

Autumn Term Issue 4

25th September 2026



Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It has been another very positive week and it was a real joy to undertake a learning walk across our school with Miss Clifford on Wednesday morning. Three and a half weeks into the new academic year, I can genuinely say that every child we visited was focused, succeeding and engaged in their learning.

There was a purposeful and calm atmosphere throughout the school, and it is clear that the children have made a fantastic start to the new academic year. I would like to congratulate them on their focus, enthusiasm and commitment, and thank all of our staff for the care, encouragement and support they provide for the children in our school each day.

Harvest Service

We are looking forward to our Harvest Service next Friday at 2.15pm at St Augustine's Church. The service is for children from EY2 to Year 6, and we warmly encourage parents and carers to join us.

Our EY1 children will remain at school. Following the service, children attending church will return to school for collection.

Our Harvest produce will be donated to support our local food bank and people within our local community. Please give generously where you are able to. Thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to filling St Augustine's Church with prayer, worship and song, and sharing this special occasion together.

Our Christian Value: Freedom

Our Christian value this term is freedom. We have been exploring what it means to have the freedom to make our own choices, while recognising that Christian freedom is not simply about doing whatever we want. It is about having the freedom to make kind, caring and loving choices.

You were called to be free… serve one another humbly in love.
Galatians 5:13

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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A reminder that our choices have an impact on others, and that true freedom gives us the opportunity to choose kindness.

House Football

Our House Football competition has continued this week, Monday to Wednesday, and will continue next week. We have been making the most of the fine weather and enjoying some excellent sporting opportunities. It has been particularly pleasing to see the children playing with such enthusiasm and in such great spirit, demonstrating teamwork, encouragement and respect.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend, with plenty of sunshine, rest and relaxation.

With best wishes,

Paul Miller



Science Week is Coming!

The week of 19th – 22nd October is our science week (the week before half-term). We are planning lots of engaging activities for our young Scientists to support their enquiry skills, including scientific thinking, questioning and explaining.

It would be great to hear from any parents, family or community members who have a science background or STEM related career, and who would be willing to join us during the week to tell or show us a little something about what they do. Please let the office know if you think you can help.





HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE—EY2—YEAR 6

Our Harvest Festival Service will be held in St Augustine's Church next Friday, 2nd October at 2.15pm. As usual you are very welcome to join us for this service. If you are coming along to the church with a younger child, we request that they sit with you in the pews and are supervised, so that they do not disrupt the service in any way. We encourage parents to show respect for other people's opportunity to worship and to ensure everyone is able to fully enjoy the service. If your child is unable to sit quietly, please feel free to take them out of the main church and wait in the inner porch, until they are able to return.

Monetary contributions at the service will be collected for this year's Kingfisher Council Charity—Stroke Association UK

Children will be walked back to school after the service and should be collected at the normal time. EY1 will not be attending the service on this occasion.

Please ensure harvest contributions are given to your child's class teacher on **Monday, 28th September**.

There is **NO SWIMMING** next Friday. Thank you.





REMINDER: HARVEST FOOD DONATIONS

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. Please give to your child's class teacher. 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.



SCHOOL FUND – YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

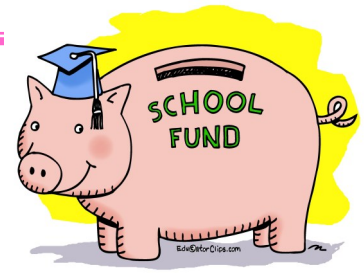
As a Voluntary Aided School, we rely on the generosity of our families to help fund essential improvements to our school. Thanks to your contributions, we have been able to carry out vital roof repairs, install a secure electronic gate, improve our heating and lighting, and enhance our Early Years and Kingfisher facilities.

To help us continue providing a safe, welcoming and inspiring learning environment for our children, we are asking families to contribute to our School Fund. This year, the suggested annual contribution is £55 per child.

Contributions can be made via School Gateway or by setting up a monthly, quarterly or annual standing order. Full payment details can be found in the School Fund letter sent to parents.

Make your donation go further! If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid allows us to claim an additional 25% on your contribution at no extra cost to you. Forms are available from the school office.

A huge thank you to all our families for your continued generosity. Every contribution, however large or small, helps us make a lasting difference to our children's school experience!



REMINDER: INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

Tuesday, 29th September

YEAR 3

CELTIC HARMONY

Wednesday, 30th September

Please arrive at school promptly, ready for a swift departure.

CELTIC HARMONY

25 years of Wellbeing through Prehistory



HCL
NOURISH • EDUCATE • INSPIRE

BURGER DAY OCT 1ST

MAIN MENU

Breaded Chicken Burger

or

Beef Burger

or

Breaded Bean & Vegetable Burger (Ve)

(Free From)

SERVED WITH

Baked Potato Wedges

Sweetcorn

Coleslaw





DESSERT

Chocolate Sponge
with Chocolate Custard

(Jacket Potato & Cold Options
available where applicable)

@hclcatering

www.hcl.co.uk

Menus are subject to change due to supplier stock availability. * Free from the key 14 allergens and plant based/vegan



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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ (with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website

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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.

The children should wear an item of clothing in their house colour!



BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU



Alice—Year 5—Are We There Yet?

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.

Ofsted Outstanding Provider
Healthy Schools
RE Quality Mark GOLD
church school awards
Hertfordshire Quality Standards
SCHOOL GAMES GOLD 2025/26