

Robert Browning, Snowfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



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Find us at: www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk

Newsletter 21st April 2023

Dear Parents,

We are so happy to welcome everyone back for the fun filled summer term ahead. We started the week with a whole Bridges Federation Assembly on Google Meet. Kate asked the children to think about who their trusted adults are in school and to tell a trusted adult if they have any worries.

Please take a look on google classroom to find information about the topic your child is learning this term and the half termly homework project sheet.

Please see the dates for your diary boxes for events happening over the coming weeks including an additional bank holiday for the King's Coronation. Also please check page 2 of the newsletter for important information about the planned Strike Action taking place on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May.

Have lovely weekend and good luck to all the children and adults taking part in the TCS London Marathon and Mini Marathon. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, gates open at 8:45am.

Information:

National Test of the Emergency Alerts System

The government's new emergency alerts system is live and will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. **The system will be tested nationally on Sunday 23 April 2023 at 3pm.**

An emergency alert is a loud, siren-like sound with a message on your mobile phone or tablet screen.

To check an alert is genuine, visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

All education settings should take the opportunity to make themselves aware of [emergency alerts](#), reasons why anyone may get an alert and how they work.

The Government recommends people at risk from domestic abuse with additional phones should turn off any additional phones they want to keep hidden, and read the information from [REFUGE](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Tower Bridge

Thursday 27th April - Strike - School Closed
Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday - School Closed
Monday 8th May - Coronation Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 8th May - Friday 12th May - Year 6 SATs
Wednesday 17th May 9am - Orange Class - Year 2 Reading Cafe
Thursday 18th May 9am - Red Class - Year 1 Reading Cafe

Robert Browning

Tuesday 2th April 9am-Groundwork- Mental Health Support Drop in
Thursday 27th April - Strike - School Closed
Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday - School Closed
Monday 8th May - Coronation Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 8th May - Friday 12th May - Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 16th May 9am - Orange Class - Year 2 Reading Cafe
Wednesday 17th May 9am - Red Class - Year 1 Reading Cafe

Snowfields

Tuesday 25th April - School Photographer
Thursday 27th April - Strike Action - School Closed
Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 2nd May - Strike Action - School Closed
Monday 8th May - King's Coronation Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 8th May - Friday 12th May - Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 16th May 9am - Orange class - Year 2 Reading Cafe
Wednesday 17th May 8.45am - Caterpillar class -Nursery Reading Cafe
Thursday 18th May 9am - Red class - Year 1 Reading Cafe
Friday 19th May 8.45am - Butterfly class - Reception Reading Cafe

Term Dates - 2022 - 2023

Summer term

Tuesday 18 April - Friday 26 May 2023
Half Term Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June 2023
Monday 5 June - Friday 21 July 2023

Term Dates for 2023-2024 are now on the school website
<https://thebridgesfederation.org.uk/home/term-dates/>

Term time holidays will not be authorised.

Online Safety

Please continue to regularly talk to your children about staying safe online, sit with them when they are playing games, talk about the messages they are sending to and receiving from their friends. There is lots of useful information for parents on the CEOP website: [Parents and Carers CEOP education](#).

Strike Information

Dear Parents,

Notification of closure on **Thursday 27th April 2023**

*We have been informed by the NEU Trade Union of its proposal to take strike action both nationally and regionally over a number of days. The next day of strike action by NEU teacher members is planned to take place on **Thursday 27th April 2023**. The NEU is in dispute with the Secretary of State for Education with regards to their failure to ensure enough money is available to pay a fully-funded increase in pay for teachers which at least matches inflation, and which begins to restore lost pay*

Why have teachers voted to strike?

The cost of living crisis

According to the NEU, members have reported struggling with the cost of living crisis, childcare costs, energy costs and mortgage payments. They explain that, although the government offered a 5% pay increase to teachers, due to increasing levels of inflation, the reality is that the 5% increase is a 7% pay cut.

Teachers leaving the classroom

According to the NEU, 'One in eight teachers leaves the profession after just a year in the classroom – one in three within five'. They state that their polls show that parents support teachers taking action to 'protect education standards' because of the harm caused by teacher shortages.

When will teachers be striking?

Strike action **will take place on:**

- **Thursday 27th April 2023**
- **Tuesday 2nd May 2023**

How will this affect Snowfields, Tower Bridge and Robert Browning Schools?

