

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term Issue 6

9th October 2026



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It has been another busy week at Broxbourne, with our House Football Competition reaching its conclusion. Next Monday sees the twelfth and final round of matches, with everything still to play for. Blue Badgers and Red Squirrels are currently level at the top of the table, meaning the final Year 5 and 6 boys' fixtures will decide which house takes the overall title this year. The latest scores are included below.

This week, I had the privilege of attending the Hertfordshire Head Teachers' Conference at Hinxton Hall – an appropriately chosen venue for a gathering focused on learning, where DNA was quite literally unravelled! A fascinating range of speakers explored the changing landscape of education, from the experiences and expectations of Baby Boomers through to Generations X, Y and Z. We considered the pressures facing schools today and, crucially, how we can respond with positivity, creativity and a clear sense of purpose, remaining beacons of hope for our most vulnerable children amid this turbulence. There was much to reflect upon, but also a strong sense of optimism about the opportunities ahead for education and the children we serve.

Our Christian faith reminds us that hope matters, particularly when life does not always go according to plan. The words of Paul in Romans offer a simple but reassurance:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."
Romans 15:13

We know that some families within our community are facing difficult circumstances at present. They remain very much in our thoughts and prayers, and we hope that the care and support of those around them will bring comfort and encouragement during challenging times.

Please take a moment to read the information below about next week's cross-country training for children in Years 3 to 6 and the PTA Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday. The coffee morning is a lovely opportunity to enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake, support a very worthwhile cause and catch up informally with members of our school team. Mrs O'Dowd, our SENCo, Miss Clifford, Miss Smith

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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and I are keen to hear how families are finding life at Broxbourne as we approach the halfway point of the first half-term. We would particularly encourage families who have joined us recently to come along on Friday between 9:00 and 9:30am. We look forward to seeing you there.

My thanks go to Miss Clifford and Mrs Luckhurst for being at the helm during the latter part of this week and for ensuring that everything has continued to run smoothly. I look forward to returning to school next week and catching up on all that has been happening in my absence.
I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

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.





HOUSE FOOTBALL SCORES

Year 3 & 4 Girls

Pos.	House	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Red Squirrels	3	3	0	0	13	2	+11	9
2	Blue Badgers	3	2	0	1	4	6	−2	7
3	Green Hedgehogs	3	1	0	2	2	6	−4	5
4	Yellow Foxes	3	0	0	3	0	5	−5	3

Year 3 & 4 Boys

Pos.	House	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Red Squirrels	3	3	0	0	8	1	+7	9
2	Blue Badgers	3	2	0	1	9	3	+6	6
3	Yellow Foxes	3	1	0	2	4	8	−4	4
4	Green Hedgehogs	3	0	0	3	1	10	−9	3

Year 5 & 6 Girls

Pos.	House	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
1=	Blue Badgers	3	1	2	0	4	1	+3	7
1=	Yellow Foxes	3	1	2	0	2	0	+2	7
3	Green Hedgehogs	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	6
4	Red Squirrels	3	0	1	2	2	7	−5	4

Year 5 & 6 Boys

There is **one match still to play** in this competition.

Pos.	House	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Blue Badgers	2	2	0	0	4	0	+4	6
2	Red Squirrels	2	1	0	1	5	3	+2	4
3	Yellow Foxes	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	4
4	Green Hedgehogs	2	0	0	2	1	7	−6	2



Overall House Competition

With the four competitions combined, the position is

Pos.	House	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Po
1=	Blue Badgers	11	7	3	2	19	10	+9	26
1=	Red Squirrels	11	7	1	3	31	16	+15	26
3	Yellow Foxes	11	4	3	5	9	11	−2	18
4	Green Hedgehogs	11	2	1	8	8	28	−20	16

Blue Badgers and Red Squirrels are currently tied on 26 points. Red Squirrels have the substantially better goal difference (+15 compared with +9).

One match remains: Year 5 & 6 Boys. This means the overall House Champion is not yet decided. The final match could potentially change the top two positions, depending on the result.





KINGFISHER COUNCIL PENALTY SHOOT OUT

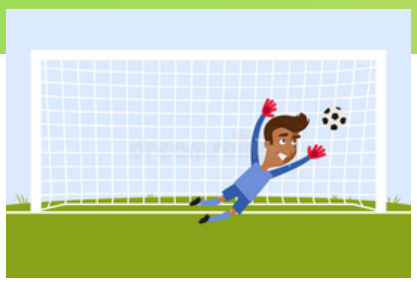
On Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th October, the Kingfisher Council will be hosting a Penalty shoot-out for Years 1-6. The shoot-out will take place at playtime.

For £1, the children will get 5 shots against our fantastic goal keepers. Everyone who enters will win a small treat (allergies will be catered for). All of the money that is raised will go to our amazing school charity, Stroke Association UK.

If your child would like to enter the shoot-out, you can either pay online via the School Gateway or on the day with cash.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support for our school charity.

Mrs Andrews and the Kingfisher Council representatives.



CHOIR AT ST ALBANS

Tuesday, 13th October at 2.00pm





HOUSE POINT LEADERS



This week's winners are…..



Red Squirrels

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!

CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING – YEARS 3–6

On Friday, 6th November several school teams will compete in a district cross-country race at Broxbourne Secondary School.

Cross country training will begin on Monday, 12th October, and will take place at 12.30pm every Monday and Thursday for the two weeks leading up to half term.

All children in Years 3–6 who are interested in representing the school are encouraged to come along and take part.

Commitment is essential! Children wishing to be considered for the school cross country team must attend all training sessions.

A final run-off will take place on Monday, 2nd November (the first day back after half term), to select the team from those children who have demonstrated their commitment by attending every session.

We look forward to seeing lots of enthusiastic runners giving it their best!





