

Broxbourne CE Primary School

Newsletter



Autumn Term Issue 2

11th September 2026



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Two weeks into the new school year already, and it has been a significant week for our school community. Today, our final EY1 children started their first day on their journey with us, meaning that we are now complete with all of our children in school for this academic year.

A very warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined us this week. We hope your children have enjoyed their time with us so far and that you are beginning to settle into the new timings, routines and arrangements that come with a new school year.

Meet the Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher meetings take place next Wednesday, with the timings listed on last weeks newsletter. We have arranged a range of times across the school to enable parents with siblings to attend both meetings where possible.

Please note that these meetings are for parents only, so alternative childcare arrangements will need to be made for your children during this time.

Hear Our Prayer

It was a pleasure to spend time together in prayer at our Hear Our Prayer group on Thursday morning. All are welcome to join us, and it was encouraging to see our numbers growing as more members of our school community come together in prayer.

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20

This is a wonderful reminder that prayer brings us together as a community, united in faith and in our care for one another and all in our school.

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God



PTA AGM

Thank you to all members of our PTA on an amazing number of successful community events once more this year. So many give so much to our school and it makes a huge difference in the experience our children and families have in their time at our school. In particular, I wish to thank Mrs Osborne for her tireless service and energy as our Chair of the PTA across the last year. Congratulations to Mrs Marsh who has been elected as the new Chair for this school year.

House Football

Our House Football competition begins next week, running Monday to Wednesday lunchtimes for children in Years 3 to 6. Please take note of the match days below.

Children wishing to play will need shin pads and football boots. We will share results throughout the competition so that everyone can follow the progress of each house and see who will take the overall House Football title this year.

We hope that your weekend is both enjoyable and relaxing. Thank you, as always, for the support you give to our school community. We look forward to welcoming everyone to week three next week.

With best wishes,

Paul Miller

YEAR 6 RETURNERS

We welcome our Year 6 leavers back to school on
Thursday, 17th September at 3.30pm



HOUSE FOOTBALL

TOURNAMENT 2026

LET THE HOUSE BATTLE BEGIN!

12:30
Every match

10 + 10
Minutes each way

EARLY LUNCH
Then change for football

Players: PE kit • shin pads • football boots

TOURNAMENT DATES

DATE	YEAR GROUP / TEAM	ROUND
Mon 14 Sept	Year 3 & 4 Girls	First Round
Tue 15 Sept	Year 3 & 4 Boys	First Round
Wed 16 Sept	Year 5 & 6 Girls	First Round
Mon 21 Sept	Year 5 & 6 Boys	First Round
Tue 22 Sept	Year 3 & 4 Girls	Second Round
Wed 23 Sept	Year 3 & 4 Boys	Second Round
Mon 28 Sept	Year 5 & 6 Girls	Second Round
Tue 29 Sept	Year 5 & 6 Boys	Second Round
Wed 30 Sept	Year 3 & 4 Girls	Third Round & Final
Mon 5 Oct	Year 3 & 4 Boys	Third Round & Final
Tue 6 Oct	Year 5 & 6 Girls	Third Round & Final
Mon 12 Oct	Year 5 & 6 Boys	Third Round & Final

WEATHER BACK-UP DATES

14 Oct • 19 Oct • 20 Oct • 21 Oct

If poor weather prevents a match, the missed fixture will be rearranged to one of these reserve dates.

REPRESENT YOUR HOUSE!

TEAMWORK • SPORTSMANSHIP • DETERMINATION • CAMARADERIE • FUN

Where possible, we hope all members of each House will represent their House and enjoy taking part in physical activity and sport.

Thank you to our House Captains for organising teams and our Sports Ambassadors for refereeing and equipment support. Good luck, everyone!



ROAD SAFETY

For health and safety reasons, may we remind **all** parents that it is **not permitted** to drive up to school to drop off or collect children at the start or end of the school day, **for EY1 sessions that finish at lunchtime** or for after school activities, **whatever the weather.**

This is essential for emergency vehicle access to the school at all times.