As Executive Headteacher, I have assessed the impact of the strike action on our schools and after careful consideration have decided that all 3 schools will have to close to pupils on **Thursday 27th April 2023**. Due to the numbers of staff involved, there will be serious operational difficulties which could impact the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

You will receive a voucher for your child's lunch for both days.

Please log onto Google Classroom where children can complete a range of homework projects and also access Mathletics, Reading Eggs, and Times Table Rockstars.

Our sincere apologies for the difficulties that these arrangements will cause parents/carers.

If our situation changes and we are able to remain open we will inform you as soon as possible.

We will keep you informed about the other planned dates when we have more information.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact your child's school.



Follow your child's class twitter account to see what the children are learning!



Reminder:
On PE days, please remember that children should wear a white t-shirt or polo shirt and school jumper with tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts and trainers. **PE days are not a non-uniform day.**



Green Class did a workshop with IntoUniversity to think about careers and and what skills you might need to do them.



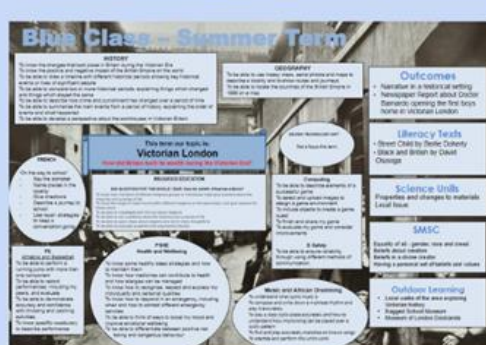
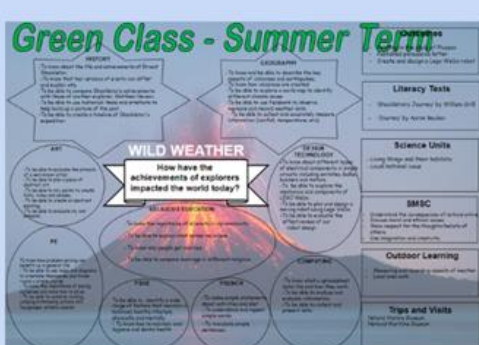
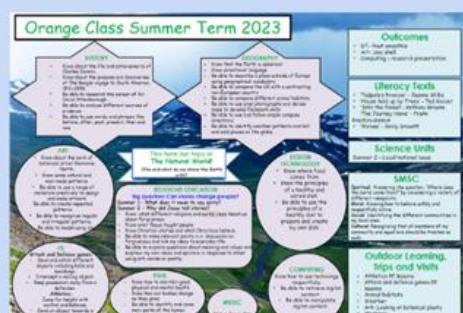
Red Class have been exploring levers and sliders to create these dioramas based on Nursery Rhymes.



Butterflies have been preparing for the learning by sharing what they already know and what they would like to find out.

Keep a look out for the topic webs, knowledge organisers and homework sheets for this term in your child's book bag.

summer term learning



Nursery and Reception, Caterpillar and Butterfly Classes, are learning about **Animals**.
Year 1, Red Class, are learning all about **Amazing Africa!**
Year 2, Orange Class, are learning about **The Natural World**.

Year 3, Yellow Class, are learning about **Saving Planet Earth**
Year 4, Green Class, are learning about **Wild Weather**
Year 5, Blue Class, are learning about **Victorian London**
Year 6, Purple Class, are learning about **Greece**

**We are delighted to welcome back all the children for a very busy term!
Take a look to see what we are learning about this term....**



Caterpillar and Butterfly Classes are learning about **Animals** this term



VET SURGERY



Year 1, **Red Class**, are reading a story about a Yeti. They have been thinking about friendship and kindness!



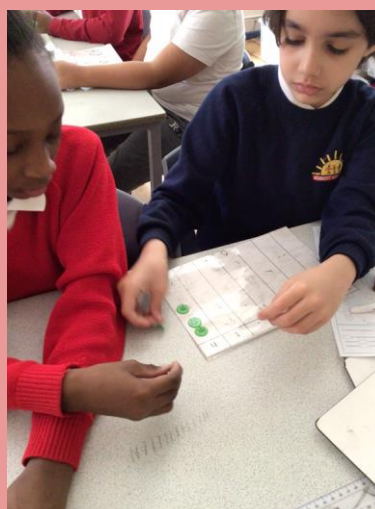
Friendship rules

1. Help everyone ^{when they get hurt}
2. Play with everyone ^{work with}
3. Play nicely together
4. Take turns
5. Show kindness
6. Share toys
7. Respect our friends
8. Good listening

Year 3, **Yellow Class**, have started their **swimming** sessions.



