

# Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term Issue 3

23rd January 2026



## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

With only three weeks until the halfway point of the academic year, it has been another busy and successful week at Broxbourne!

### **Broxbourne Goes to Church**

Please do not forget Sunday 1st February at St. Augustine's Church for our 11 o'clock family-friendly service. We believe a baptism will also be taking place. I will provide a brief update on our school, and our choir will perform two songs that Mr Turner has been working on with them — a wonderful way to celebrate our school and church community.

### **Sports and Physical Activity**

Congratulations to Year 3 and 4 pupils who attended a badminton taster session at John Warner School. Our children were excellent ambassadors, and many thanks to our local School Games partners, David Greene and Mia Berry, for providing this opportunity.

Archery continued this week for Year 3, with current scores: **Blues 22**, **Greens 2**, **Yellows 5**, and **Reds 3**. Sessions will continue next Monday at breaktime.

At Thursday's staff meeting, we explored inclusivity in PE. Inspired by insights from Mr David Clarke, OBE, CEO of the British Paralympic Association following the Hertfordshire PE Conference, we are committed to ensuring all children, regardless of ability, experience first-rate opportunities in physical activity and PE.

### **Visits and Enrichment**

Year 6 had a fantastic trip to the Houses of Parliament, representing our school admirably on the train and tube. Thank you to Miss Clifford, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Nevatia and Mr Watson for facilitating this memorable visit. Next week, some Year 6 children will represent our school for Holocaust Memorial Day at Lowewood Museum.

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

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## Community and Creativity

Congratulations to Raffi, Raffy, and Oliver for leading this week's origami workshops. We are grateful to all who supported them, and to the three of you for raising funds for The British Red Cross — I am sure your fingers are well and truly tired from all that folding!

### Looking Ahead

Next week brings the PTA Yes Day, a fun way to end the week — see details further down.

We hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing weekend.

*"Let all that you do be done in love."* – 1 Corinthians 16:14

Best wishes Paul Miller

## PUNCTUALITY

The school day begins for KS1 (Years 1 & 2) and KS2 (Years 3—6) **promptly at 8.50am (doors open at 8.45am)**. Please try to arrive in good time, allowing for delays due to traffic, roadworks etc.

Children in KS2 are required to line up in their respective classes prior to the doors being opened.

EY1—The doors open at 9.00am and close at 9.05am

EY2—The doors open at 8.50am and close at 8.55am

Parents are reminded that if your child arrives late, it is VERY IMPORTANT they are signed in by an adult in the main school office. If they are not signed in, they will not be on the fire register (for evacuation purposes). Additionally, they will not be signed in for a school lunch (if applicable). We thank you for your continued support.



## YEAR 6 VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Yesterday, Year 6 went to the Houses of Parliament. We had a great time getting to see round the building. We were lucky to watch a debate in the House of Lords and a discussion in the House of Commons where MPs could suggest topics for debate next week.

One of the groups got to see the Speaker of the Lords procession with the golden mace. The speaker was wearing a huge red cape.

We also especially liked looking at all the architecture; the ceilings were amazing with lots of gold. Queen Victoria's initials were on the ceiling too.

We couldn't believe how old the main hall was!

Our workshop was lots of games about what we learnt during our tour.

Our adults were really proud of how sensible we were- especially on the journey.

We had a lovely time and would recommend people to go and visit.

**Emmy, Evie-Hope and Eden**





## **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK** **(9TH-15TH FEBRUARY)**

The theme this year is "This is My Place" - talking about how we can make everyone feel like they belong.

We have lots of lovely things planned for the children to boost their mental well being and likewise, allow them to appreciate that everyone deserves to feel like they have a place where they are accepted, cared for and loved.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – ‘**Come as Yourself**’ own clothes day – We are kindly asking for a £1 donation and encourage everyone to wear what makes them feel comfortable, confident and like they truly belong – cosy clothes, cultural clothes, favourite colours or something unique!?



## **BROXBOURNE GOES TO CHURCH**

We invite all families to worship with us on Sunday 1st February at 11.00am at St Augustine's Church.



## **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!



## **PTA YES DAY!**

A day when Mr Miller and the teachers say 'YES'!!

You can choose to break these rules on **Friday 30th January!**

50p per rule you choose to break, you can go the whole hog and break them all or just one! £5 means you can break all 10 rules!

Bring your exact money on the day in a named envelope.

### **Rules that can be broken are:**

1. Nail varnish
2. Trainers for the day
3. Colourful socks
4. Colourful hair accessories
5. Bring in a small soft toy to help you with your learning
6. Squash in your water bottle
7. Wear a cap indoors (backwards if you want!!)
8. Have tattoos/transfers (body only!!)
9. Wear your tie around your head
10. Individual bag of crisps for break time snack.

Many thanks

**Your PTA**



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](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

### A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

### MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

### COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website



### **CYCLE TRAINING**

Does your child want to learn to ride a bike? Ready to boost their cycling skills? Missed out on Bikeability training?

If you answered yes to any of these, we've got you covered this February half term!

Cycle training sessions are running across Hertfordshire, with options for all ages and abilities. Check out what's happening near you:

#### **Watford Cycle Hub**

King George V Playing Fields, Tolpits Lane  
More details: [www.watfordcyclehub.org.uk](http://www.watfordcyclehub.org.uk)



#### **Stevenage Cycling Hub**

Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage  
Find out more: [www.stevenagecyclinghub.co.uk](http://www.stevenagecyclinghub.co.uk)

#### **St Albans Cycle Hub C.I.C**

Cottonmill Estate, St Albans  
Course info: [www.stalbanscyclehub.co.uk](http://www.stalbanscyclehub.co.uk)

#### **SEND Cycling Courses**

Various locations across Hertfordshire during most school holidays  
In partnership with the Herts Disability Sports Foundation, we offer specialist 1 to 1 cycle training for riders with additional needs.

Find out more: [www.hdsf.co.uk/find-an-activity/cyclingactivities/](http://www.hdsf.co.uk/find-an-activity/cyclingactivities/)

### **BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU**

Leo—Year 4—The Spy Who Loved School Dinners

Omar—EY1—All about African Wildlife



**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!