

# Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term Issue 8

6th March 2026



## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It has been a real joy to return to school this week after attending the St Albans Diocesan Headteachers' Retreat at Canterbury Cathedral last Thursday and Friday.

Spending time within the cathedral itself was particularly powerful and very special indeed. It was awe-inspiring and a wonderful reminder of just what a privilege it is to lead within a church school community, where faith helps to shape character, nurture goodness, and recognise the potential within both young people and the adults who work alongside them. It was a precious opportunity to pause, reflect and remember why we should always strive to be the very best versions of ourselves for the children in our care.

While I was away, I understand that the school was wonderfully vibrant on Thursday as everyone celebrated World Book Day. The photographs below are testament to the excitement and enjoyment I am told filled the school. It was fantastic to see so many creative book characters brought to life. A special well done must also go to everyone for the imaginative book characters made from toilet rolls!!! These look amazing and will form a lively display in the fullness of time. I hope that everyone had a fantastic day celebrating the joy of reading.

I would also like to offer huge congratulations to Fabi, Raffy, Charlie and Aerin in Year 5 for having their book reviews published. They were presented with framed printouts of their reviews from the newspaper First News, thoughtfully prepared by Mrs Laing. Thank you, Mrs Laing, for being such a kind and caring teacher and for giving the children these framed copies which I am sure they will treasure.

We were also delighted to welcome Mayor Spears to our assembly today. She joined us to present these awards and also shared some of her Christmas photographs from Trinidad and Tobago, following the Christmas card competition that took place some months ago. The children greatly enjoyed hearing about her experiences.

Our Year 3 and 4 and Year 5 and 6 athletics teams also represented the school brilliantly at Friday's indoor athletics event at Woodson Park. The Year 3 and 4 team achieved a fantastic third place out of the eight schools involved. Our Year 5 and 6 team, by all accounts, were outstanding and went on to win the overall event. This is a tremendous achievement, particularly when competing against some considerably larger schools. I would like to congratulate all of our athletes from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 for representing the school with such enthusiasm, determination and pride.

*Dream, Believe and Achieve with God*

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A very special mention must go to Leo in Year 4. During his race, another athlete from another school fell over. Leo immediately went over to check that the runner was alright and not hurt before continuing with his race. This was a wonderful example of kindness, compassion and sportsmanship. Very well done, Leo. You showed the true spirit of our school.

We are very much looking forward to Thursday's orienteering launch day. Thank you to our PTA for generously funding our new course. Please ensure that your child has their full PE kit and trainers in school on this day, as it promises to be an active and exciting experience for all classes. We look forward to sharing photographs afterwards, and we hope that you enjoy hearing your child's reflections about the excitement of the day.

Finally, we would like to wish our A team footballers the very best of luck as they take part in the district tournament tomorrow.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks, may we hold onto the promise of growth, renewal and the potential that lies within each and every child:

*"They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green."*

Jeremiah 17:8

Wishing you all joyful weeks.

Best wishes Paul Miller

### **PTA PRELOVED UNIFORM SALE**

Wednesday 11th March

8.45am in the School Hall

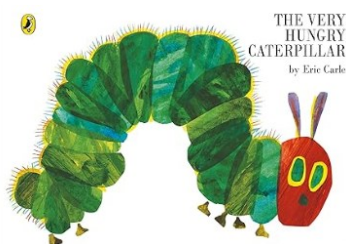


**WORLD BOOK DAY FUN!!!**

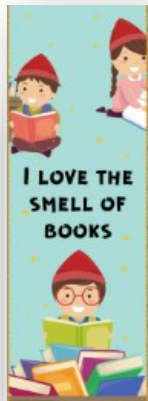
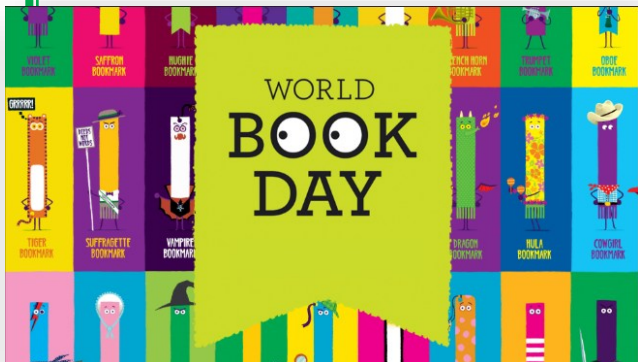
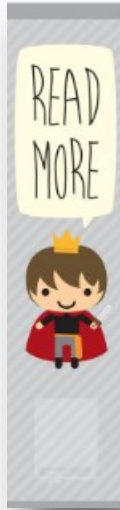
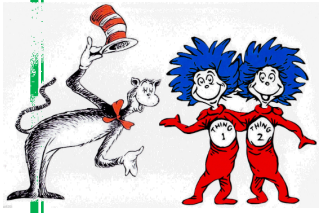
Our school was full of imagination and excitement as the children celebrated World Book Day in fantastic style. It was wonderful to see so many children dressing up as their favourite book characters and really embracing the spirit of the day. From classic storybook heroes to magical creatures, the effort and creativity on display were truly impressive.

A special mention must go to Miss Hawthorne, who gave a very convincing performance as Miss Trunchbull! Her costume and classroom certainly brought plenty of laughs (and perhaps a little bit of fear!) around the school.

Thank you to all the children and families for making the day so enjoyable and memorable. Events like these help bring stories to life and celebrate our love of reading.



