

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term Issue 10

23rd March 2026



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It has been a lively and vibrant term, and our final week has been no different. There has been a great deal packed in for our children to enjoy, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and engagement in all that has taken place.

I would like to thank our PTA for organising last Sunday's Easter egg hunt on the recreational ground. This was a tremendous success and raised an incredible £380. Thank you to Mrs Conway and all PTA members who generously gave their time to make this such a success. Thank you also to all members of our school community who attended and supported the event.

On Wednesday, we held our Cups Assembly, where we recognised and celebrated those children who have exemplified our school values. Congratulations to all recipients. These decisions are never easy, and every award has been thoroughly deserved.

Also on Wednesday, our Year 5 and Year 6 B-team footballers competed in the District Tournament. Congratulations to all players for representing the school so admirably. You demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and were a pleasure to support throughout the afternoon. The final result was that we finished 4th from the 9 schools involved, losing the third and fourth play-off to a dramatic golden goal with 30 seconds of play remaining before penalties.

Thursday was a particularly busy day. Our Year 4 pupils visited Warner Brothers Studios to explore all things Harry Potter. The photographs and smiles speak volumes, and we greatly value the thoughtful follow-up work that supports this rich, first-hand learning experience.

Also on Thursday, our chess team competed against strong opponents from across the county at Simon Balle School. Matches were intense, with timed games allowing only ten minutes of play. Our team represented the school with great determination and finished 2nd from the 7 schools involved. Since Wren Academy are out of the area, we progress to the next

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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stage of this national competition with the next round believed to be in Peterborough. Details, once known will be shared. Congratulations to Kelechi, Joseph, Emilio and Henry on this fantastic achievement and good luck in the next round. Thank you to Mr Carroll for leading the chess club throughout the autumn and spring terms, and to Miss Clifford for accompanying the team to the tournament.

Congratulations to all Year 3 and Year 5 children for their performance on Thursday evening at St Albans Cathedral. You sounded fantastic, and with St Catherine's, Ware and the St Alban's Cathedral Choristers, it was a magnificent event to be part of. I am sure all in attendance would wholeheartedly agree.

This morning's Easter service was uplifting, and we hope that those of you who were able to join us at St Augustine's Church enjoyed this special end of term celebration. It was fantastic to fill our church with worship and song, and we thank all who joined us. Well done to all readers and soloists, and to our choir and Year 3 and Year 5 children for their beautiful singing. It was wonderful to hear them perform one of the songs they had sung at their chorister performance at St Albans Cathedral the previous evening. Well done also to those who sampled the various flavours of hot cross bun available in our Broxbourne blind hot cross bun tasting competition; thankfully, at this service, there was not an onion in sight.

I am sure you will all join me in extending our heartfelt prayers, thoughts, and sympathy to those families within our school community who are going through particularly difficult times. We continue to pray for God's healing presence be with all who are suffering and in need.

As we journey into the Easter break, the most special time for Christians, we pray that God is with all members of our school community. We are reminded of the message of hope, resurrection, and new life:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:3)

May this message inspire, strengthen, renew and uplift us all.

We wish you a joyful and peaceful Easter with your families and look forward to welcoming you back at the start of the summer term.

God bless,
Paul Miller

HARRY POTTER TRIP

Year 4 had a truly magical time on their visit to the Harry Potter Studios yesterday! The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the sets, discovering how the films were made, and seeing some of the iconic props and costumes up close.

It was a fantastic day filled with excitement and wonder, and the children were a credit to the school throughout the trip. A big thank you to all the staff and helpers who made this memorable experience possible!





SWIMMING—SUMMER TERM

Swimming for Years 2 & 5 begins on Friday, 17th April. See letter for further details.

Thank you.



HCL UPDATE

PRICE INCREASE FOR SCHOOL MEALS FROM 1st APRIL 2026

As from 1st April 2026 the price for a school meal **will increase from £3.55 per day to £3.65 a day**. The price of a Nursery meal **will increase from £2.68 to £2.71 per day**.

HCL cited significant increases in ingredient costs, general inflation, and the need for financial sustainability after experiencing losses during previous years.

HCL has emphasised the need for parents to cancel pre-ordered meals by 8:00am to avoid charges, as wasted food contributes to higher costs.



MUSIC TUITION

GUITAR—starts again on Friday, 24th April

PIANO—starts again on Tuesday, 14th or Thursday, 16th April



OUR SPRING CUP WINNERS—WELL DONE ALL!



**OUR LUCKY KINGFISHER COUNCIL EASTER
RAFFLE WINNERS!**

Narakele—Year 1 and Brooke—Year 4



PRIMARY CHESS CHALLENGE

We are delighted to share the fantastic success of our Broxbourne Chess Team in the recent Chess Challenge!

Although the team initially placed second behind Wren Academy, we are thrilled to announce that, due to eligibility criteria, Broxbourne CE Primary School has been awarded first place overall. We now await confirmation regarding the next stage of the competition.

