

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

As we come to the end of a slightly shorter, though no less vibrant and joyful week in school, we are all looking forward to the additional day tomorrow. This extra time offers a welcome opportunity to rest, and to prepare ourselves for the excitement and busyness of the Advent period. Please remember that there will be no school tomorrow!

A particular celebration this week was the Together in Sport Festival, where a group of our Year 4 children enjoyed a wonderful morning of sport and physical activity. They took part with a number of other schools and were able to experience great camaraderie, teamwork, and enjoyment. We express our sincere thanks to the School Games Sports Partnership for providing this opportunity and to Mrs Gallagher for accompanying and supporting the children throughout the morning. I have been told that each of the children represented the school beautifully, showing politeness, gratitude, and a strong sense of responsibility. Well done to all who attended for being great ambassadors for our school.

It was a pleasure to welcome our School Effectiveness Advisor in on Wednesday. Together we explored the school's approach to writing, and it was uplifting to see such high quality interaction once more between our teachers and children. We will continue to focus upon modelling and up-levelling when teaching writing, so that every child receives the best support possible. Great writers are, of course, great readers and we cannot overstate the importance of nightly reading and forging high quality vocabulary and language models from the books your child encounters.

Looking ahead, church rehearsals begin with enthusiasm next week as we prepare for our 'Groovin' Year 1 to 6 Christmas performance. It promises to be a wonderful celebration of the Christmas story, brought to life by the hard work and talent of our children and staff. As always, please continue to check the diary dates available on the school website so that nothing is missed during this especially busy season.

Next Wednesday our Year 5 and 6 children will be singing Christmas songs and carols in Hoddesdon. We are singing between 12:30 and 1:00pm in the town centre. Please do come along and add to the festive cheer of the occasion. We will be raising funds for The British Red Cross, our Kingfisher Council chosen charity this year.

Next Thursday is our Broxbourne Community Collective Worship. EY2

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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to Year 6 children will start the school day at St Augustine's Church at 8:45 for a 9:00am service start. Please do join us for this special occasion at which we will unveil our winning pilgrim passport stamp, following the school competition over the summer. Please note: EY1 children will remain your responsibility throughout the service if they are attending the service and you will be able to drop your child off at school having walked them back afterwards if you wish to attend. Breakfast Club children will be escorted to church by our staff. Or to Early Years if they are in EY1.

Next Friday is our Christmas Fair (5:00-8:00pm). Thank you to our PTA and everyone who is involved beforehand, during and afterwards and to all who donated bottles today as part of our non-uniform day; your generosity helps to make the fair successful and enjoyable occasion for all. Please do fully support us by bringing your wider family along to enjoy the event and make this a huge success. Thank you.

As we step into Advent, we are reminded of the joy, hope, and wonder promised through the coming of Jesus:

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

This reminds us of the light and promise that Advent brings. It also connects beautifully with our school's current focus value of equity. Just as the birth of Jesus is a gift offered to all without condition, we strive to ensure that every child in our school community is given the opportunity to grow, to thrive, and to experience the fullness of learning and life.

May I wish you all a very happy and restful weekend. We look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for the beginning of Advent after this time.

Best wishes Paul Miller

OCCASIONAL DAY—REMINDER

School will be closed **tomorrow** (Friday, 28th November) for our occasional day.

TOGETHER IN SPORT FESTIVAL

Eight Year 4s were chosen to attend this fun event. The children were teamed up with other schools to compete against each other. The games included balloon volleyball, find the beanbag, farmer and chicken, team races and the friendship game. Our favourites were balloon volleyball and farmer and chicken. We all made new friends! We had a fantastic morning and all earned a certificate.





SEN & PTA PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY & COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 3rd December at 9.00am

Get into the festive spirit while supporting our school community! On Wednesday, 3rd December after morning drop off, the SEN Team and the PTA will be hosting a **Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Day** in readiness for our Christmas Jumper Day on Monday, 15th December. This will be alongside a Coffee Morning. Parents and carers are warmly welcomed to join us in the hall from **9.00am** for a hot drink, a chat, and the chance to browse a lovely selection of pre-loved festive jumpers available for a small donation.

We hope to see you there for a cheerful start to the festive season!



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?



COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our next collective worship (EY2-Year 6) is Thursday, 4th December—please take your child to St Augustine's Church at 8.45am, ready for a prompt 9am start.

Thank you.