# WORLD BOOK DAY FUN!!!



### **SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS SUCCESS**

On Friday, some of our children took part in the Sportshall Athletics competition and represented the school brilliantly. The children demonstrated fantastic determination, teamwork and, most importantly, excellent sportsmanship throughout the event.

We are incredibly proud to share that our Year 3 & 4 team achieved an impressive 3rd place, bringing home bronze medals after competing against 7 other schools.

Even more exciting, our Year 5 & 6 team finished in 1st place out of 8 schools, earning gold medals for their outstanding performances across the events.

Well done to all of the children who took part – you represented the school wonderfully and should be very proud of your achievements!

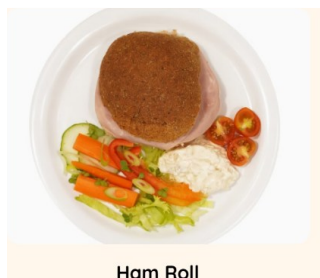




**CHANGE OF MENU**  
**FRIDAY 13TH MARCH**

Due to the Mother's and Special Others Gift Sale taking place in the Hall, the lunch options for Friday will be a cold baguette option only.

Choice of Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette



Ham Roll



Tuna Roll



Cheese Roll (v)

**PTA MOTHERS AND SPECIAL OTHERS GIFT SALE**

Don't forget the Mothers & Special Others Gift Sale is this Friday, 13th March.

Please remember your child's money - coinage preferred - and a bag to carry their secret gifts home in. Children are allowed to buy 3 gifts each.

For younger children a list of who they are buying for would be useful.

Gifts will be priced between 50p-£3.00



## ADVANCE NOTICE—LOTS OF SOCKS DAY

### FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH

We are delighted to advise you that we will be supporting **World Down Syndrome Day** (WDSO) which is on Saturday, 21st March. This is a global, annual awareness day. The date for WDSO being the 21st day of the 3rd month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down Syndrome.

This year, the #LotsOfSocks campaign has been put together to enable everyone to get involved; calling for people to wear their brightest, most colourful socks – and, of course, mismatched ones.

If anyone asks about them, tell people that you are wearing them to raise awareness of Down's Syndrome! You can also get involved online by sharing a picture and using the #LotsOfSocks hashtag.

If you wish to purchase some colourful, official socks, that also support the work of Down Syndrome International (DSI), the link is below. DSI is an international organisation, committed to improving quality of life for people with Down's Syndrome, promoting their right to be included on a full and equal basis with others.

[Lots of Socks 2026 - Individual Pairs - Downs Syndrome Association](#)



### THE BRIAN PICKARD 200 CLUB

The Brian Pickard 200 Club winner for February is  
No. 187 Mrs Mollison, parent of the school.  
Many congratulations!

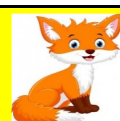
The next draw will take place by Friday, 10th April.  
New members are always welcome as are those whose  
subscription renewal is due. Annual subscription is only £12!  
Please support the School in this way!  
Please contact the office for details.



**HOUSE POINT LEADERS**

This week's winners are.....

*Yellow Foxes*



**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).

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

### 1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

### 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

### 3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

### 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

### 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

### 6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

### 8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyInlo and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

### 9 RECONNECT

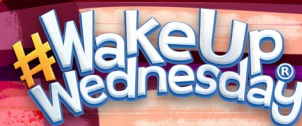
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

### 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

### Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



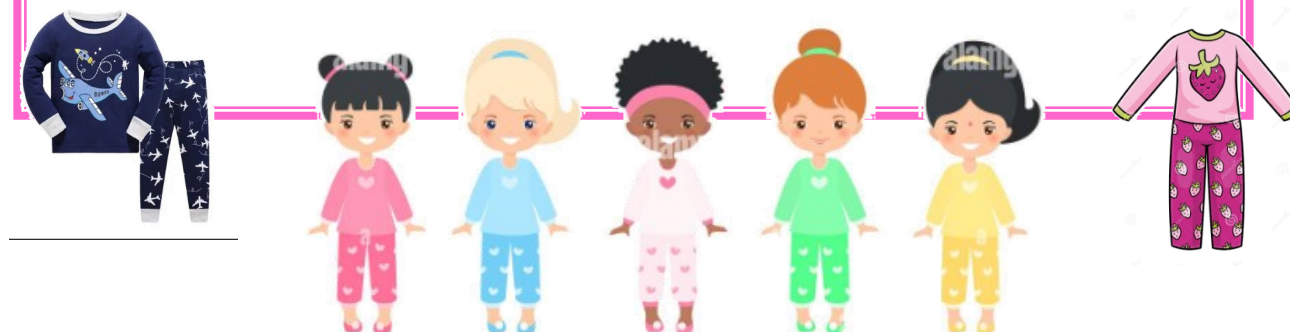
See full reference list on our website

### PTA PYJAMA DAY – FRIDAY 20TH MARCH

The PTA will be holding a Pyjama Day on Friday 20th March. Children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas for the day.

We kindly ask for a £1 donation per child, which can either be paid on the day or via the PTA Hub.

Thank you for your continued support of the PTA.



### BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Elliott—Year 4—Diary of a Wimpy Kid Party Pooper

Zachariah—Year 5—Magnus Chase and the Hammer of Thor

George—Year 6—Marcus Rashford, the Breakfast Club Adventures

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

We hope you had a lovely day!