

Broxbourne CE Primary School

Newsletter



Autumn Term Issue 3

18th September 2028



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It has been another busy and enjoyable week, with plenty to celebrate.

Meet the Teacher

We hope that those of you who were able to attend our Meet the Teacher meetings on Wednesday found them useful and informative. The PowerPoint presentations used during the meetings have now been uploaded to the school website under the relevant class pages. These will provide a useful reference point throughout the year and will also enable those who were unable to attend to find out more about the year ahead.

House Football Tournaments

It has been fantastic to get our House Football Tournaments underway this week. Well done to all of the children who have represented their respective houses. Every child who has taken part has earned a house point for their house through their participation. The first round of matches will be completed on Monday when our Year 5 and Year 6 boys take to the pitch. We will announce the house standings in next week's newsletter, with the tournament then continuing across the next few weeks.

The matches have been played in an excellent spirit, with children demonstrating teamwork, enthusiasm and respect for one another. Our House Captains and Sports Ambassadors have also done a wonderful job organising the matches. Thank you to them for their leadership.

Spotlight Theatre and Collector Fair Art Competition

We have been asked by HABS Family Support to support an exciting art competition linked to the event taking place at the Spotlight Theatre and the Collector Fair in early November.

Details of the optional competition are included in this week's newsletter, with a competition for Year 1 and Year 2 and a separate competition for Key Stage 2. There are some great prizes to be won. We are fortunate to have some amazingly imaginative and creative artists in our school, so I hope that many children will enjoy taking part. Please submit entries to your child's class teacher, following the instructions that have been emailed to you. We will then submit the entries to the competition on behalf of the school.

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

Tel: 01992 462419 website: www.broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk
Fax: 01992 462419 email: office@broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk



Our School Charity

I am thrilled and delighted to announce that this year's school-focused charity will be the Stroke Association.

Our Kingfisher Council presented three national charities to the school. The children then found out more about each charity and the important work that they undertake before voting to select our school charity for the year.

The Stroke Association is a particularly meaningful choice for our school community, given the support that the charity has provided, and continues to provide, to Mrs Catlin. We look forward to supporting the charity throughout the year and helping our children to understand the difference that charitable giving and community action can make to the lives of others.

As we continue to think about the theme of Freedom, it is worth remembering that Christian freedom is not simply freedom *from* something, but freedom *to* live life fully, purposefully and in relationship with God and others.

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

— John 10:10

This is a wonderful reminder that God desires us to live lives that are rich, purposeful and full of hope. As a school community, we want our children to grow in confidence, to make healthy and positive choices, to care for one another and to recognise the freedom they have to make a difference in the world around them.

I hope you have a restful weekend and enjoy some precious family time together. To those in our school facing difficult times ahead, we pray that God is with you throughout this period.

We look forward to another exciting week of learning, friendship and opportunities.

Best wishes,

Paul Miller

MEET THE TEACHER

The class slides from the Meet the Teacher held on Wednesday evening are now on the website, on the relevant class page.

MEET THE
TEACHER!





HOUSE FOOTBALL HEROES!



FIDGET TOYS

The school has recently seen an increase in children bringing sensory and fidget items from home without the school being aware of the reasons for their use. To ensure that children receive appropriate and consistent support, children should not bring concentration or sensory aids from home unless this has been advised by the school and agreed in advance with the class teacher.



HARVEST FOOD DONATIONS

This year for harvest we are collecting food donations for 'The Broxbourne Foodbank'. The following items have been identified as being urgently needed:

EY1	UHT Milk
EY2	Biscuits or Snack Bars
Year 1	Packets of Tea Bags / Instant Coffee
Year 2	Packets of Rice or Dried Pasta
Year 3	Tinned soup (not fresh)
Year 4	Pasta sauce
Year 5	Any tinned vegetables or tinned fruit
Year 6	Any jam

Food produce and monetary donations can be brought into school week commencing on Monday, 28th September. Thank you.

We also request a minimum £1 donation, which will be donated to the Kingfisher Council's chosen charity for this year which is Stroke Association UK.



Thank you.



REMINDER: INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

Tuesday, 29th September



COMPETITION & TICKET OPPORTUNITY

We are pleased to share details of an optional competition for children in Years 1–6, which can be completed at home if you wish. Full details of the competition and what children need to do to enter will be emailed separately.

If your child chooses to take part, all completed entries should be returned to their class teacher, ready for submission in accordance with the competition guidelines.

We have also been kindly offered 20 tickets for the event. Families who would like to request tickets should email the school by **Friday 25th September**.

Should requests exceed the number of tickets available, priority will first be given to qualifying children. Any remaining tickets will then be allocated by drawing names from the requests received.





WINDRUSH LEGACIES SEND MULTI SPORTS ACTIVITY

This is a new Sports and movement project which started during the Summer holidays in Waltham Cross. They provide two one-hour sessions on a Wednesday afternoon to primary and secondary age children and young people to encourage and engage them in sports and movement activities.

Places are free, and places are open at the moment. Siblings are also welcome. Parents can register their children through the QR code on the flyer or through the Windrush Legacies website.