A huge well done to Henry, Emilio, Joseph and Kelechi, who represented the school brilliantly and were a real credit to themselves and our community.



SUNDAY'S PTA EASTER EGG HUNT!

It was a sun filled couple of hours with children enthusiastically running around the park looking for big eggs to collect the letters to solve the anagram. Another splendid community event that was enjoyed by outside families and school families alike. Thank you to those who came and supported, we hope you had fun!





GOVERNOR UPDATE

As we reach the end of another great term, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank everybody in our school community for their enthusiasm and commitment to our school and the children. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers at our End of Term service this morning.

We are incredibly proud of everything that has been achieved over the last few months including our netball team and football team both being crowned District champions, our involvement in the Rotary Club Essay competition, as well as our team winning the indoor athletics event at Wodson Park. We very much enjoyed visiting the school on World Book Day to see the fantastic costumes, and were delighted to see four book reviews from our children published in First News!

Congratulations...

to our amazing PTA for another incredible term of events featuring the Disco, Pyjama Day and The Mother's and Significant others Gift Sale. Thank you also to the PTA for funding the orienteering course.

We are extremely grateful to all those parents who regularly contribute to the School Fund, as by doing so you are making a significant difference to the quality and range of resources we are able to purchase for the children.

Thank you to Mr Miller and his fantastic team, and we look forward to the summer term ahead! Wishing all of our school community a very happy Easter break.

Jackie King
Chair of Governors

Jerry Greig-Hunt
Deputy Chair of Governors

BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Finlay—EY2—One Springy Day

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.



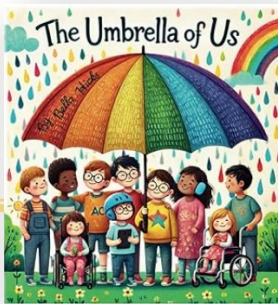
NEURODIVERSITY WEEK

This week, our school is proud to celebrate **Neurodiversity Week** (officially recognised last week)—a time dedicated to recognising, understanding, and valuing the many different ways our brains work. Neurodiversity reminds us that differences such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and other neurological variations are natural and important forms of human diversity.

As part of our learning, we read *The Umbrella of Us* to help build empathy, celebrate strengths, and promote inclusion. This inspired each child to create their own umbrella to represent themselves—their individuality, uniqueness, and talents. Rich discussions were had about how we all learn differently, and children were encouraged to reflect on their own strengths and how they can support one another.

Neurodiversity Week is important because it helps foster a culture of respect, kindness, and belonging. By increasing awareness and understanding, we empower our pupils to appreciate differences, challenge stereotypes, and create a school community where everyone feels valued for who they are.

Together, we celebrate that there is no single “right” way to think, learn, or experience the world—and that our differences make us stronger.



HOUSE POINT LEADERS

Last week's winners were.....

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!

HOUSE POINT LEADERS

This week's winners are.....

Green Hedgehogs



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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

EFFECTIVE REVISION AND STUDY SKILLS

As exam season ramps up, revision often becomes louder, busier, and less effective. Many pupils still rely on comfort strategies like re-reading and highlighting. These can feel productive but rarely build long-term memory. This guide will help you create a low-effort, high-impact revision system that teaches pupils how to revise, rather than merely emphasising its importance.

1 DIAGNOSE BEFORE DOING

Before adding more sessions, identify why a pupil is underperforming: knowledge gaps, weak routines, poor choices, or low effort driven by a lack of confidence. Treating every issue as 'needs more revision' creates noise. Use a quick check: what do they know, what do they misunderstand, what can't they retrieve under pressure, and what do they avoid? Then match revision to the actual problem.

2 TEACH REVISION EXPLICITLY

Most pupils haven't been taught how to revise well, so they pick what feels easiest. Build short revision mini-lessons into curriculum time; demonstrate retrieval, spacing, and how to self-check. Model it live, do it together, then gradually hand over responsibility. The goal is independence, not dependency. When pupils understand why strategies work, they're more likely to use them when it matters.

3 PRIORITISE RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Make recall the default. Use methods such as low-stakes quizzes, flashcards, free recall, blurting, and 'answer then check'. Effective testing helps to measure and strengthen learning. Keep it specific and frequent - small chunks, lots of repetition, and immediate feedback. For parents, the best question isn't 'Have you revised?' but 'What can you remember today, without notes?'

4 SPACE IT OUT

Cramming can boost short-term performance, but it's weaker for long-term retention. Help pupils spread practice across days and weeks, revisiting content after memory has faded. That 'slight struggle' is the point. Use a simple rhythm: new learning, next-day retrieval, a three-day revisit, a weekly revisit, and mixed practice before the exam. This turns revision into a routine, not a panic.