In exceptional circumstances, e.g. if one of your children is unwell, please contact the office and verbal permission will be granted for a specific day, once details of your registration have been logged. If permission is necessary for a longer period of time, please contact the office with the details and a written permission slip can then be issued by the Headteacher. This must be placed in a visible position in the car on every occasion that the car is brought up to school.

Volunteer helpers are allowed to bring their cars to school on the days that they are helping, providing full identification details of their car are noted on their arrival.

Parents, including volunteers, who have permission to bring their car to school are requested to park in either the school or visitor car park. If the car parks are full, please park on the riverside part of the tow path, opposite the allotments, **NOT** near school gates. **In addition, please keep the entrance to the tow path at the Church end clear at all times for emergency vehicles and general access.**

All children should also be reminded that they must walk within the fenced pathway next to the allotments when arriving at and leaving school. Please ensure those children who walk to school on their own are also aware of this. This is to ensure their safety when cars may be using the road.

Please could all parents dropping off and picking up from **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club** drive carefully and at a safe speed along the tow path, whilst being courteous to other users of the path. Please also park in the visitor spaces and walk.





SNACKS

Children in EYFS & KS1 are provided with fruit or vegetables each break time as part of the Government's Fruit & Vegetable Scheme. In KS2, if children wish to have a snack at break time, they need to bring in their own. It is requested that only fruit or vegetables be provided. It can be fresh or dried. We encourage parents to avoid high sugar fruit snacks e.g. Fruit Winders as these are not nutritionally appropriate for school. If your child has a medical need, where they may need something alternative, please speak to the school and provide a supporting letter from your GP. Thank you for your support with this.



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.





Apply for school on time



Applying for a school place for September 2027

Secondary/Upper/Studio/University Technical College
Application deadline: Saturday 31 October 2026

Primary (Reception)/Junior/Middle
Application deadline: Friday 15 January 2027

Apply online at
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions





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 CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026



Aj's KIDS CLUB

October CAMP

WHERE KIDS HAVE FUN, PLAY AND EXPLORE!

Price
£35 per day

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT
Book before midnight
13th September 2026
and pay just **£31.50** per day

HALF TERM WEEK
TUESDAY 27TH –
WEDNESDAY 28TH –
THURSDAY 29TH
OCTOBER 2026
9:30AM – 3:30PM

HALF DAY TIMES
MORNING:
9:30AM – 12:30PM
AFTERNOON:
12:30PM – 3:30PM

10% OFF
For brothers
and sisters

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

TO BOOK VISIT
www.ajkidsclub.co.uk
Any questions please email
ajkidsclub@gmail.com

Mr H. Potter
The Cupboard under the Stairs
4 Potter Drive
Leeds Wharfing
SUSSEX

EARLY DROP OFF & LATE PICK UP AVAILABLE
Early drop off and
late pick up available

October Week

Join us for a week of fun,
creativity & magic!

Tuesday 27th

AUTUMN CRAFTS

- ★ Pine Cone Owls
- ★ Create an Autumn Wreath
- ★ Leaf Jar Lanterns

Optional Football Session (40 minutes)
run by a qualified coach

Wednesday 28th

HARRY POTTER DAY

- ★ Wand Making
- ★ Spells & Potions
- ★ Magical Games
- ★ Optional Knitting Session –
Make a Harry Potter scarf
for your soft toy
and other crafts

Thursday 29th

LIGHTS & PARTY

- ★ Create a Foam Pumpkin
- ★ Paper Plate Spider Web
- ★ Experiments
- ★ Party Fun & Games
- ★ Party Themed Treasure Hunt
with Surprises!

Three days of creativity, imagination & lots of fun – we can't wait!



BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Charlie—EY2—Story Dog

Billy—Year 4—Valley of the Vikings

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!

BIKEABILITY

YEAR 6

Monday, 14th September to Friday, 18th September.

Please check your child's bike thoroughly and ensure it is brought to school on Monday.



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.