WINDRUSH LEGACIES CIC

FREE SEND MULTI-SPORTS ACTIVITY

Every Wednesday in Waltham Cross

Windrush Legacies CIC is delivering free inclusive multi-sports sessions for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The sessions are designed to be safe, welcoming and enjoyable, helping children build confidence, try new activities, make friends and feel included.

SESSION TIMES

- Session 1**
Ages 5–11
4:15pm–5:15pm
- Session 2**
Ages 12–15
5:30pm–6:30pm

VENUE

Waltham Cross Baptist Church
King Edward Road
Waltham Cross
Broxbourne
EN8 7HH

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ✓ Free weekly activity
- ✓ Inclusive multi-sports sessions
- ✓ Friendly, supportive environment
- ✓ Experienced coaches
- ✓ Activities adapted to individual needs
- ✓ Parents, carers and siblings welcome where appropriate

SIGN UP NOW
Spaces are limited. Scan the QR code to register your child.

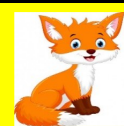
CONTACT:
Marilyn
windrushhoddson2@gmail.com
07931 913772
<https://windrushlegaciesuk.co.uk/>

Windrush Legacies CIC
Helping children move, connect, grow and belong.

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOXIC GAMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GAMING WITHOUT THE FUN

Toxic gaming takes many forms. In live, multiplayer games, players can be targeted by strangers bullying them over voice and text, or deliberately sabotaging their game. It can also be present in spaces outside of the game such as Discord and Reddit, with players gatekeeping their community and making it deliberately unwelcoming to newcomers. In extreme circumstances, it can lead to physical threats, stalking and doxing.

WIDESPREAD TOXICITY

The Anti-Defamation League's 2019 study numbers are stark. At that point, 74% of players had experienced some form of abuse, with 65% receiving physical threats, stalking or sustained harassment. Nearly a third of players surveyed found themselves doxed while playing online, which means private or personal information was shared against their will in an attempt to intimidate or silence.

BIGOTED TRASH TALK

Such toxic tactics are especially prevalent against girls, LGBTQ+ players and players from minority ethnic backgrounds. In all, 53% of respondents reported being targeted based on their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Another survey revealed that 88% of openly LGBTQ+ players have been harassed by their communities, while over half of women report using a non-gendered or male username while playing to avoid harassment.

EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES

Extremist groups have been known to target gaming communities and streaming platforms as a way of spreading propaganda and recruiting young players to their cause. Even in 2019, the ADL's research found that 23% of players had been exposed to white supremacist ideology, with a further 8% exposed to positive views about Islamic State. Disinformation is also a problem, with 13% hearing conspiracy theories about 9/11 and 9% exposed to Holocaust denial.

A SAFE SPACE MADE UNSAFE

This toxic environment can lead to the same feelings of fear, isolation and depression that offline bullying can. Children exposed to toxic gaming can become withdrawn, anxious or irritable. They can struggle with sleep and find it difficult to focus on schoolwork and other pursuits, even after the game has been switched off and they're no longer playing.

COPYING HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

At the other end of the spectrum, children can mimic the toxic behaviour and language they've seen online in offline settings. If bullying or bigoted chat is normalised as a legitimate part of online gaming, children may end up emulating it offline with classmates, seeing it as harmless banter. This could make other children's lives miserable or leave them feeling isolated at school.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PLAY WITH FRIENDS

While some games rely on playing with strangers to make up the numbers, there are plenty of titles that can be played on a private server with vetted, trusted friends, sidestepping the toxic elements of the wider gaming community. If a child encounters toxic behaviour in others while playing larger games, encourage them to block and report the players responsible.

USE THE GAME'S TOOLS

Many online games provide ways to limit interaction with strangers, either through the global settings on PlayStation or Xbox, or within the game itself. Look at the options, and make it so children can only communicate with their friends. If you can't see this level of control, you can consider disabling chat completely and, where age-appropriate, using a suitable separate service for communication with friends.

TALK TO CHILDREN

Most importantly, if children are gaming online or want to start, talk to them about the risks and how to deal with toxic behaviour. Explain the kinds of behaviour they may encounter, encourage them to report and block, and let them know they can talk to you about any concerns. Where appropriate, you may even want to play alongside them to get a feel for the community yourself.

FIND THE RIGHT COMMUNITY

If your child is at an age where social media is permitted, friendly communities exist. There are online groups for LGBTQ+ players, players from minority backgrounds and girls, where they can chat and find people to play with in more welcoming environments. Not everyone is who they claim to be online, so be sure to discuss the risks of online friendships, and maintain an open dialogue with children to ensure their ongoing safety.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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PTA MACMILLAN BIG BROXBOURNE COFFEE MORNING!!

Friday, 16th October at 9.00am

Join us for a cuppa, a slice of something delicious and a good catch-up, all while raising money for the wonderful Macmillan Cancer Support.

Bring a cake, buy a cake... or even better, do both!

Everyone is welcome, so please come along, enjoy some tasty treats and help us raise as much as we can for this fantastic cause.

We look forward to seeing you there!



BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU



Miss Swash—Member of Staff—Football Spy, The Wildmeadow Hare, The Prince and the Porker, Mr Nodd's Ark, Can you find Sammy the Shark?, Leave Some for Us! & Little Red Gingerbread



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!

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.