

Broxbourne CE Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term Issue 2

17th January 2025



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Our Year 6 children have been enjoying finding out about all matters political through visiting the Houses of Parliament today. This visit is a fantastic opportunity and insight into understanding how the parliamentary system runs in Britain and how motivating to see and hear about this first hand. Each year in their leaving book, our Year 6's record their hopes and aspirations for their future – we have had Prime Minister written as the aspiration of one of our students previously. Some of the manifestos our children produce have some amazing ideas of real depth and substance in how to address some of the challenging issues our country, and society, face which affect young people! Visits such as this can really resonate and make a difference.

Our first eight Year 5 children started our House Archery competition this week and proved to be sharp shooters. Our Sports Ambassadors are running the competition each Thursday and Friday break time across the next few weeks. Thursday is an introductory and practise session and Friday is the scored competition with each house member having eight arrows with which to score. After the first round, total scores are as follows: Yellow Foxes 53, Red Squirrels 65, Green Hedgehogs 70 and Blue Badgers currently in the lead with 77.

Our choir have been working hard in readiness for the excitement of Young Voices next Wednesday. They will be part of a performance of 7,000 children singing and performing at the O2, including an orchestra and other artists. The night will be spectacular and memorable and upon their return late that evening, all children (and staff!) will sleep well...

Finally, our next Broxbourne Goes to Church service attendance is on Sunday, 2nd February at St Augustine's Church. We will provide a brief school update during the family friendly service and our choir will sing as part of this. We really hope a good number of Broxbourne families are able to attend and enjoy spending time together in worship and in support of our church and school community.

Until next week, we wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes Paul Miller

Dream, Believe and Achieve with God

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PTA YES DAY!!

A day when Mr Miller and the teachers say 'YES'!

You can choose to break these rules on **Friday 24th January!**

50p per rule you choose to break, you can go the whole hog and break them all or just one.

Bring your exact money on the day in a named envelope.

Rules that can be broken are:

1. Nail varnish
2. Trainers for the day
3. Colourful socks
4. Colourful hair accessories
5. Bring in a small soft toy to help you with your learning
6. Squash in your water bottle
7. Wear a cap indoors
8. Have tattoos/transfers
9. Wear your tie around your head
10. Small packet of crisps to have at break time.

Many thanks

Your PTA





REMINDER: SCHOOL FUND 2024 / 2025

Every year we offer the option of paying your School Fund contributions in two instalments, the first being at the beginning of the Autumn term and the second instalment is due **February 2025**.

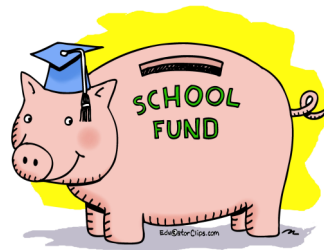
We are extremely grateful to all those parents who regularly contribute to the Fund as by doing so you are making a significant difference to the quality and range of resources we are able to purchase for the children.

Contributions can now be made online via the Gateway app or via the link on the Parents tab of the school website:

[Online Payments | Broxbourne CE Primary School
\(broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk\)](https://broxbourne-pri.herts.sch.uk)

Payment made online must be made separately for each child.

Thank you for your support.



CHOIR—YOUNG VOICES AT THE O2

Wednesday, 22nd January



YEAR 4

SUPER POWER WORKSHOP

Thursday, 23rd January





FIT & FED

Free half-term Fit&Fed camp at
Isabella House, Waltham Cross between 17th-21st February
9am-11.30am.



Half Term with Fit and Fed Monday 17 - Friday 21, 9am-11.30am
February
will offer a healthy breakfast and fun activities

Who >> Young people aged between 8-16 years, in receipt of free school meals or from families who are feeling the pinch during the holidays.

What >> FREE activity programme full of fun activities, including sport, playground games, healthy eating, arts and crafts and board games.

Where >> Hertfordshire Women's Centre (formerly known as Isabella House)
Longcroft Drive, Waltham Cross, EN8 7PA

Pre-booking is essential.
Please email community@broxbourne.gov.uk or
call 01992 785555 ext. 5571 to reserve your child's place.



THE BRIAN PICKARD 200 CLUB

The Brian Pickard 200 Club winner for December is
No. 165 Mrs Marsh, parent of the school.
Many congratulations!

In January, two draws take place, the usual monthly draw with a prize of
£15 and the annual school birthday draw with a prize of £80. New
members are always welcome, as are those whose subscription renewal is
due. Annual subscription is only £12!