Year 4, **Green Class**, are learning about decimals using place value counters



SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED on **Thursday 27th April** due to **STRIKE ACTION**.

Coming Soon...

Year 6 will be taking their tests on May 9th- 12th- it is really important that they attend school everyday that week and in the build up to the tests, so that they are prepared.



Snowsfields Primary School

Blue class are learning a new dance routine. The children created new dance moves using different parts of their bodies. They showed a great deal of creativity.

PE - Physical Education and The Daily Mile

Red class have been learning different balances in their dance routines. Here are some of the balances they tried and created.



Reminder: On PE days, please remember that your child should wear a **white t-shirt** or **polo shirt** and **school jumper** with **tracksuit bottoms, leggings** or **shorts** and **trainers**.

PE days are not a non-uniform day.

Green class are learning to run short distances, maintaining a good running technique.



Orange class had their first athletics session, which focussed on balance and movement.



100% Attendance and Punctuality Cup Winners! Well done to Blue class for winning the trophy for the spring term.



Yellow class thoroughly enjoyed their first swimming lesson!



Coming Soon...

Year 6 will be taking their tests on May 9th- 12th- it is really important that they attend school everyday that week and in the build up to the tests, so that they are prepared.



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	10.5	15	575
Year 2	7.5	13	200
Year 3	12	9	475
Year 4	7	12	650
Year 5	4	2	1450
Year 6	6	8	1075

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 27/3/2023: 94%

Well done to Year 5 who won the attendance and punctuality award for the Spring term!



Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 27/3/2023: 96.1%

**1st Place Attendance: Y3
1st Place Punctuality: Y3**

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	12	8	96.00%
Year 2	15	9	92.50%
Year 3	4	2	98.67%
Year 4	4	11	98.57%
Year 5	11	5	95.60%
Year 6	18	11	94.00%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	9	1	1050
Year 2	14	11	350
Year 3	49	6	525
Year 4	39	4	475
Year 5	9	2	1250
Year 6	10	2	1025

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 27/3/2023: 89.41%

**1st Place Attendance: Y1 and Y5
1st Place Punctuality: Y1**

Well done to Blue class/year 5 who won the attendance and punctuality award for the Spring term!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER

4

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who *Geralt* from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers... of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



NOS
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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about OFCOM'S 'CHILDREN AND PARENTS: MEDIA USE AND ATTITUDES' REPORT 2023

Each year, Ofcom – Britain's regulatory body for communications – produces an overview of children and parents' media experiences across the previous year. The latest version has just been released, and we've pulled out some of the report's most thought-provoking findings which relate to online safety ...

97%

of children had access to the internet at home in 2022

89%

of children played video games

25%

played with people they didn't know

22%

talked to people they didn't know

POPULAR PLATFORMS

Most used by under-18s were ...



YouTube: 88%



TikTok: 53%

WhatsApp: 55%



Snapchat: 46%

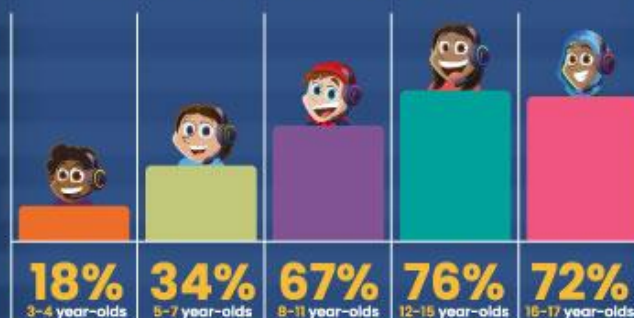


Instagram: 41%

LIVE

PLAYING GAMES ONLINE

Who's playing – and at which age?



TALE OF THE TECH

Devices most often used to go online:



75% of 3-4s use tablets



86% of 5-7s use tablets



70% of 8-11s use tablets



96% of 12-15s use phones



97% of 16-17s use phones

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents and carers most commonly worried about their child ...

75%

seeing age-inappropriate content



70%

being cyber-bullied online



70%

seeing pro-self-harm content



65%

giving out personal details to strangers



65%

having their data collected by companies



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



3 in 10

children had experienced someone being nasty or hurtful to them on apps or platforms.

70%

of 12 to 17-year-olds were confident in their ability to identify a fake profiles. But 23% were unable to do so when tested.



£38

children's average monthly spend on video games