

# Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term Issue 7

27th February 2026



## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Welcome back to the second half of the academic year! We hope you had a wonderful half-term break and have enjoyed this week's better weather. With spring just around the corner, we look forward to brighter days and an exciting, busy term ahead for our whole school community.

### **Celebrating Success**

Congratulations to our Year 5 mathematicians — Aerin, Eleanor, Charlie and Olivia — who represented the school so well at Thursday evening's Year 5 Maths Challenge. We hear the questions were tough and the competition fierce, so we are proud of their effort and determination. We look forward to hearing the results in the coming weeks.

A big thank-you also to Mrs Wood for supporting the team at the event.

### **Indoor Athletics Training**

Our Year 3 & 4 combined team and our Year 5 & 6 indoor athletics team have been training keenly this week in preparation for next Friday's competition. Thank you to Barbara Mitchell and Miss Hawthorne for giving their time to support the children. We wish all our athletes the very best of luck!

### **Hear Our Prayer Group**

It was a joy more spend time in prayer with our Hear Our Prayer group on Thursday. These gatherings are always warm, supportive, and spiritually nourishing. If you have not attended before, we warmly encourage you to join us — the group meets on the first Thursday of each half term.

### **World Book Day Next Week**

We are very excited that next Thursday is World Book Day! We can't wait to see the wonderful book-character costumes from both children and staff, and to celebrate the joy and importance of reading through special activities across the day.

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

Tel: 01992 462419 website: [www.broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk](http://www.broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk)  
Fax: 01992 462419 email: [office@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk](mailto:office@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk)



## Headteachers' Conference

From Wednesday onwards next week, I will be attending the Diocesan Headteachers' Conference in Canterbury. I look forward to collaborating with fellow leaders from Church of England primary schools and the St Albans Diocesan Board of Education.

### A Thought for the Season Ahead

As we move toward spring, we are reminded of God's promise of renewal and hope:

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"*  
Isaiah 43:19

May this message of new beginnings fill our community with joy and encouragement in the weeks ahead.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend. We look forward to seeing everyone continuing to flourish and grow in themselves next week.

Best wishes

Paul Miller





## REMINDER

### WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH

This year, as part of our celebrations around World Book Day, we will be dressing up on Thursday 5th March.

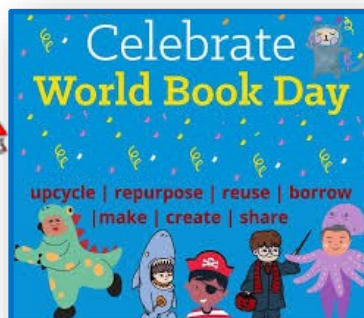
This is at request of many of our children and families who would like the opportunity to be creative and celebrate their favourite book characters in this way.

This year, children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book. As part of this, children may choose to wear a football kit as an option, or they can dress as any character from a book of their choice.

Please note that costumes should be based on a fictional character from a book. Children should not dress as a real-life footballer from an autobiography (for example, Harry Kane).

Please remember: costumes can be home-made; created from what you already have or borrowed from friends or relatives.

We are excited to see the children's costumes next week!



## MEETING REQUESTS

If you feel you need to speak with your child's teacher and the matter cannot wait until the next Parents' Evening, please email [office@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk](mailto:office@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk) briefly outlining the reason you are requesting a telephone call or meeting. A member of staff will then arrange a suitable time to speak with you.

We kindly ask that you do not pass verbal messages to staff at the classroom door, as this is a busy time when teachers are supervising children and ensuring a safe start and end to the day.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



## TEENS UNITE T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION WINNER!

### DAVID IN YEAR 3

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news! One of our children recently entered The Teens Unite t-shirt design competition — and we are delighted to announce that they submitted the winning design! Well done David!

We are incredibly proud of his creativity and effort in taking part in this competition. What a wonderful achievement!

Teens Unite is a charity dedicated to improving the lives of teenagers and young adults living with, and beyond, cancer. We are so pleased to see our children supporting such an important cause.

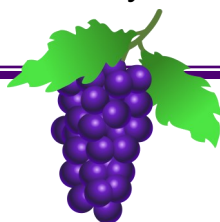
A huge well done to our talented winner, and thank you to everyone who continues to support this fantastic initiative.



## GRAPES IN SCHOOL

If your child brings grapes into school as a snack, or as part of their lunch, please ensure these are **cut in half**. This is for the safety of all children.

Thank you.



