

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term Issue 8

22nd October 2026



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Science Week – A Spectacular End to the Half Term!

Science Week has been a fantastic way to end the half term, offering our children a range of exciting, hands-on learning experiences. A huge thank you to Mrs Laing for organising the week and to everyone who contributed to its success.

We are particularly grateful to the parents who visited school to lead workshops and share their knowledge and expertise. Our Year 5 and 6 children also enjoyed a virtual reality workshop, made possible by Robert Barclay Academy. Throughout the week, we have launched rockets on the school field, taken part in a variety of STEM workshops and joined a live BBC lesson. The spectacular finale was the WonderDome, which transformed our school hall into a planetarium, giving the children a memorable opportunity to explore the wonders of space.

A special thank you to our PTA for funding the WonderDome and providing this wonderful opportunity. Science Week has been a fitting celebration of scientific discovery, curiosity and the importance of STEM education.

Parents' Evening

Thank you to all our parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening this week. We hope you found the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements informative and useful. It was wonderful to see virtually full attendance across the school, reflecting the strength of our partnership in supporting every child.

Cross-Country Training

Our 58 cross-country runners have continued their training, completing four sessions to date. Well done to everyone for their commitment and perseverance.

The cross-country run-off will take place on the first Monday back after half term, so there is still time to fit in some extra training over the break. The District Cross-Country event follows on the first Friday back. We will select the top six boys and girls from Years 3 and 4 combined, and Years 5 and 6 combined, to represent our school. Good luck to all our runners!

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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PTA Disco – Thank You!

Our PTA disco last Friday was a great success, raising £1,583.81! Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event, and particularly to our PTA for organising it. Events like these provide valuable opportunities for our school community to come together.

As we reach the end of a very successful eight-week half term, I would like to congratulate all our children on the start they have made to this school year. We have seen enthusiasm, commitment and a real willingness to embrace the many learning opportunities on offer.

The Bible reminds us of the importance of giving our best in all that we do:
Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

This verse reflects the effort and perseverance shown by our children throughout the first eight weeks of the school year. We look forward to seeing them continue to approach new challenges with enthusiasm and determination.

As we head into the half-term break, thank you to all our families and staff for your continued support. I hope you enjoy a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term and the build up to Christmas!

Best wishes Paul Miller

EY2 (RECEPTION) ADMISSIONS

If your child reaches five years old between 1st September 2027 and 31st August 2028, you should apply for a place within 2027-2028 admissions. Applications open for EY2 admissions on Monday, 2nd November. Information and Supplementary Information Forms can be collected from the school office, or from clicking the link below to the Admissions page on our school website.
The closing date for applications is Friday, 15th January.
Thank you.

https://www.broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk/admissions



YEAR 1

Toys of the Past Workshop

Monday, 2nd November

YEAR 6

World War II Workshop

Monday, 2nd November

YEAR 2

Tower of London Trip

Tuesday, 3rd November

Please be prompt as the coach is leaving at 8.00am.



SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS – IMPORTANT REMINDER

A reminder that the deadline for submitting secondary school applications is **Saturday, 31st October 2026.**

Please note that this deadline falls during the half-term holiday, BEFORE children return to school. Applications must be submitted to your relevant Local Authority by this date (Herts or Essex County Council). We strongly encourage parents and carers to complete their applications as soon as possible to avoid missing this important deadline.



NETBALL SUPERSTARS!

A huge well done to our fantastic Year 6 netball team, who put on a brilliant performance against Wormley on Monday evening, securing an impressive 16–4 victory!

The team showed fantastic teamwork, determination and some excellent netball skills throughout the match. We are incredibly proud of all the players for their enthusiasm, sportsmanship and wonderful team spirit.

Congratulations, Year 6 – what a fantastic result!



KS2 CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

Friday, 6th November

On Friday, 6th November several school teams will compete in a district cross-country race at Broxbourne Secondary School. If your child has been selected, please ensure they have their full PE kit and trainers with them on this day. 6 boys and 6 girls will comprise the team for Year 3 and 4 combined and another 6 boys and 6 girls for Year 5 and 6 combined. There is still time to get a Park Run or some fitness training in during half term…!