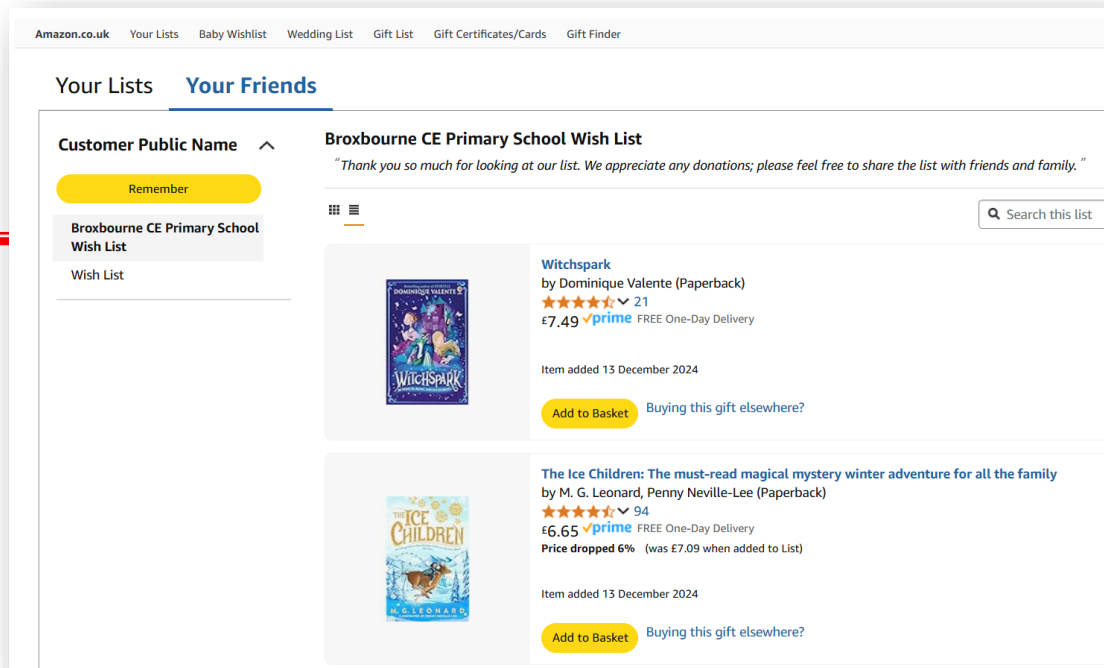
Please support the School in this way!
Please contact the office for details.



SCHOOL AMAZON WISHLIST

We are delighted to share with you our Amazon School Wishlist. The list is updated regularly and will show items that we would love for our school to enhance the learning experience for our children. We would greatly appreciate any parents, grandparents, friends, relatives and former pupils/parents selecting something from our wishlist to benefit the children of our school. Please feel free to share the link via email and on social media and thank you in advance for supporting us with this. Education is being placed under considerable financial pressure currently and this exciting idea will help alleviate this burden.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/409ZC1Z2CE2K?ref_=wl_share



HOUSE POINT LEADERS

This week's winners are.....

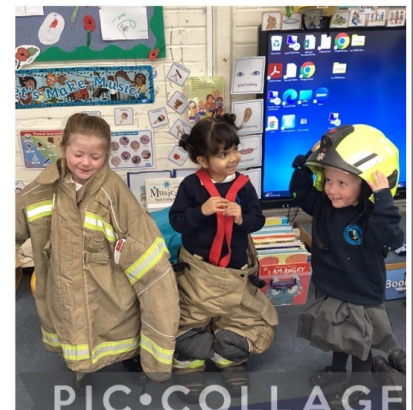
Yellow Foxes



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!

EY1 FIREFIGHTER VISIT

On Tuesday, EY1 had a visit from Firefighter Shelley (parent to the school) to consolidate their learning last term about 'People who Help us'. Shelley told us all about her job in helping to fight fires and rescue people that might be trapped. She showed us her firefighter uniform and she even let the children try it on. The helmet in particular was quite heavy to wear! The children had the opportunity to ask Shelley any questions. The visit has certainly encouraged some of the children to now want to become a Firefighter too when they grow up! Thank you so much Firefighter Shelley for taking time out of your busy day to come and talk to us about this important job.



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

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app; that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



MOBILE PHONE REMINDER

Only children in Year 5 & 6 are allowed to bring phones to school. We do not encourage this but do recognise that some lone walkers will choose to bring them. Please remember that if your child does bring their phone to school, you **MUST** have filled in the mobile phone agreement and returned it to the office.

Please ensure that you and your child have read this agreement. Gentle reminder: children may not bring their mobile phones on ANY school trips.

Thank you.



LATE ARRIVALS

Please aim to be punctual at all times. If your child arrives after the door has been closed, for any class, they are to enter the school via the main office. They must be **signed in** by an adult and should not be sent in on their own. This is to ensure registers are updated - particularly important in case an evacuation is required - and that dinner numbers are recalculated. Being late for any class is not only disruptive to the child that is late, but also to all their classmates. They also miss out on their learning time. Thank you.



BIRTHDAY BOOK THANK YOU

Leo—Year 3—Messi Rules

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.