PTA MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 9:00–9:30AM

Please join us in the school hall next Friday for our PTA Macmillan Coffee Morning. Enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake, catch up informally with staff and share how you have found the start of the school year. New parents are especially welcome!

Please do bring a cake or an assortment of cakes to share, if you are able to. Alternatively, you can bake or buy a cake on the day. Please ensure that all cakes are nut-free to help us keep everyone safe. All proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Support, helping us support this very worthwhile cause.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for a wonderful opportunity to be together as a school community while raising money for a great cause.



POPPY SALE

Poppies and other merchandise will be to be on sale from Monday, 12th October, before and after school ONLY.
Items are individually priced.




Respect
Equality
Service
Perseverance
Excellence
Compassion
Trust


SCHOOL
DISCO!
Friday 16th October
EYS & KS1
5pm - 6pm
KS2
6:30pm - 7:30pm
£2 per Child
Tickets on the PTA Hub or on the Door
CRISPS
biscuits, candyfloss,
sweets, squash and crisps.
UV face painting and
nail painting
Glow accessories





WHO IS THE PTA AND HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Our PTA is a friendly team who work together to raise funds and make a real difference to our school. We meet throughout the year to plan exciting events, share fundraising ideas and decide how best to spend the money raised. New faces are always welcome!

There are lots of ways to get involved, whether you can spare a little time or would like to take on a bigger role:

- **PTA Volunteers** – Help with events, preparations, stalls and fundraising activities. Every little bit of help counts!
- **PTA Committee Members** – Elected at the AGM, committee members help make decisions about PTA activities and how funds are spent.
- **Class Representatives** – Act as a vital link between parents and the PTA, helping to organise class stalls, donations and volunteers for our Christmas and Summer Fairs.
- **PTA Officers** – Take on specific responsibilities to help keep the PTA running smoothly.

You don't need to commit lots of time to make a difference! Whether it's packing sweet bags, helping on a stall or organising an event, every contribution is hugely appreciated.

The PTA is only as successful as the support it receives from our school community, so why not get involved? It's a lovely way to meet other parents, have fun and support our children!



Leanne Marsh
Chair



Jenna Horrigan
Vice Chair



Lauren Shand
Treasurer



Laura Seaton
Secretary



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.

Top Tips for Educators

PUPIL WELLBEING CONVERSATIONS

It can feel difficult to know how to start a conversation with a pupil about their wellbeing, either because you do not feel equipped with the information you think you need, or because you do not feel confident opening it up. You do not need to be a specialist. This guide covers how to start, what to say about confidentiality, and what to do with what you hear.

1 NURTURE WARM, TRUSTING, & KIND RELATIONSHIPS

When pupils have a consistent, emotionally available adult who shows they care and who holds them in mind, they thrive. They are also far more willing to open up and seek support. Positive, trusting relationships are an important part of supporting pupil wellbeing and complement more formal wellbeing programmes or sessions.

2 KEEP CALM, EVEN IF YOU'RE WORRIED

When a pupil discloses, stay calm while showing that you take it seriously. Panic can raise their anxiety and teach them that telling an adult makes things worse. Your steadiness can help them to keep calm and give them enough space to say the rest. Calm does not mean unmoved, and it is fine to tell them that what they have said is important and will be heard.

3 HAVE SIDE-BY-SIDE CONVERSATIONS

Many pupils find it easier to talk when a conversation does not require them to sit face to face with an adult. For example, conversations might take place while walking, tidying the classroom, or taking part in a lunchtime club. Sitting alongside someone removes the demand of eye contact, allows longer thinking time and lowers the intensity of the exchange. This can be particularly true for neurodivergent pupils, and for anyone who needs a moment before answering.

4 THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE

Consider whether the pupil can speak without being overheard or interrupted. If a pupil has already started talking, avoid unnecessarily disrupting the conversation by moving elsewhere. Where a more appropriate location is needed, explain why you need to move and give the pupil the opportunity to continue what they were saying.

5 BE HONEST ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY

Never promise to keep information to yourself. Schools have a legal duty to share information relevant to a pupil's safety or welfare. Tell them at the start that you may need to pass something on, and who to. Then involve them in what happens next, as far as their age and understanding allow. Ask what they want to happen, what they want to say, and who they want to be told. Be honest that some things will need to happen whether they agree or not. A pupil who helped shape next steps is far more likely to tell someone again.

6 CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Provide a classroom free from belittling and shame-based behaviour management. Pupils who expect to be humiliated will not disclose. Where they feel listened to and see that difficulties are acted upon, they share worries earlier and whilst those worries are still small. If pupils hear adults belittling or talking about other pupils openly, it damages trust and they are likely to assume their worries will also be handled this way.

7 DO NOT CARRY IT ON YOUR OWN

Hearing something difficult can stay with you. When informing your designated safeguarding lead, share with them how it left you feeling and whether you feel you need further support. Your role as a trusted adult is what makes all of the above possible, and just as you have a responsibility to protect pupils' welfare, your school has a responsibility to protect yours.

HELPFUL OPENERS

- I've noticed you've been quieter. How's your week been?
- You don't seem your usual self, when might be a good time to catch up today?
- Sometimes it's hard to know what to say, but I'd like to understand?
- You don't have to talk now. I'll check in with you later?

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is a mental health and wellbeing specialist with nearly thirty years in education. She is a multi-academy trust director, special adviser, and a former adviser to the Department for Education on its mental health green paper.

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SIP & PAINT



£20 ticket inc bottle
£15 ticket inc candle
£10 ticket entry only
All tickets include a glass of Prosecco on arrival and nibbles.

Tickets can be bought on the hub
Extra items for sale on the night

Wednesday 18th November 7pm
St Augustine's Parish Centre