

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 23rd June 2023

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to offer our congratulations to our Executive Headteacher Kate Wooder who has been awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours 2023 for services to education. We are sure that you will join us in thanking Kate for all her hard work and commitment to the Bridges Federation schools.

Our whole federation science topic for this half term is all about food waste. The children are learning the importance of putting the waste from their fruit at break time in the food waste bins.

It is always a good time to check that you have the scholarpack app downloaded onto your phone so that you can view your child's attendance. If your child's attendance falls below 90% this is called persistent absence and is a concern. If you need any support improving your child's attendance or punctuality please speak to a member of the Leadership Team on the gate.

Enjoy another sunny weekend. See you on Monday gates open at 8:45am.

Items not permitted in school

Please remember that the following items are not permitted in school:

- Vapes/vaping equipment
- Chewing gum
- Toys
- Food items containing nuts

Parental Control Apps

Please see **page 8** of the newsletter for information about **parental control apps** which can be downloaded onto a young person's phone to help parents and carers monitor their child's online activity. In order for this to work, parents/carers must have access to a smart phone or compatible device for the app to be downloaded and accessed.

Is my child too ill for school?

A useful guide has been created by the NHS to support parents making the decision to send their child to school if their child is feeling unwell. Please click on the link [here](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Tower Bridge

26th - 30th June - Health Week
Tuesday 27th June at 3.30pm - EYFS Cake Sale
Friday 30th June - KS1 and KS2 Sports Day at Southwark Park
Tuesday 4th July at 2.00pm - EYFS Sports Day at St John's Churchyard
Thursday 6th July 9.15am - Moving from Reception to Year 1 Parent Workshop
Monday 10th July 2pm - Year 6 Show
Tuesday 11th July 3pm - Nursery and Reception Graduation
Wednesday 12th July 3.30pm - Summer Fair
Thursday 13th July - Secondary Transfer Parent Workshop
Friday 21st July 9.30am - Year 6 Graduation

Robert Browning

26th - 30th June - Health Week
Wednesday 28th June - EYFS Sports Day
Friday 30th June - Y1-6 Sports Day
Tuesday 11th July - 9.15am - Y5 Parents Secondary Transfer Meeting
12th July 3.30pm - Summer Fair
Monday 17th July - Year 6 Show
Tuesday 18th July - 2.45pm - EYFS Graduation
Thursday 20th July 2.30pm - Year 6 Graduation

Snowfields

26th - 30th June - Health Week
Monday 26th June (afternoon) - EYFS Sports Day -
Tuesday 27th June - KS1 & KS2 Sports Day - see letter
Monday 10th July 9.15am - Y5 Parents Secondary Transfer Meeting
Tuesday 11th July 2pm Caterpillar and Butterfly Graduation
Wednesday 12th July 2pm - Purple Class/ Year 6 Show
Friday 21st July 9:30am - Purple class/ Year 6 Graduation

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.

School closed to pupils - see page 2 for further details

Wednesday 5th July

Friday 7th July

Strike Information

Dear Parents,

Notification of closure on **Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July 2023**

*We have been informed by the NEU Trade Union of its proposal to take further strike action both nationally and regionally over a number of days. The next days of strike action by NEU teacher members is planned to take place on **Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July 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:**

- **Wednesday 5th July 2023**
- **Friday 7th July 2023**

All unions are currently balloting their members and unless an agreement is reached further action could be taken in the Autumn term.

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 **Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July 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 those 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.



OUR LEARNING *this week*



Last week, choir went to Southwark Council buildings on Tooley Street to entertain the staff and visitors during their lunch break. Nina Dohel, the Director of Education wrote to tell us they "brought some cheer and joy with their musical rendition to all those passing through the foyer". Well done choir and thank you to Antonio for all his work with the children.



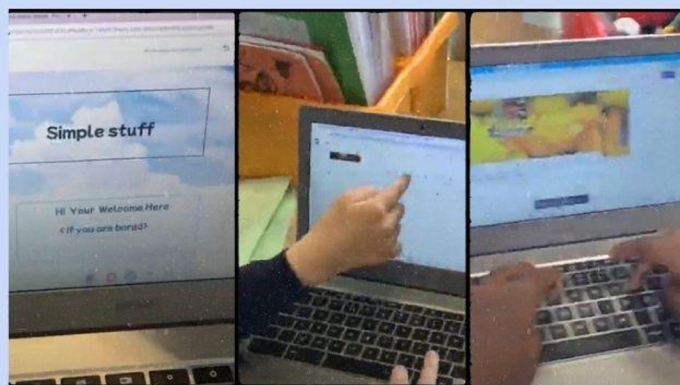
TBBlueClass @TBBlueClassY5 · Jun 20
Today we had a brilliant workshop with @IntoUniversity. We learned all about space!