5 MIX, DON'T BLOCK

Practising one topic for a long stretch - known as 'blocked practice' - can feel easy, but it can hide fragile learning. Mixing topics, question types, or methods strengthens long-term learning and helps pupils apply knowledge later. For educators, design homework and revision packs so topics reappear in a planned cycle. For parents, encourage sessions that mix two topics rather than focusing on just one.

6 USE DESIRABLE DIFFICULTY

Revision should feel effortful, not effortless. Durable learning comes from challenging revision techniques: attempting answers before looking, explaining ideas aloud, writing from memory, or tackling unfamiliar question formats. The key is 'hard, but doable'. If a pupil always gets everything right, it's too easy. If they always fail, it's too hard. Aim for productive struggle with quick feedback loops.

7 CENTRALISE MATERIALS SIMPLY

Revision fails when pupils waste energy finding resources, navigating platforms, or guessing what matters. Reduce cognitive overload by centralising what they need: a single hub per subject, a clear list of priority knowledge, and a small set of standard task types such as quizzes, flash cards, exam questions, or corrections. Less admin clutter means more working memory for learning.

8 PLAN, MONITOR, EVALUATE

Strong revision is self-regulated. Pupils plan what they'll do, monitor if it's working, and evaluate what to change next time. Use a weekly revision review routine that asks: 'What did I try?' 'What improved?' 'What didn't?' 'What's my next micro-goal?' Post-mock action plans are powerful here because they force honesty about time spent, strategy used, and impact achieved.

9 WRAP MOCKS PROPERLY

Mocks only help if pupils learn from them. Use an exam wrapper approach: before the mock, set strategy goals; afterwards, analyse errors such as knowledge gaps, misread questions, weak methods, and timing issues, then create a targeted relearn and retest plan. Parents can support by asking: 'What type of mistake was it, and what's your fix?' rather than 'What grade did you get?'

10 MAKE TIME VISIBLE

Revision becomes real when time is protected and predictable. Help pupils build a timetable that's short, repeatable, and realistic: 30-40 minute blocks, clear start and stop times, and specific tasks, not 'revise science'. Avoid perfectionist plans that look pretty and collapse by Tuesday. Consistency beats intensity. Build momentum with small wins, then build from there.

Meet Our Expert

Amjad Ali is the creator of Try This Teaching and the CPD and Inclusion Lead for the Chiltem Learning Trust. With over 19 years' experience in education, including leadership roles in diverse and high-need schools, he specialises in inclusive, evidence-informed practice. His work focuses on practical, low-effort, high-impact strategies that help students learn more and retain knowledge over time.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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AJ'S SUMMER KIDS CAMP

We are delighted to share an exciting opportunity for our school community this holiday!

A fun and engaging Holiday Camp will be taking place here at school, run by our very own Teaching Assistant, Mrs Reynolds, alongside an experienced local primary school teacher. This promises to be a fantastic provision for children, combining creativity, activity and enjoyment in a safe and familiar environment.

The camp will offer a range of activities designed to keep children active and entertained throughout the holidays, including games, crafts, and outdoor play. It is a wonderful chance for children to spend time with friends, try new activities and make the most of their school holiday.

Full details, including dates, times and booking information, will be shared after Easter.

BOOKING OPEN
AFTER
EASTER

**AJ'S
KIDS CLUB**

KIDS CAMP
Where kids have fun play and explore

Price
£35 per day
(£95 for all 3 days)
10% Sibling discount
Limited availability

Ages
5-11

Location
Broxbourne CE Primary School
Mill Ln, Broxbourne
EN10 7AY

Dates
Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28th May

9:30am-3:30pm
*Early drop off and
Late pick up available*



COME AND JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!



JUNIOR CRICKET TRAINING



STARTS SUNDAY 12TH APRIL
10-11.30AM AT BROXBOURNE CRICKET CLUB
TWO WEEK FREE TRIAL

U9S, U10S,
U11, U12S
MIXED TEAMS

U11S GIRLS TEAM!
SEPARATE GIRLS
TRAINING

ECB QUALIFIED COACHES
YEARS 3-7
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: JUNIORS@BROXBOURNECRICKET.CLUB



HAPPY EASTER



British Summertime Starts!

Meet me in Hoddesdon Town

FOR A WALK AND TALK TO KICK OFF THE SUMMER SEASON

We'll be walking approx 5 miles heading down to The Bulls Head in Turnford for a refreshment pit stop then back up to Hoddesdon

Saturday 28th March - 1pm

HOT STEPRZ

MVMNT

REMINDER: EASTER HOLIDAY GIRLS' FOOTBALL CAMP

Today is the deadline to sign up to the Easter Holiday Camp. We offer discounts and free places for the children with lower income parents.

Thank you.

<https://forms.gle/JECUyaQGBmqiBFtF8>



GOFFS OAK GIRLS
EASTER CAMP

AGE 5-16

1ST & 8TH APRIL | GOFFS-CHURHGATE college road EN8 9LY

call or text 07738128148 | £25 each day or £45 for both

Easter Egg and Medal for everyone attending | 10am - 3pm



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