

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Autumn Term Issue 9

10th November 2025

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

We hope you all had a restful half-term and are ready for the excitement of the journey towards Christmas at Broxbourne and the excitement this brings! This week brings a number of important events and there is much to be thankful for and to celebrate.

National Anti-Bullying Week

On Wednesday, children will take part in an assembly focused on compassion and care. Everyone within our school community has a duty to ensure that our school remains a place of kindness, respect, and safety for all. If any child witnesses bullying or mistreatment, they should never be a bystander, but instead should report this to a trusted adult.

Remembrance Day

On Tuesday, we will observe a two-minute silence at 11 o'clock to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. This is a poignant opportunity for reflection and gratitude following Remembrance Sunday at the weekend.

Christmas Show Launch

Today we introduced the key songs for our Year 1 to 6 Christmas Show during our singing assembly. There is much to look forward to across the coming weeks as we prepare to celebrate the joy and message of Christmas together.

Cross-Country Success

A huge well done to all of our runners who represented our school at Friday's cross-country event. The course at The Broxbourne School was demanding, but our children faced the challenge with determination, perseverance, and excellent school spirit. Special thanks to Mrs Davidson and Miss Hawthorne for accompanying the team on the day, and to Miss Hawthorne for dedicating her lunch times to train our runners so well. Thank you also to Mr Clift, Headteacher at The Broxbourne School, and Mrs Balsdon, Head of Physical Education at The Broxbourne School, for facilitating this opportunity for our children and the ten schools across our consortia.

Year 5 and 6 House Football Results

Congratulations to all players who represented their houses with pride and enthusiasm in the recent football matches. Every child demonstrated teamwork, skill, and good sportsmanship.



Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

Broxbourne CE Primary School, Mill Lane, Broxbourne, EN10 7AY
Tel: 01992 462419 website: www.broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk
Fax: 01992 462419 email: office@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk



Final Points:



Blue Badgers – 6 points



Yellow Foxes – 5 points



Green Hedgehogs – 8 points



Red Squirrels – 5 points

Well done to everyone involved for showing commitment and effort throughout.

PTA Disco

Our disco last Friday was a wonderful success, raising an incredible £1,089 for our school. A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for organising and running the event with such energy and enthusiasm, and to everyone in our school community who supported it so generously.

A particular thank you goes to Mrs Forrester, Miss Wild, Mrs O'Dowd, and Miss Clifford for their support as staff members, ensuring the event ran smoothly and safely.

As We Look Towards Christmas

We wish everyone a joyful few weeks filled with learning, kindness, and community spirit. As we look forward to celebrating the arrival of Jesus, may we hold these words close to our hearts:

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." – Isaiah 9:6

Wishing you each a pleasant week ahead.

Best wishes Paul Miller

CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS!

Our cross country team did brilliantly on Friday! Every runner put in a fantastic effort and represented the school superbly. The children were impeccably behaved throughout the event and showed wonderful sportsmanship — cheering each other on and celebrating everyone’s achievements.

We were incredibly proud of the team’s attitude, determination and support for one another. Well done to all who took part!

Individual Winners

- Y3 Girls - Poppy - Bronze Medal (3rd)
- Y3 Boys - Charlie - Gold Medal (1st)
- Y4 Girls - Alice - Silver Medal (2nd)
- Y5 Boys - Harrison - Silver Medal (2nd)
- Y6 Girls - Tilly - Bronze Medal (3rd)



Team winners

- Y3/4 Girls - Bronze Medals (3rd)
- Y5/6 Girls - Bronze Medals (3rd)

Overall

Broxbourne CE Primary - 4th Place





YEAR 2

Tower of London Trip

Friday, 14th November

Please meet at St Augustine's Church at 8.10am ready for a prompt 8.15am departure.

Thank you.



SCHOOL FOOTBALL BOOTS

We keep a supply of football boots and shinpads in the office for anyone who has forgotten theirs, or needs a new pair of boots. If your child has borrowed any school boots, please could you ensure they are taken home and cleaned before returning.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN DIRTY BOOTS FOR MEMBERS OF STAFF TO CLEAN





We are trying something new this year!!

CHRISTMAS THEMED BUILD A BEAR






£15

Build the magic this Christmas! You can purchase build a bear kits, make them at the Christmas fair or take away and make at home.

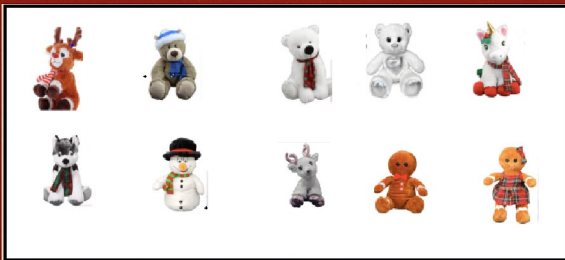
There are 10 designs to choose from, please see attached for what is on offer. These are ideal for Christmas gift ideas and can be ordered on the PTA Hub.

Build the Magic this Christmas!

For just £15, you'll receive a Build-A-Bear Kit including:

-  Bear skin of your choice
-  Soft stuffing
-  Wishing heart
-  Birth certificate
-  Carry bag

Choose your animal on the PTA Hub!



A perfect festive gift for kids and families!



Brown Reindeer



Christmas Teddy



Polar Bear



Angel Bear



Christmas Unicorn



Snowman



Parkly Reindeer



Gingerbread Girl



Gingerbread Girl



Husky





HOUSE FOOTBALL

Our House Football tournaments came to an exciting conclusion this week, with fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship on display from all year groups. Each match was fiercely contested, with players giving their all to earn valuable points for their Houses. Congratulations to all who took part—and especially to Green Hedgehogs for their well-deserved victory!



BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Daisy—EY2—On the Water!

Oisin—EY2—The Lion Inside

Archie—Year 3—Daisy & the Trouble with School Trips

Teddy—Year 3—Daisy & the Trouble with Christmas

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!



PLEASE REMEMBER TO DONATE TO THE PTA FOR OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR!



PTA Donation Rules Checklist

When donating something to the PTA, 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 in 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 POKÉMON TCG POCKET



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.





H·A·B·S
STRENGTH IN MIND
THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Christmas
APPEAL 2025

Could you help us in supporting vulnerable families in our local community?

Every donation you make will put a smile on a child's face this Christmas.

Please donate to our GoFundMe link or purchase an item for a child from our amazon wish list.







WWW.HABSFAMILY.CO.UK