TB Green class @TBGreenClassY4 · 14h
Another wonderful session with Drawing Room! The children are getting amazing at using charcoal.



tbrectw@towerbridge.southwark.sch.uk @Butterfly_TB · Jun 16
What could be better than making ice lollies on a hot day?
Eating them, of course!
have a lovely weekend, everyone 🍷



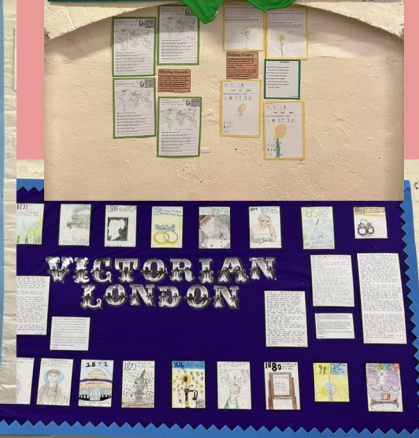
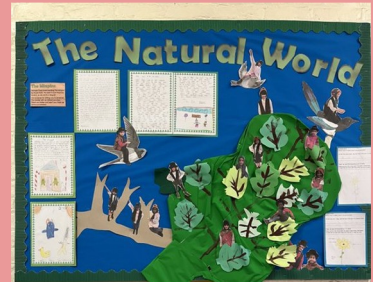
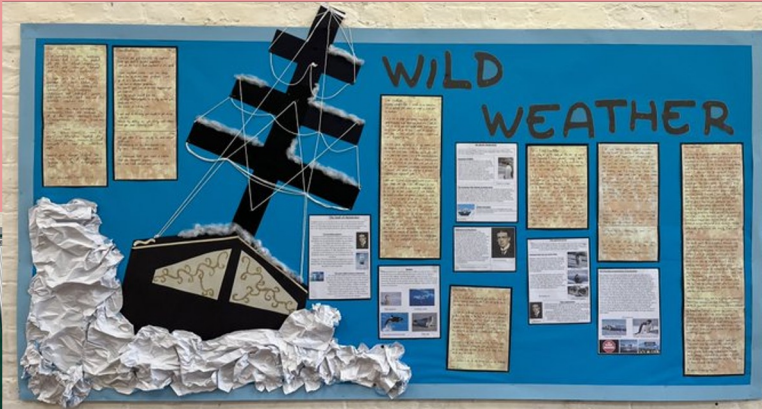
Upcoming dates:

Friday 30th June - KS1 and KS2 Sports Day in Southwark Park (more detailed information will be sent out separately)

Tuesday 4th July - EYFS (Caterpillar and Butterfly) Sports Day in St John's Churchyard - date change due to Eid

Thursday 6th July - 9.15am - Parent Workshop for children moving from Reception to Year 1

Take a look at some of the fantastic displays around our school this term!
Can you see what each class has been learning?



Butterfly Class had a brilliant trip to Archbishop's Park. They enjoyed a picnic and exploring all the grounds and equipment!



Thank you to everyone who supported the Year 2 Lolly Sale!



Blue Class enjoyed a fantastic workshop at Alleyns School, using Lego WeDo to make and code a robot!



Snowsfields Primary School

Green Class



As part of their science focus for this half term, **Green class** have looked at ways to reduce food waste. In the process, they made delicious desserts.

Blue Class



Blue class enjoyed a buddy reading session in the school garden! The children felt lucky to have such a beautiful and calming space to read with their favourite little people **from Orange class**.

EYFS



The **EYFS team** would like to thank all their parents for their fantastic support and for making their weekly Stay and Play sessions magical!

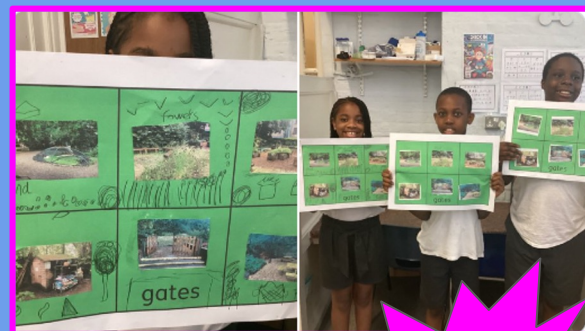
Yellow Class



Yellow class have been growing tomato, spinach and pea plants. They are so proud of how their care of the plants has supported them to grow.

In geography, **Rainbow class** made some messy maps of the school garden. Have a look at some of their beautiful maps.

Rainbow Class



Purple Class



Purple Class had an amazing time in Kidzania where they went through some fun role play activities mirroring real life experiences. Many thanks to Sugarman Education for funding this fantastic trip!

Orange Class



Look at the wonderful artwork the children in **Orange class** produced! They were inspired by the botanical artist Marianne North.

Red Class

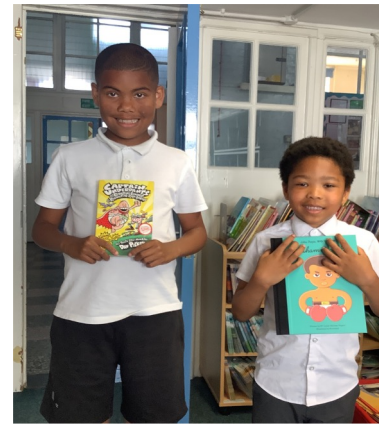
Red class love spending more time in our beautiful garden with **Green class**, sharing books together.



