



# Newsletter

## 2023-2024

### Issue 4 – 3rd November

Believe to achieve!

'Roots will grow down into God's love to keep us strong.' – EPH 3:17

This term's value focus is Trust

## Message from Mrs Walch

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start this issue with an update about Mrs Cross. Thank you to everyone who has sent their best wishes, cards and gifts for her - she was so grateful for everything, and I have another pile of cards to deliver to her this weekend. Unfortunately, she will need several more weeks off work while she continues to recover. I would like to say a massive 'well done' to everyone for the cake sale, to the volunteers and organisers, and to the customers. Thanks to you all, a huge sum of £239.50 was raised, which has been sent over to Cancer Research UK. Mrs Pocock is still waiting for the date for her operation, but she is hoping that it will be soon.

When we last held parents' evening meetings, we opened the booking timing at 7pm, to allow for parents to get home from work before rushing to book a slot. We have reflected on feedback from parents that this is bedtime, so a tricky time. We therefore opened the booking system at 6pm this time around. Please let us know if this is any better. Please be aware that the parents' evening meetings for all classes will be held at the Lower Site.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and support this week with the flooding warnings - you will see further down some photos from last Monday (half term). We also appreciate all of the positive words from parents, at what is a hard time for all. Thank you.

As this is a new term, with new learning planned, teachers have written new TLPs (Termly Learning Plans) so that you can see what your children will be learning about. These can be found on the website along with the Pick and Mix homework sheets: [Beech](#) [Oak](#) [Elm](#) [Birch](#) [Rowan](#) [Willow](#). As always for Year 6, the homework will be given out weekly directly to the children, as we support their transition to secondary school and the self-organisational skills they need for this.

Take care and God bless,  
Mrs Walch



## UPCOMING DATES

Monday 6th November  
Start of Rowan Class swimming lessons

Tuesday 7th & Thursday 9th November  
Parents' Evenings, held at Lower Site for all classes  
Tues: 3.50-6.00  
Thurs: 3.50-7.00

Thursday 9th November  
BEDSA - Wear What You Like for rainbow raffle donation

Friday 10th November  
9:30 LS and 10:45 US  
Remembrance assemblies  
Forces parents welcome to attend

Friday 17th November  
Children In Need (details coming soon from Miss Mewis)

## The Value of Trust

This term we will be focusing on the value of trust. This is a very important value, and we will look at two aspects - trusting others and being trusted ourselves. It leads on nicely from the value of friendship. This week, the children have considered the quote 'God is my strength' and how this relates to trust.

## Pupils of the week

The following children have received certificates in the last few weeks: Sammy, Darcie K, Abigail, Lexi, Harry, Albie, Cameron, Faye, Harry, Millie, Dylan, Kate, Rosemary, Louna, Katrina, Angus, Alfie, Ada, Sophie L, Eve, Connie, Finley G, Ellie, Tansy, Olivia, Lev, Seth, Brodie, Freya  
Well done, everyone!

## Spotlight on ... behaviour



Behaviour at our school is generally very good. When I think about other schools in which I have worked, and other schools that I have visited, we have a super culture here. A big part of our behaviour routine is our clear and simple school rules:

Think before you act - be ready, be respectful, be safe.

Every class thinks about these rules at the start of each academic year, and what they mean for their age. Being ready in Beech class is very different from being ready in Willow class, for example! However, having our rules, and growing with them as they move through the school is a key way in which we support our children to not only develop good behaviour characteristics during their time with us, but for the rest of their lives.

If a child behaves in a way we think is not following our school rules, we will always take the time to explain to them why we think this is, and how they could modify their behaviour, so that we are coaching them through this time. Children must be expected to make mistakes while they are learning how to live in our world, and so we take these opportunities to teach the children. If, after this teaching, children still show the behaviour, we follow our behaviour steps (displayed around school and on our website in the behaviour policy) which give children the chance to make a change.

We never label the child, only the behaviour. We would not say a child has been naughty; we would say that they have shown poor behaviour, or they have made a poor behaviour choice. This is very important from a psychological point of view.



### Dates for Brinkworth Church:

Messy Church - Sunday 5th Nov 10,30am - Brinkworth Village Hall  
Messy Christingle - Sunday 3rd Dec 4pm in Brinkworth Church

## The floods

During the half term break, and threatened again this week, there has been flooding in the village of Dautsey. On the Monday of half term, I spent the afternoon securing the flood defences around the school, and opening the gate helped the water to flow (literally flow) around the building to the fields behind. We were very lucky not to have been flooded, but our thoughts and prayers are with those families in the village and further afield who have suffered during this time. Please reach out and let us know if we can do anything.

We have been putting our flood defences up every night this week, to protect the building, and they will be up over the weekend as well, as there is rain expected.