Spectators welcome!





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

DEEPFAKES

A deepfake is a piece of artificial intelligence (AI) trickery designed to make you believe that a person has said or done something they haven't. AI models are able to use audio, video and photos of a subject to produce misleading mimics. Initially unsophisticated and easy to spot, deepfakes are improving every day. And with the spread of user-friendly AI, it's easier than ever for children to make their own, or be the unsuspecting target of them.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BULLYING RISK

AI has got easier to use and more widespread, making it a "gift" to bullies. Children can generate fake audio of peers saying damaging things, or pictures of them doing something embarrassing. More disturbingly, Metro recently highlighted cases where fake sexualised images of teens are spread through social media. Mainstream apps don't allow this usage, but with AI becoming widespread, easy-to-use sites without guardrails keep emerging for darker uses.

FAKE FAMILY SCAMS

With a few seconds of audio — from an Instagram reel or TikTok — scammers can clone a person's voice. They can then use this to scam relatives with phone calls asking for money or assistance. This is a widespread tactic for scammers, with the FBI reporting 22,000 such cases in 2025, defrauding victims out of $893 million that year alone.

FAKED CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

With the technology getting easier to use and public figures having lots of clips for training, celebrities are a frequent target. According to McAfee, the most deep faked celebrities are Taylor Swift, Scarlett Johansson, Jenna Ortega, Sydney Sweeney and Sabrina Carpenter, and their AI dopelgangers are usually pushing scams. Even YouTuber MrBeast has been deepfaked by scammers on TikTok. It can be used for propaganda too, making politicians appear to do or say things to improve or harm their reputation.

EXTORTION RISK

You might not be the one being tricked by a deepfake — you could also be the star of it. Blackmail videos are as old as film itself, but with deepfake technology you don't have to have done anything wrong to be a target. A deepfake video showing a person in an uncompromising position could make the victim pay up, even when the content never happened.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP PROFILES PRIVATE

To make a convincing deepfake, you need a supply of images, audio or video of the subject. That means that most non-celebrity victims are targeted via social media where there's a ready-made repository of media to train a deepfake from. Most social media companies have privacy settings to prevent unauthorised access. Enable these to keep strangers and bullies away.

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

While deepfakes are getting harder to spot, there are still telltale signs to look out for. Deepfake creation can leave blurry edges and flickering textures, especially around hair and teeth. It can also look too sleek, with models often trained on professional video. Make sure the mouth shapes match the spoken words, too. As for audio, listen out for mispronounced phrases and a slightly unusual, robotic rhythm of speech.

USE RESEARCH AND COMMON SENSE

Even perfect deep fakes rely on trust, so think critically. If it's someone you know claiming to need help, then ask them to prove they're who they say they are with an inside joke. For public figures, try Googling the person along with a bit of the contentious speech in quotation marks. Also question why you're seeing the video. If it's a paid promotion, then ask yourself who's paying and why. If someone is sharing the clip, do they dislike the target?

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

As well as emphasising the need for privacy and to not trust everything they see online, it's important to ensure children realise why deepfakes are problematic in the first place. With deepfake technology getting more accessible and easy to use, children can start using the technology to make deepfakes of schoolmates, teachers or other adults. Ensure they're aware of the serious trouble the technology can cause, and the ethical problems of manipulating someone's image without consent.

Meet Our Expert

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



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Aj's KIDS CLUB

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Fun. Safe. Inspiring.
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INSET DAY REMINDER

Friday, 23rd October

The school will be closed!

Wishing you all a relaxing half term. See you all back in school on Monday, 2nd November



HEAR OUR PRAYER

Thursday, 5th November at 9-9.20am

All welcome to attend



BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Oisin - Year 1 - Tiddler the Story Telling Fish
Florence - Year 3 - 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.