

Robert Browning, Snowfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



[@PrimaryRobert](#) [@SNSPrimary](#) [@TBPrimary](#)

Find us at: www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk

Newsletter 28th April 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please see page 2 of the newsletter for information regarding the Strike Action being taken on 2nd May.

A huge congratulations to all the children and parents who took part in the TCS Mini London Marathon last Saturday. It was a wonderful event and the children are already training for next year through the Daily Mile.

We are looking forward to celebrating the King's Coronation on the afternoon of 12th May. Please can your child wear red, white and blue (any combination) and bring in some healthy snacks for an afternoon tea party in the playground.

Please can you regularly check the Scholarpack App for messages. This is the primary way that we communicate with you and we are noticing that some parents are missing key information because they are not checking the App messages daily.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend, we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 3rd May, gates open at 8:45am.



Too Good To Go

Too Good to Go connects you to supermarkets, restaurants and hotels with an unsold surplus of food at a significantly reduced price. Scan the QR Code below to download the App.



Dates For Your Diary

Tower Bridge

Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday - **School Closed**
Tuesday 2nd May - Strike - **School Closed**
Monday 8th May - Coronation Bank Holiday - **School Closed**
Tuesday 8th May - Friday 12th May - Year 6 SATs
Friday 12th May - King's Coronation Celebration
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

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
Friday 12th May - King's Coronation celebration in school
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 **Tuesday 2nd May 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 **Tuesday 2nd May 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 **Tuesday 2nd May 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.



Reading Cafe Dates

Year 1 - Thursday 18th May
Year 2 - Wednesday 17th May
Year 3 - Friday 26th May
Year 4 - Thursday 25th May
Year 5 - Wednesday 24th May
Year 6 - Monday 22nd May



Join your child's class for the first part of the day, sharing books and reading together. All parents are welcome to join in - the more the merrier.
Please make a note of the dates and look out for our reminders.



Please make sure you are reading the app messages we send as this is how we communicate about trips, clubs and other important information.

**SCHOOL
APP**

learning is fun

Whether it is in the classroom, or out of it, you can be sure that we all endeavour to make the learning at Tower Bridge fun and engaging. This week we have also had pupils go out to work on gardening skills with Tony, as well as all these opportunities.



TBBBlueClass @TBBBlueClassY5 · 15h

We had a brilliant trip to the Unicorn Theatre today where we were taken behind the scenes to learn about everything involved in putting a show together. Lights, sound, set design and more!



Tower Bridge Primary @tbprimary · 23h

@TBGreenClassY4 are enjoying their learning about climate change.



TBRedClass @TBRedClass · Apr 24

Map skills

Year 1 have been locating African countries using an atlas - how impressive! 🌍

@tbprimary



tbrectw@towerbridge.southwark.sch.... @Butterfly... · Apr 26
Reception and Nursery had so much fun in our dental hygiene workshop this morning, learning how to look after our teeth properly.



TBPurpleClass @TBPurpleClassY6 · Apr 26
We had a very informative oral health workshop this morning. We'll be coming home with information, a toothbrush and toothpaste today so ask us about what we've learned! 🦷 @tbprimary

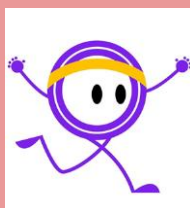


We have had some exciting dental hygiene workshops this week - all children were kindly given a special goodie bag to help keep their teeth strong and healthy!

We had a brilliant day at the mini London Marathon on Saturday and the sun came out! A huge thank you to all the parents and staff who gave up their Saturday afternoon to support the children taking part! They all ran brilliantly! By taking part we raised £270 for school equipment. Children can take part in Burgess Junior parkrun every Sunday at 9.00am, to help develop their running, as well as the daily mile at school.



It has been fantastic to see the children completing the mini marathon in school too!



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

Snowsfields children, parents and staff proudly took part in the TCS Mini London Marathon on Saturday and raised £270 towards new sports equipment. Our children ran so well and the atmosphere was amazing! The race was started by the 1500m World Champion Jake Wightman. The children are all keen to keep their training going through the Daily Mile so that they can take part again next year!

TCS Mini London Marathon 2023



For the Parents and carers of Yellow Class

On 16th May after school the children in **Yellow class** will be selling fruit salad and popcorn to raise funds for their class. Please donate some fruit by 15th May.



The children have taken part in the first World Daily Mile Day. We are proud to be part of this global community!



It's a new record!

Well done to the 70 children and their parents who earned a 100% attendance and punctuality wristband for spring 2.



Harbour Energy Volunteers

We were delighted to welcome some volunteers from the Harbour Energy company who worked tirelessly in our garden! They also helped us purchase many gardening tools and equipment. A special shout out goes to Teddy's mum in Red class for thinking of us!

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	9.5	5	50
Year 2	19	14	
Year 3	23	5	25
Year 4	16.5	4	50
Year 5	12.5	2	100
Year 6	9	7	75

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 17/4/2023: 93.9%

1st Place Attendance: Year 6
1st Place Punctuality: Year 5



Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 17/4/2023: 87.1%

1st Place Attendance: Y3
1st Place Punctuality: Y5

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	34	8	85.83%
Year 2	26	8	83.12%
Year 3	22	7	90.83%
Year 4	22	6	90.18%
Year 5	28	4	84.78%
Year 6	34	6	85.83%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	30	1	50
Year 2	18	5	150
Year 3	18	0	150
Year 4	18	0	150
Year 5	26	0	100
Year 6	20	0	125

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 17/4/2023: 88.72%

1st Place Attendance: Y2, Y3 and Y4
1st Place Punctuality: Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6



B - be the best we can be - believe!



Raffle Winners



Reading Raffle Winners



Our Value this week is: kindness



Reading Raffle Winners



S - Striving to Improve

Times Tables Rock Stars



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

12+ App Store
Teen Google Playstore

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app does use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

CATFISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though – so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snap' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

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MEET STRANG

INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Cynics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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