## New vegetable planters

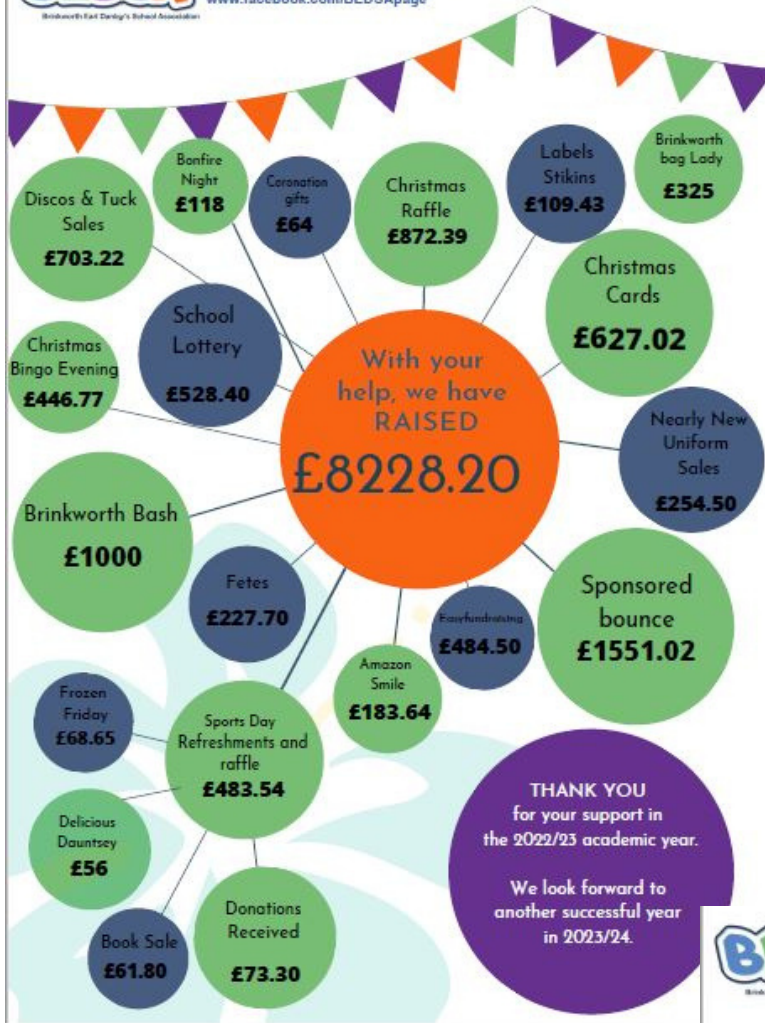
During the half term, Tom from GardenScape donated and built two vegetable planters for us, one on each site. We are very thankful to GardenScape for these, and we already have lots of ideas for what to grow! If you have any leftover seeds that you are able to donate to the school, we would be very grateful for these, as we start our gardening adventures.



# BEDSA Funding - 2022-2023



Brinkworth Earl Danby's School Association  
(BEDSA) Registered charity number 103674  
[www.facebook.com/BEDSAPage](http://www.facebook.com/BEDSAPage)



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# Advance dates



Any updated dates in the future will be marked in red for you to be able to identify them easily..

Thursday 30th November - Barn Theatre trip, now confirmed

Thursday 30th November - Maths Information Evening for Parents - 6.00pm

**Monday 4th December - BEDSA Christmas Bingo - details to follow**

Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th December - Lower Site Christmas Productions

Thursday 14th December - Upper Site Christmas Carol Service, 6pm at Brinkworth Church

Friday 15th December - Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day - Whole School at Lower Site

Wednesday 20th December - End of Term 2

Christmas Holidays - 21.12.23-03.01.24

Thursday 4th January - Start of Term 3

Monday 15th January - Deadline for Primary School applications for September 2024

Wednesday 7th February - Safer Internet Day

Friday 9th February - End of Term 3

Half Term - 12.02.24-16.02.24

Monday 19th February - Start of Term 4

Monday 19th February - Start of Birch Class swimming lessons

Tuesday 27th & Thursday 29th February - Parents Evenings, held at Upper Site for all classes

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th March - Y4 Residential Trip to Braeside

Tuesday 26th March - Easter Service - Whole School Day at Upper Site

Thursday 28th March - TD Day - Children not in school

Easter Holidays - 29.03.24-12.04.24

Monday 15th April - Start of Term 5

Monday 13th May - KS2 SATS week

Wednesday 22nd May - NextGen Class Photographs

Friday 24th May - End of Term 5

Half Term - 27.05.24-31.05.24

Monday 3rd June - Start of Term 6

Monday 3rd to Friday 7th June - Y6 Residential Trip to Morfabay

Thursday 20th June - Induction Meeting for Parents of new Foundation Stage children

Friday 28th June - Sports Day

Thursday 4th July - Brinkworth Earl Danby's Summer Fete - 6-8pm

Friday 5th July - TD Day - Children not in school

Thursday 11th July - Shuffle Up Day

Friday 12th July - Reserve Sports Day

Wednesday 17th July - End of Year Leavers Production - afternoon & evening performances

Thursday 18th July - Year 6 Leavers' Party

Tuesday 23rd July - Year 6 Leavers' Church Service - all of school at US in the morning

Tuesday 23rd July - End of Term 6

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# X

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who 'promote denial and hatred'.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

### LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

### VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

**BLUE TICK SALE**

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

### DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

### STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

### ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

### BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

## 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. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



**National Online Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday