

Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

(FORTNIGHTLY)



“
Believe,
Persevere,
Succeed.
”

14th November 2025

A message from Miss Harbridge

We are delighted to see everyone back and settled into school life after the half-term break. It's been a busy and exciting start!

In Year 2, children launched their new topic with an engaging Great Fire of London workshop, bringing history to life through hands-on activities and storytelling. Meanwhile, Year 6 are off to Marwell Zoo today, linking their visit to science learning about inheritance and evolution—a fantastic opportunity to see concepts in action.

Yesterday, we celebrated a wonderful Michael Rosen Poetry Day. The highlight was a lively performance of his famous poem Chocolate Cake—complete with real cake eaten on stage! Children also enjoyed writing and performing their own poems, showcasing creativity and confidence. It's been an inspiring start to the term, and we look forward to more exciting learning ahead.



On Tuesday, our school came together to honour Remembrance Day. Children spent time in their classrooms reflecting on the importance of this day and what it means to remember those who served and sacrificed. They learned about key symbols, such as the poppy, and how it represents hope and remembrance.

This was a meaningful opportunity for our school community to pause, reflect, and show respect for those who gave so much.

Focus Value- Co-operation

This half-term, we are focusing on our value of co-operation—working together towards a shared goal by listening, supporting, and respecting each other's ideas. Co-operation helps us achieve more than we could alone and builds a strong sense of community in our school.

To launch this theme, we explored the beautiful picture book *Flooded* by Mariago Ilustrajo. The story shows how challenges can be overcome when everyone contributes and works as a team. Through discussion, pupils reflected on how teamwork makes a difference—not just in stories, but in real life.

We encourage families to talk about co-operation at home: What does it look like in everyday life? How can we practise it together?

Focus Value



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Key Messages

Drop off times- Please note our drop off time begins at 8:30am

KS1 - the gate closes at 8:50am

KS2 - the gate closes at 8:45am

After these times, children will need to come in via the main entrance and school office.

Tissues - We would be most grateful if each family could bring in a box of tissues! We are using so many and they are quite expensive to keep buying, so if you are able to, please can you add a box to your weekly shopping? Thank you.

Online Safety Show

Reception and KS1 had a Stranger Danger and Online Safety Magic Show before half term. The PTA kindly funded this great opportunity for the children to learn important messages in a fun and interactive way. The children learnt about what a stranger is and what to do if they are approached by a stranger. The children were able to recall the key 'magic' words - No, Go, Yell, Tell. We all loved the magic tricks! There was lots of laughter, clapping and smiling faces throughout the show.

Reception pupil feedback:

"No! Go! Yell! Tell - a grown up like your mum or dad or someone in your family or your teacher."

"Never go to a person's house unless your mum says so."

Year 1 pupil feedback:

"If you see a stranger, you say no! Go! You yell and tell your mum or dad or the police if you see them."

"If someone tries to take you, say no! Tell your mum or dad or grown up or uncle or nan or teacher."

Year 2 pupil feedback:

"Never leave your house alone because you might get lost or someone might take you."

"Don't trust someone on the computer because they might send you a picture or something. They might pretend to be someone else."

Thank you to the PTA for funding this show - we loved it!



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Thank you!

We would like to say a BIG thank you for all the donations made during this years Harvest Festival. The donations have been delivered to the Woking Food Bank, who are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated.

Message from the
Food Bank:

Many thanks for the
generous large
donations that were
delivered to the
warehouse yesterday.

The weight of goods
was 275 kg and is
much appreciated.



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Awards - week commencing 10/11

Star Award, Effort Award and Values Award			
Oak	Evie	Navie	Rohaam
Pine	Lily	Royce	Jasper
1B	Olivia	Muhammad	Ronnie
1M	Florence	Oscar	Jorge
2A	Jake	Edmund	Archie
2T	Felicity	Tristan	Alexander
3M	Layla	Ekow	Misha
3MC	Isaac	Loggie	Nate
4B	Tyler	Ewan	Lillian
4J	Cormac	Luna	Hadley
5D	Jimmy	Khaleesi	Zaki
5T	Maya-Mae	James	Ava
6G	-	-	-
6L	-	-	-

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Awards - week commencing 10/11

Congratulations to our Super Speller of
the Week:

Jayden - 5D



Congratulations to the recipients of a
WOW certificates this week:

Isra - 1B
Khaleesi - 5D



Congratulations to the Lionesses of the week:



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Dates for your diary 2025-26 - Autumn Term

November	
Tuesday 18th	Parents Evening, 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Thursday 20th	Parents Evening, 3:30pm - 7pm
Saturday 22nd	PTA Christmas Fair, 12pm - 3pm.
Friday 28th	6G Class Assembly
December	
Tuesday 2nd	KS1 Christmas Panto (in school)
Tuesday 9th	Rocksteady Autumn Concert - Tuesday Bands
Wednesday 10th	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th	Rocksteady Autumn Concert - Thursday Bands
Thursday 11th	KS2 Panto
Friday 12th	Rocksteady Autumn Concert - Friday Bands
Friday 12th	KS2 Panto
Monday 15th	KS1 Christmas Performance - 9:15am and 2pm
Tuesday 16th	KS1 Christmas Performance - 09:15am and 2pm

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Dates for your diary 2025-26 - Autumn Term

December (continued)	
Wednesday 17th	Acorns Festive Family Fun
Wednesday 17th	St Mary of Bethany Carol Concert at 4pm – Year 3 and 4
Friday 19th	End of Term (1:15pm finish)
January 2026	
Monday 5th	Inset Day
Tuesday 6th	Inset Day
Wednesday 7th	Start of Term at 08:30am



BARNSBURY PRIMARY **SCHOOL PTA** **CHRISTMAS FAIR**



**TOMBOLA, SNOW GLOBE, SECRET SHOP,
SWEET TREATS AND MORE!!!**

**JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON FULL OF
GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND FESTIVE FUNS!**



**SATURDAY 22ND
NOVEMBER**



12 NOON - 3PM



FREE ENTRY



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional reward rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



YOUR BARNSBURY PTA NEEDS YOU!

**Help us shape the future of
Barnsbury school and it's
children by helping us raise
vital funds...**

WE NEED YOUR:

**INPUT...your opinions matter
TIME...however much you can spare
DONATIONS...big or small and your
help CREATING AWARENESS**



**Contact your class rep or email:
pta@barnsbury@surrey.sch.co.uk**