BROXBOURNE GIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

This year we would like our children to spread kindness and share in the joy of giving across the approaching period of advent to support those in need in our local area through a local charity called 'Hearts Helping Herts'. This charity helps families in Hertfordshire that are struggling for various reasons. They provide festive hampers to bring some cheer at this time of year.

We would love for the support of all in our school community and would please ask that the following items are donated between Monday, 1st December and Monday, 15th December:

Christmas Chocolate Tubs (500g-550g) e.g Celebrations, Heroes, Quality Street, Roses, etc.

🥧 Mince Pies—please ensure the best before date is after Christmas Day! 🥧

All items donated will be distributed to help those in Hertfordshire across the festive period. Thank you very much for your support with this initiative and for the difference this will make.





YEAR 5 & 6

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Wednesday, 3rd December at 12.30pm at Hoddesdon Clock Tower. Come along and show your support!



CHRISTINGLE & CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICES AT ST AUGUSTINE'S

We are delighted to share details of two lovely upcoming services at St Augustine's Church. The Christingle Family Service will take place on Sunday 7th December at 11am, and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Later in the month, the Family Christmas Crib Service will be held on Sunday 21st December at 11am. Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite character from the Nativity story, and adults are welcome to join the fun by adding a festive touch—perhaps a strand of tinsel!

All families are very welcome at both events.

St Augustine's, Broxbourne

Christingle Service

**Sunday 7th December
11am**



**The Christingle orange & candle
represents
'Jesus – the Light of the World'**

***All welcome at this service
for all ages!***



SEN PARENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For our new families — and as a friendly reminder to everyone in our school community — we're delighted to highlight some fantastic training opportunities offered by two charities: **SPACE Hertfordshire** and **ADD-vance**. Both run high-quality workshops led by professionals who work with children and young people with SEN every day. Their insight, experience, and practical strategies can be invaluable for parents and carers.

Each charity's website also provides a wealth of additional resources and services beyond training. For example:

- On the SPACE Hertfordshire website you might find peer-support groups or family-support services — great for connecting with other local parents.
- On the ADD-vance site you could explore forums, expert advice, and resources around emotional and behavioural support as your child grows.

If you'd like to deepen your understanding, build confidence, and access expert guidance — or connect with other families in our community — we encourage you to check out their websites for upcoming sessions and wider support.

<https://spaceherts.org.uk/training/>
<https://www.add-vance.org/parents/courses/>



HOUSE POINT LEADERS

Last week's winners were.....

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!



CHRISTMAS PARCELS FOR THE ELDERLY

PLEASE BRING INTO SCHOOL BY MONDAY, 1st DECEMBER

We are supporting the 'Hoddesdon Christmas Parcels Scheme' again this year. The scheme provides food parcels and small gifts to be given to single pensioners deemed in need and living alone during December in readiness for Christmas. We have been asked to donate small boxes of tea or tea bags (125 grams is best). Thank you .



STREET CRICKET PROJECT

Free Street Cricket sessions for young people aged 8–15 are now running every Thursday from 5–6pm at the Laura Trott Leisure Centre.

The programme has already begun and has been designed to be fully inclusive, welcoming children of all abilities. All equipment is provided, and the format offers a fast, fun, and accessible version of cricket that encourages participation and confidence.

Thursdays **FREE**
Ages: 8-15

**Cheshunt and Waltham Cross
Street Cricket Project**

5-6pm
Indoors at Laura Trott Leisure Centre

Suitable for all children and abilities.
All equipment is provided and can be played
easily to include everyone. The sessions give a
new fast, fun-feel to cricket for all involved!

To find out more or to book - email
community@broxbourne.gov.uk

Laura Trott Leisure Centre,
Windmill Lane, Cheshunt EN8 9AJ

active BOROUGH OF BROXBORNE

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

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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SANTA'S
SKATE
Shindig

DECEMBER 19TH
Herts and Essex Sports Centre: 5:30 PM – 6:45 PM

DECEMBER 20TH
Passmores Academy: 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM
Roding Valley High School: 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM

DECEMBER 21ST
Goffs Oak Academy: 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Tickets online - www.wheelierollerdisco.co.uk

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS ENCOURAGED! | PRIZE FOR BEST JUMPER!

Smiths
schoolwear

Black Friday

BLACK FRIDAY | BLACK FRIDAY | BLACK FRIDAY | BLACK FRIDAY | BLACK FRIDAY

28TH NOVEMBER
ONLINE & INSTORE

USE CODE: BLACKFRIDAY

20% OFF

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