



# Brookside Primary School

*Learning for Life*

Newsletter Autumn Term Issue 4

[www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.brookside.oxon.sch.uk)



@brooksidetweets

15th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Next Friday is the end of the first half term after a busy and successful start to the academic year. We hope you all have an enjoyable half term break. Monday 1st November is an INSET day and the children return to school on Tuesday 2nd November.

## **Sickness**

A number of children have contracted a sickness bug over the last few weeks. Any child who is sick must stay off school for at least 48 hours if they have been sick due to a sickness bug. This is to prevent the spread of the bug to other children or adults in school.

Fortunately we have not had too many cases of coronavirus this half term but it is still important that any child with symptoms has a PCR test before returning to school.

## **Cross Country**

The children in Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 will be competing in our school cross-country races on Friday 22nd October. Please can all children come to school in their PE kits for the day. The runners who finish in qualifying positions will go on to represent Brookside at the Bicester School partnership against the best runners from other primary schools in the partnership. Our school event is a fantastic house event and encourages the children to display their learning powers, increase their fitness and enjoy running.

## **Year 6 Residential Visit**

Year 6 children are looking forward to going to Norfolk for their residential visit after half term. Thank you to Mr Simpson, Mr Harrison and Miss Naidu for attending this week.

## **Waddesdon Manor**

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, Year 3/ 4 visited Waddesdon Manor as part of their Victorian topic. With different workshops, looking at Victorian porcelain, finding out about servant roles and touring around the manor, to learning about the menu Queen Victoria ate when she visited, the room she took a nap in and her first introduction to electricity, everyone had a fantastic time. The children were even lucky enough to have a picnic outside before the rain came. The behaviour and manners of the children were impeccable and on leaving, commented on by the staff and members of the public also at Waddesdon. Well done Year 3/4, you were a credit to the school.



## **BBC Children in Need – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

We will again be supporting the work of BBC Children in Need on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Children will be encouraged to come into school dressed as a rock star as it is the end of our TT Rockstars week. We are asking for a donation of £1 for children to wear their rock star clothes. There will be a Pudsey prize for the best dressed pupil and staff member! We will also have a range of Pudsey items for sale the week before. We will send more details about these after half term.

## **FOBS Halloween Disco**

A reminder that the FOBS Halloween Disco is on Wednesday 20th October. Thank you to the member of FOBS for organising this event for the children.

## **After School Club – Next Wednesday**

Due to the school disco next week Mrs Hekimova's after school club will take place in the art room. Please collect your child from the green corridor between the art room and KS1.

## Atomic Science

Year 5&6 recently enjoyed an engaging science lesson from Atomic Tom. Always a great presenter, Tom makes science both fun and easy to understand. The children learnt more about evolution and DNA and also conducted an experiment to extract some DNA from a strawberry.

## Recommended Reading

Every year the Book Trust publishes a list of great books for children. With Christmas looming large we recommend you take a look at what they suggest are some new brilliant reads that would make ideal Christmas gifts. The link below will take you straight to the list and books are grouped by age to make it even easier to find that next great adventure for your child to enjoy.

[Great Books Guide: 100 best new books for children | BookTrust](#)

## Multiskills and Book Club – Next Wednesday

Due to the school disco Multi-skills and Book Club will not take place next week. Children can attend the FoBS Halloween Disco on that day. The clubs will restart during the first week after half term.

## E-Safety – Pokemon Go

At the end of this newsletter please see a guide on Pokemon Go. In this guide you will find tips on a number of potential risks such as environmental hazards, strangers and data collection.

## Diary Dates

Monday 25th—Friday 29th October—Half Term

Monday 1st November—INSET Day (school closed) Year 6 residential visit departs

Monday 22nd November/Tuesday 23rd November—Parents' evenings

Friday 17th December—End of Term

Best wishes,

Mr Cornell and the staff of Brookside



# What Parents Need to Know about

# POKÉMON GO



Pokémon GO has been among the world's most popular mobile games since its spectacular release in 2016. It's recently enjoyed a resurgence, thanks partly to people combining entertainment and exercise during lockdown. In Pokémon GO – like the Pokémon TV show, trading card series and other video games – players capture, train and battle with their Pokémon creatures: physically exploring locations while using augmented reality via their phone's screen. The game generally provides a positive experience, but there are still some safety concerns to consider.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Pokémon GO requires players to visit in-game landmarks like Pokéstops and Gyms. These are often situated at public real-world locations such as churches or post offices. Sometimes, however, they can inadvertently end up being placed in dangerous areas which are unsuitable for children, even when accompanied by an adult: near a construction site or a main road, for example.

