

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Autumn Term Issue 14

19th December 2025



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our school community a peaceful, hopeful and joyful Christmas. We look forward very much to welcoming everybody back in the New Year.

It has been an amazing final week, full of celebration and togetherness, and a fitting way to close another successful term.

Santa Dash Success

We started the week with our usual festive fandango - our annual Santa Dash, which once again brought smiles, laughter and a sense of camaraderie.

Please enjoy the photo montage below, which captures the energy and excitement of the event.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Our school is incredibly fortunate to be supported by a great number of volunteers, and this week we were delighted to be able to say thank you to them during our Volunteer Helpers' Assembly.

We enjoyed singing some of the wonderful songs from our recent Christmas performances, which was a lovely way to celebrate together with those volunteers who were able to attend.

Thank you to each and every one of you for the time, care and commitment you give to our school. The gifts you bring make a real and lasting difference to our children.

Cup Winners

On Thursday, we proudly presented our school cups to this year's recipients. These awards are always closely contested, which makes receiving one all the more special.

Well done to all of our cup winners — you should be extremely proud of your achievements

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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Christmas Service

We ended the term joyfully with our end-of-term Christmas service this morning. It was a timely moment of reflection and celebration, and a reminder of just how blessed we are to have such a strong and caring school community.

A Christmas Reflection

At this special time of year, we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, who brings hope to all:

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." John 1:9

As we enter the Christmas period, may we be thankful for all that we have:

- Our wonderful children, who are at the heart of everything we do
- Our supportive families, whose encouragement and partnership mean so much
 - Our dedicated teachers and staff, for their care, commitment and hard work
 - Our governors and PTA, for their guidance, generosity and continued support
- Our clergy, Reverend David and Reverend Quant, whose worship, guidance and pastoral care enrich our school life
 - And all who help our school in so many different ways

Thank you to each of you for the part you play in making our school the special place that it is.

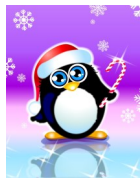
I wish you all a joyful Christmas, and I very much look forward to seeing you again in the New Year. May God be with all of your families across this special and holy period.

With warmest Christmas blessings,

Paul Miller



SANTA DASHERS RARING TO GO!





SANTA DASH RESULTS 2025!!!

Well done to everyone who took part — the enthusiasm and determination shown by all of our children was fantastic. When all the scores were added together, this year's Santa Dash house results from the 32 scoring runners from Years 1 to 6 were:

1st Place:

636 Red Squirrels



2nd Place:

692 Blue Badgers



3rd Place:

697 Yellow Foxes



4th Place:

913 Green Hedgehogs



Congratulations to all four houses for taking part and supporting one another so positively and well done to Red Squirrels for being the speediest dashers for this year!

HOUSE POINT LEADERS

This week's winners are.....

Red Squirrels



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!



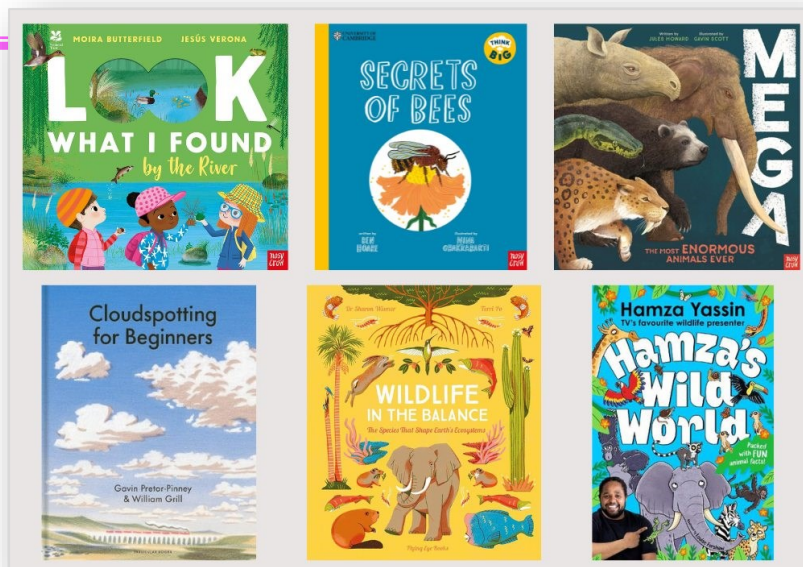


THANK YOU EDWARD!

