

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Summer Term Issue 6

22nd May 2026



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

As we reach the point where five-sixths of the school year has been completed, we are all looking forward to a restful and relaxing half-term break before returning for the final exciting second half of the summer term.

I would like to congratulate our Year 1 children on their superb class assembly today. It is joyful to see how all of our Year 1 children are flourishing in their confidence and personal growth. They took great pride in sharing their progress and learning from across the year so far. Their singing, actions and enthusiasm for learning were evident throughout the performance, and all who attended found it extremely moving. In particular, their performance of the song Gratitude reflected everything that a Church of England school should embody. The pride, joy and sincerity the children showed in their growing faith were emotional to witness and served as a wonderful reminder of the Christian values that lie at the heart of our school community. Very well done to Year 1.

Earlier this week, our Year 5 and 6 B team girl footballers took to the pitch. The girls played with great spirit and enthusiasm, and the team improved as the tournament progressed. Although we did not manage to score on this occasion, some excellent goalkeeping from Annabelle prevented several goals, while Darcey and Elisa showed tremendous determination in defence. Well done to all of the girls who represented the school. For some, this was their first experience of competitive football, and it was wonderful to see confidence growing throughout the afternoon. The support and camaraderie shown within the team were equally pleasing to see. Well done, girls.

We shared a letter today regarding the appointment of our new SENCO, Mrs Lauren O'Dowd, who will assume this role in September. We kindly request that parents and carers of children with SEND complete the survey linked within the mailing. Your views are extremely important to us and will help to shape and strengthen our provision for the next academic year as we continue striving to provide the very best support for all of our SEND children.

Yesterday, we greatly enjoyed our Community Collective Worship, and we hope that those who were able to join us enjoyed beginning the day together in this special way. Well done to our choir for their beautiful singing on the theme of gratitude. As always, it was wonderful to fill St Augustine's Church with song and worship. Thank you also to Reverend David for his continued support of our school and during the service.

Finally, today is Oscar's final day at our school in Year 1 as the Jipps family begin an exciting new adventure in emigrating. We send Oscar and his family our very best wishes for a happy and exciting future ahead. Thank

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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you for being part of our school community during your time with us. You will always remain part of our school family, and we wish you every blessing as you begin your new chapter.

As we move into the half-term break, let us focus upon the value of gratitude, remembering that we have so much for which to be thankful:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever. Psalm 107:1

We wish all within our community a pleasant, peaceful and enjoyable half term, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final seven weeks of the school year and all of the excitement and opportunities that this will bring.

Best wishes

Paul Miller

SMILES, SPIRIT & SUPERB TEAMWORK!



EY2 MOUNTFITCHET CASTLE

Wednesday, 3rd June

Please meet at the church at 8.45am prompt.

Thank you.





REMINDER: SCHOOL AMAZON WISHLIST

We are kindly asking for your support at a time when schools are facing increasing financial pressures and difficult decisions about how best to provide for our children.

Our Amazon School Wishlist has recently been expanded and now includes a wider range of resources and items, alongside books, that would greatly enhance the children's learning experiences and help us continue to provide the rich, engaging environment they deserve. These items include practical classroom resources, activities and equipment that directly benefit the children across the school.

While we always strive to provide as much as we can, current budget constraints mean we are increasingly looking for additional ways to support the opportunities and experiences we offer our children.

We fully understand that many families are also feeling the impact of the current economic climate, so any support—no matter how small—would be genuinely appreciated. If you, or perhaps grandparents, friends or relatives feel able to purchase an item from the wishlist, it would make a real and immediate difference to the children in our school.

If you are unable to contribute, simply sharing the link with others would also be a huge help.

Thank you, as always, for your continued kindness and support. It truly means a great deal to our whole school community.

[Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

*Donate Supplies
from our*

amazon *wishlist*

MUSICAL CONCERT

PIANO AND GUITAR

Tuesday, 23rd June at 2.00pm





PTA NON UNIFORM DAY FOR SWEET DONATIONS

Thursday, 4th June

Sweeten the Day – Non-Uniform Day for Sweet Donations!

Thursday, 4th June is a special Non-Uniform Day – and all it costs is a donation of sweets! In exchange for wearing your own clothes, we're asking children to bring in sweets that will be used as prizes for our ever-popular Sweetie Wheel of Fortune at the school fair.

We're counting on your generosity to make it a success, so please give what you can – multi-packs are especially welcome!





Important guidelines:

- *Sweets must be in date*
 - *No chocolate*
- *No items containing nuts*



Please bring donations to your class teacher on the Thursday morning.
Let's make this our sweetest event yet – thank you for your support!




SCAN TO BOOK

**TRAIN
LIKE A PRO**
THIS HALF TERM

Venues in
London, Hertfordshire & Essex

Flexible booking available!

PARTY WITH SAMMIE BINGO!
 Let the Good Times BINGO!
MILLLANE'S FUN BINGO NIGHT
 £10 per ticket
 GOOD VIBES GREAT PRIZES BINGO!
 DRINKS LAUGHS PRIZES BINGO!
 FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 7 O'CLOCK FOR 7.30 START PRIZES TO BE WON BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINKS
 Everyone welcome!
 CHARITY NUMBER - 1023359

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!

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

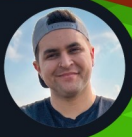
Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

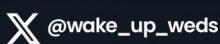
Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



See full reference list on our website



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.05.2025



BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU



Raphy—Year 1—There's a snake in my school!

Luca—Year 2—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.

ABSENCE REQUEST

We kindly request that term-time holidays are avoided wherever possible and that your child's attendance at school is prioritised.

In exceptional circumstances, a **Leave of Absence Request Form** must be completed. These forms are available from the school office and should be submitted **at least two weeks prior** to the intended absence. Please note that term-time holidays will not be authorised.

We also ask that, wherever possible, non-emergency medical appointments are arranged outside of school hours or during the school holidays.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support in prioritising your child's education and attendance at school.



Wishing you all a wonderful half term and we will see you back in school on Monday, 1st June!

Happy
Half Term

We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday, 1st June