## STRANGERS & MEETING OFFLINE

Players often cooperate with friends in the game, and there are many online discussion hangouts. As well as sharing tips and info, these groups may arrange to meet offline to catch Pokémon or attend raids (communal events where players flock to the same real-world place for a mass battle). This can put children at risk of being messaged and invited to meet by strangers under the pretence of talking about the game.

## DATA COLLECTION

When a player logs into their Pokémon GO account, the game collects personal data about the user and their device. Locations, emails, names, ages and even camera images can all be accessed. What then happens to this information is open to debate. Niantic, the game's developers, maintain that they do not sell user information to third parties – but the fact that they have it at all is a concern, nonetheless.

## VISIBLE PROFILES & LOCATION

Pokémon GO players can add each other as 'friends' in the game by sharing their trainer codes. Two trainers who do this can then view each other's information, such as their username. If a username gives any clues to the player's real name or personal details, a stranger may then be able to look them up online. The game also lets users upload images to social media, which could publicly disclose a child's exact location.

## IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game uses a currency called Pokécoins, which can be bought for real money (in bundles between £0.79 and £99.99) and exchanged for in-game items such as Pokéballs and berries. It's extremely easy for a child to purchase Pokécoins (even accidentally) if there's a payment method connected to their mobile phone – and possibly rack up a sizeable bill without realising it!

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PLAY ALONGSIDE YOUR CHILD

Finding and catching Pokémon with young ones could turn into a great mutual hobby. At 25 years old, it's one of the few games franchises that spans two generations. Enjoying the game together will give you plenty of new things to talk about with your child – and if you played Pokémon in your own childhood, you might impress them with your knowledge of the digital critters!

### ENCOURAGE AWARENESS

Remind your child of the physical dangers they could face while catching Pokémon and emphasise staying aware of their surroundings. The game will often alert children (through their phone) when they are close to an interesting Pokémon item – usually sending them excitedly rushing off to find it – so they should never play Pokémon GO near busy roads or in places they don't know well.

### DISGUISE THE EXERCISE

One of Pokémon GO's benefits is that it encourages young (and not-so-young!) ones to get exercise outdoors. Some parts of the game can be completed from home, but it's best experienced while walking around your local area. Certain tasks (like visiting Pokéstops) can be repeated every day – and an hour outside having fun catching Pokémon will hardly feel like exercise at all!

### USE AN OLDER PHONE

If children use an older phone to play Pokémon GO, then they won't be walking around with their own new device, which could get broken or stolen. Parents are also far less likely to have left a credit card linked to the old mobile. It also means that you can limit the amount of information used to set up an account, and what companies who gain access to your data can do with it.

### AGREE PLAY BOUNDARIES

Ensure your child knows where they are (and aren't) allowed to go searching for Pokémon, when they have to be home, and how often they can play the game. Talk to other young Pokémon GO fans' parents or carers to see what boundaries they set for their children. Lunchtimes (if allowed by the school) or after school are ideal times for getting some exercise and catching all those Pokémon!

## Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://heimdalsecurity.com/blog/is-pokemon-go-safe/>  
<https://bleedingcool.com/games/pokemon-go-announces-quality-of-life-updates-for-february-2021/>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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## **OCTOBER TENNIS CAMPS**

**Come and join the fun at  
Bicester Lawn Tennis Club!**

**Monday 25th October**

**Wednesday 27th October**

*All holiday camp days can be booked individually  
or as a block for a discounted rate.*

*Come and join the fun this October at Bicester Tennis Club.  
Play some festive Halloween games and loads of prizes  
ready to be given away!!*



**Summer camps are available  
for 4 to 18 year olds.**

**Camp time: 10:00am - 2:00pm.  
Camp cost: £28.00 (+booking fee).**

Whether a first time player or on the way to Wimbledon, our sessions are sure to keep you entertained. Make friends, learn new skills, develop teamwork and become a better tennis player.

- Fun and friendly holiday camps for all ages and abilities.
- Professional-standard tennis coaching including match play, agility, co-ordination and competitive exercises.
- Ball machine, serve speed fun, prizes and giveaways.

**All coaches are LTA-qualified, DBS and First Aid trained**



**[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BiancaPallattTennisCoaching/Coaching/Camps)**

[www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BiancaPallattTennisCoaching/Coaching/Camps](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BiancaPallattTennisCoaching/Coaching/Camps)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT BIANCA PALLATT:**

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BIANCA PALLATT  
Tennis Coaching



SAFEGUARDING

**ALL COACHES:**

- LTA-QUALIFIED,
- DBS CHECKED
- FIRST AID TRAINED
- SAFEGUARD CERTIFIED