For their class fundraising day, **Blue class** children will be selling ice lollies after Sports' Day on 27th June.



O - Overcoming Challenges



Reading Raffle Winners



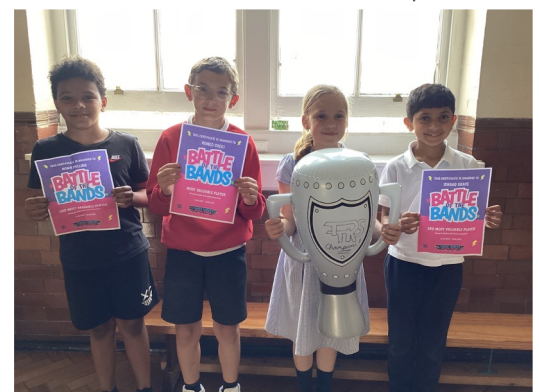
Reading Raffle Winners

Our Value this week is: kindness



S - Sharing Knowledge, Skills and Ideas

Times Tables Rock Stars





	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	0	21	375
Year 2	12.5	13	125
Year 3	2.5	20	300
Year 4	16.5	15	225
Year 5	11.5	9	700
Year 6	9	13	700

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 12/6/2023: 91.9%

1st Place Attendance: Year 1

1st Place Punctuality: Year 5



Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 12/6/2023: 95.75%

1st Place Attendance: Y3

1st Place Punctuality: Y5

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	9	10	97.00%
Year 2	11	17	94.50%
Year 3	0	9	100%
Year 4	16	8	94.07%
Year 5	2	3	99.13%
Year 6	30	7	90.00%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	15	4	450
Year 2	10	9	250
Year 3	9	4	475
Year 4	1	8	575
Year 5	13	5	900
Year 6	1	4	800

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 12/6/2023: 96.67%

1st Place Attendance: Y4 & Y6

1st Place Punctuality: Y1, Y3 & Y6

Parental Control Apps

Parental control apps can be downloaded onto a young person's phone to help parents and carers monitor their child's online activity. In order for this to work, parents/carers must have access to a smart phone or compatible device for the app to be downloaded and accessed. Most Apps will come with 'system requirements' information so that you can ensure your devices are compatible. Some Apps only work when the two devices being used are of the same operating system i.e. iPhone to iPhone. Some Applications will allow for an Android to iPhone pairing or vice versa. Please check such before installing. Some apps have differing features dependent on the phones operating system. It is suggested that you research your chosen App and use the 'free trial' option to test it out. After this trial, there is usually a monthly or yearly subscription to continue usage.

Below is a list of some of the Parental Monitoring Apps available.

Please use your own discretion and conduct your own research when selecting an App.

KidsGuard - Allows parents and carers to monitor texts, Social media, call logs, contact lists and downloadable content/files. Also allows for geo-fencing and geolocation, allows you to block apps and restrict time spent on certain apps. Allows for time limits to be set. Different versions, inc. versions that can monitor PC's and Pads, can be downloaded from ClevGuard. This app is hidden on the target phone. Works best on Android. Can be used on iPads and PC's

MMGuardian - Allows parents and carers to monitor text messages, photos, internet usage, block content and be alerted to worrying content. Also allows for geo-fencing, social media monitoring, phone time limits and app blocking. Certain features can only be accessed when the App is downloaded directly from their server and not from an app store. You can add settings to stop this app being uninstalled on the target device. Works best on Android. Can be used on other devices.

Qustodio - Parents and Carers can monitor internet usage, text messages, call logs, time spent on social media and can block certain apps as well as put time limits on the phone or individual apps. There is geo-location and a 'panic button' option when downloaded onto an android. More features with Android. Can be used on other devices.

Ourpact - Allows parents and carers to block individual apps or give time limits to them. Sets daily screen time allowance. Allows for web filtering and geolocation. Allows you to view online activity. Can be used with both iPhone and Android

Netnanny - Offers geolocation and phone use monitoring. Also allows you to restrict and monitor screen time. There is no social media monitoring. Internet filtering and YouTube monitoring. App blocking. Can be used on iPads and PC as well as IOS and Android.

Pond Life

at the Centre for Wildlife Gardening
28 Marsden Road SE15 4EE

Family Workshop Saturday 1st July 10am to 3pm

A free fun family day discovering the animals that live in and around our ponds with the London Wildlife Trust. For Southwark residents only. Take part in pond dipping, games, crafts and stories in our lovely wildlife garden. This is not a drop in activity so visit our website for alternative events. www.wildlondon.org.uk/events

Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied and with a maximum of 3 children per adult. Refundable £3 deposit required with booking, but please contact dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk if that is a problem for you or phone 07740717930



Protecting
London's
wildlife for
the future

To find out more and book your place please visit:
www.wildlondon.org.uk/events

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



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#WakeUpWednesday