We are delighted to share that our school has been gifted a wonderful collection of books shortlisted for the **Children's Wainwright Prize for Non-Fiction** from Edward in Year 2.

Edward, who was the lucky recipient of these books, generously chose to donate them to the whole school so that everyone can enjoy them. The Children's Wainwright Prize is awarded in honour of Arthur Wainwright and celebrates writing that reflects his values, with a strong focus on nature, the environment and respect for our planet.

The books highlight the beauty of the natural world while also helping young readers understand the environmental challenges the Earth faces. We are very grateful for this thoughtful donation and are pleased that these inspiring books will find a happy home in our school library for all children to enjoy.



BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Daisy—Year 4—Little People, Big Dreams—Chris Hoy

We hope you 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.





**FOR THE ATTENTION OF PARENTS OF
CURRENT NURSERY AGE CHILDREN**

EY2 ADMISSIONS

If your child is born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, please remember that the Reception applications closing date for September 2026 admissions is **Thursday, 15th January 2026**. Please ensure you have returned your Supplementary Information Form to the school office and completed your Hertfordshire Application Form.

EY1 ADMISSIONS

If any children have siblings born between 01/09/22 and 31/08/23 and will be applying for a Nursery place in September 2026, please ensure that you have requested an application form (or downloaded from our website).

Forms will be sent out in January and the deadline for applying is 12th February.

A FESTIVE THANK YOU TO OUR KITCHEN TEAM

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Berry, Mrs Holt and the entire kitchen team for providing such a delicious Christmas dinner yesterday. The meal was thoroughly enjoyed by both the children and staff, and it was a wonderful highlight of the festive season. We are very grateful for all the hard work, care and festive cheer that went into making the day so special.



YEAR 4 ANGLO-SAXON DAY!

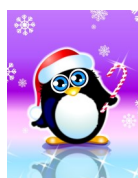
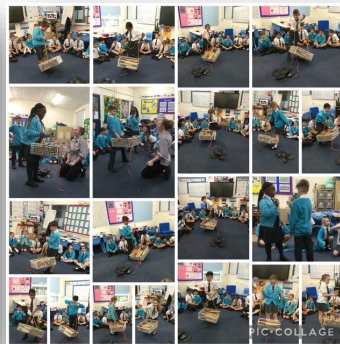
To conclude their Anglo-Saxon history topic, the children enjoyed an immersive ‘**Day in the Life of an Anglo-Saxon**’, expertly organised by Miss Hawthorne. The day gave children the chance to experience first-hand many aspects of Anglo-Saxon life while putting their knowledge to the test — and they impressed us all with how much they remembered.

The morning began with writing using the Anglo-Saxon alphabet, accompanied by traditional music, before gathering around a ‘campfire’ to read *You Wouldn’t Want to Be an Anglo-Saxon Peasant*. The children learned about daily jobs and acted out scenes, quickly deciding that life as a wealthy Anglo-Saxon was far more appealing than that of a peasant!

Food and clothing were next on the agenda. Year 4 compared the diets of rich and poor by making different types of bread, designed Anglo-Saxon outfits using linen and rope, and even held a catwalk to showcase their creations. Rope-making followed, using traditional braiding techniques, with impressive results.

In the afternoon, the children took part in Anglo-Saxon warrior training, testing their strength, endurance and tactical thinking. They planned battle strategies, lifted shield-weight equipment and practised holding battle poses. The experience concluded with archery training, where many children successfully hit the target using traditional commands.

