 2 Workshop  
Monday, 3rd November

## YEAR 1

Toys of the Past Workshop  
Monday, 3rd November