## HOUSE POINT LEADERS

This week's joint winners are.....

*Green Hedgehogs* 

*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!

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 ADULT ANIMATED CONTENT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bright, bold, and widely shared, adult animated content is more popular than ever, but not always what it seems. These videos, which may appear cartoonish and harmless, often contain strong language, explicit themes, graphic violence, or dark humour. Many are accessible through platforms like YouTube, TikTok or streaming services, where filters may not catch them in time.

### MISLEADING VISUAL STYLE

Many adult animations mimic the colourful, exaggerated look of children's cartoons. This can easily mislead not just children, but also adults, into thinking they're suitable for younger viewers. Without watching the content fully, parents or educators might approve a show or video that contains explicit jokes, graphic imagery, or highly inappropriate language, all disguised beneath a playful and fun visual style.

### EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL THEMES

A number of adult animated shows and online videos explore mature or disturbing themes, such as addiction, trauma, abuse, self-harm, or violence, and often do so in a stylised or humorous way. Younger viewers may not have the emotional maturity to process this content, leading to confusion, distress, or the normalisation of very serious issues that should be discussed in a supportive context.

### RISK OF DISTRESS AND FEAR

Some adult animations, especially horror-based content or 'creepypasta' style stories, include disturbing imagery, unsettling music, and sudden scares. These videos sometimes feature distorted versions of well-known children's characters, such as Sonic the Hedgehog or Peppa Pig, in frightening or violent scenarios. Children can be negatively affected if they come across this unexpectedly, leading to sleep disturbances, anxiety, or long-lasting fears, especially if children have existing worries or sensitive personalities.

### INFLUENCE OF EDGY HUMOUR

Dark, edgy humour is common in adult animation and often includes jokes about topics like sexism, racism, mental illness, or abuse. When children hear these jokes, they may repeat them without fully understanding their meaning. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour in school or online spaces, and in some cases, it can reinforce harmful stereotypes or desensitise children to real-world injustice and discrimination.

### ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Video platforms are designed to keep users watching by suggesting similar content. If a child watches one mature animation, they may quickly be shown more, including even darker or more extreme videos. These recommendations are based on viewing patterns, not age-appropriateness. Without strict settings in place, this can lead to a rapid spiral into unsuitable, upsetting, or even harmful content online.

### DESENSITISATION TO VIOLENCE

Stylised violence in animation is often exaggerated and constant. Repeated exposure to it can reduce a child's emotional response to harm, making aggression or cruelty appear entertaining or acceptable. Over time, children may become less empathetic or more tolerant of harmful behaviours in real life, especially if they see others online reacting with humour, memes, or praise for violent characters or scenes.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN WHAT CHILDREN ARE WATCHING

Take time to ask children what they're watching and who their favourite creators are. Sit down and watch a few videos to get a full understanding. This helps you spot inappropriate content early and shows children that you're interested and engaged in their online world, not just policing it.

### USE PLATFORM SETTINGS WISELY

Make use of built-in safety tools like content filters, restricted mode, and age settings on platforms such as YouTube, Netflix or TikTok. Turn off auto-play where possible and regularly review what children are being recommended. Although these settings aren't foolproof, they add an important layer of protection and help reduce the risk of children encountering disturbing or adult content accidentally.

### TALK ABOUT WHAT'S APPROPRIATE

Keep communication open and non-judgemental. Talk about why certain themes or jokes are not appropriate for children, even if they appear in animated form. Help children understand that just because something is popular or shared widely, it does not mean it's suitable or safe. If they've seen something upsetting, respond calmly, offer reassurance, and explain things in an age-appropriate way.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Help children think carefully about what they watch. Talk about the difference between fictional exaggeration and reality, while helping them question why certain content is made. Is it informative, entertaining, or meant to shock? This builds digital resilience and encourages them to make safer choices in future, rather than simply following viral trends or peer pressure to watch mature content.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. We offer memberships and packages to help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website



**CHANGE OF MENU**

**WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH**

**PACKED LUNCH DAY AS A WORKSHOP IS TAKING PLACE IN THE HALL**



Ham Roll



Tuna Roll



Cheese Roll (v)

**YEAR 5 SMART TOY WORKSHOP**

**Wednesday, 4th March**



**BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU**

Scarlett—EY1—The Lion Inside

Alice—Year 1—The Town Mouse & The Country Mouse

Poppy—Year 3—The Twits



**REMINDER:** Birthday books should be new and age appropriate for the year your child is currently in.

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.