It was a fun, challenging and memorable way to end the topic — the children truly were **amazing Anglo-Saxons!**





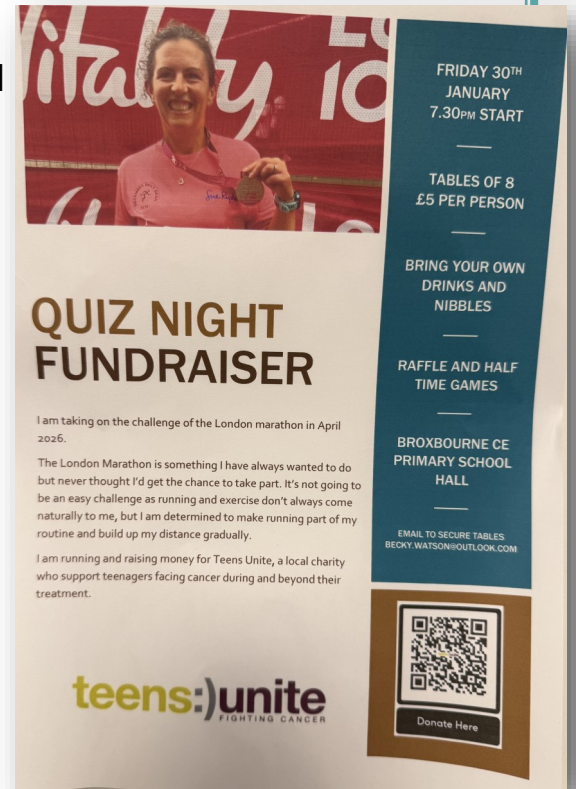
QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR TEENS UNITE

We are delighted to share that Year 1 TA, Mrs Watson will be taking on the incredible challenge of running the London Marathon next year in support of **Teens Unite**, a local charity dedicated to supporting teenagers and young people facing cancer.

Teens Unite provides vital support, activities and a safe community for young people during and after treatment, helping them to feel understood, connected and empowered at a very difficult time in their lives. Mrs Watson has chosen to run in aid of this inspiring charity to help raise both awareness and much-needed funds for their work.

As part of her fundraising efforts, Mrs Watson will be hosting a **Quiz Night here at school on Friday, 30th January**, with all proceeds going towards this worthy cause. We hope many of you will be able to join her and show your support.

We are incredibly proud of Mrs Watson for her commitment, determination and generosity, and we wish her the very best of luck with her training and on marathon day itself.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

On behalf of everyone at school, we wish all our families a very enjoyable Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday, 5th January 2026**.





LEWIS COCKING MP VISIT

Last week, we were very excited to welcome MP Lewis Cocking to our school to meet with the Kingfisher Council. He answered our questions and helped us learn more about his job. We would like to thank Mr Cocking for visiting us and we hope he can come back again soon.

We asked him what were the good parts and the bad parts of his job?

Firstly the bad parts, he said are the working hours, for example, on Mondays his working hours are from 8:00am – 10:00pm and a debate takes approximately 4 hours if not more!

Also if you can see someone in a debate that looks like they are sleeping they are actually listening because there are speakers on the back of their chairs!

The good part of his job, is that you get to ask loads of questions to the Prime Minister. Guess what ... rather than raising your hand, they get to stand up and you will wait to see if you get called to speak or not!

What is it like in the Houses of Parliament?

Mr Cocking said that the Houses of Parliament looks like Hogwarts from Harry Potter because it is very magical. In the Houses of Parliament the noises are very loud because everybody is cheering yes for yes or boo or rubbish for no.

Did you know... you are NOT allowed to clap in the Houses of Parliament! You could get kicked out for being too passionate or for being too loud and if you get caught they won't pick you to ask a question!

We asked how many chambers are there?

One of the chambers is a big hall, but there are two chambers beside which are either yes (I's) or no and when a bill is being voted for, a bell is rung and you only have eight minutes to get to the chamber in order for your vote to count.

We really enjoyed meeting Mr Cocking and hope he comes back to join us soon!

Write-up by Freddie and Eleanor



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 AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



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