

THE BRENTSIDE BULLETIN



Friday 7th March 2025

Issue: 104

WORLD BOOK DAY

Brentside celebrated one of our favourite days of the year this week with World Book Day! Sharing and encouraging a love of reading is so important, and our pupils (and staff) put truly amazing thought and effort into their costumes and Book in a Box entries. We also had a whole school sharing assembly; with 1 Red presenting fascinating animal fact-files they had created based on their non-fiction reading, 4 Blue sharing how a love of reading can be nurtured through finding the right books you like to read, and 5 Red delivering a brilliant and engaging poetry reading of Michael Rosen's "Go Kart". We hope you will all take some time to enjoy some reading at home this weekend to keep the celebration going!



Y2 FLOATING CLASSROOM TRIP

Year 2 paid a visit to the Floating Classroom on the Electric Barge in Paddington. They spent the day travelling along the waterways on the learning barge; identifying wild and garden plants, tying in with their current Science curriculum. They investigated what a seed needs to grow and planted their own seeds to take away with them and grow at home. They learned lots and enjoyed spending a beautiful sunny day on the water.



SCOOTFIT

Scotfit visited us this week to deliver some scooting workshops for Y1-Y3. Pupils learned the basics of scooting and road safety, and had great fun while doing so. We have scooters in school that they can now use in some PE lessons, and we hope this will encourage more children to scoot!



RECENT LEARNING & PLAY

We have been having lots of fun in school recently while doing some creative learning and playing. In their Music lesson, **Y1** used rain sticks to explore pitch, **Reception** made their own pancakes for Pancake Day, and out in the playground **KS1** pupils have been enjoying lots of new resources in the spring sunshine.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Saturday 8th March is International Women's Day and Brentside marked it with a girls' football tournament today- Y1-Y6 girls took part in matches across the day, and the Y5&Y6 pupils even got to play against a group of staff. Despite some stiff competition from the girls, the staff won 6-4 on this occasion!



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Everybody has a talent. But it's what you do with it that makes it great" Alex Morgan, football player

This newsletter is packed full of inspirational learning and talent that has been shown by our pupils and staff this week.

Tomorrow is International Women's Day and I wanted to thank all the inspirational women in our lives that make this school so special - remember you can achieve anything if you put your mind to it.

Next week we are marking British Science Week with lots of exciting events taking place in class and around the school.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. Crodale

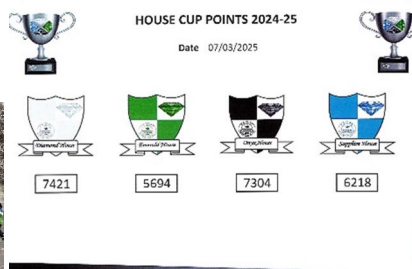
HEAD TEACHERS AND VALUES AWARDS

Y1 Rofaida

Y2 Kyrie & Amir

Y3 Abdi

HOUSE CUP 2024/5



POETRY COMPETITION

Brentside pupils had the opportunity to enter a poetry competition through Young Writers, with an amazing number of our pupils selected by them to be published in the Young Writers Poetry Anthology! Well done to all our budding poets- we can't wait to read what they write next!



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY CLUB

DT Club have been very busy this term working hard on designing and creating their range of projects; KS1 pupils have been making keychains and moving monster models, while KS2 children made door signs and marble maze games.



EALING FOODBANK

If you are struggling, call 0808 2082138 for free to speak to a trained and independent agent confidentially about your circumstances. Alternatively, speak to the school office about making a referral to the foodbank.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Please do not hesitate to email or call us if you have any queries or concerns & we will do our best to answer these for you.

Email: admin@brentsideprimary.ealin.gsch.uk

Our school website is an important resource for you.

We update this regularly with information about the school, news and bulletins, and websites that can support you and your family.

<https://www.brentsideprimaryacademy.co.uk/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/3 Richy K Chandler Comic Book visit

10-14/3 Science Week

12/3 Dress Up as a Scientist day

SKILLS BUILDER

Think of your favourite story, perhaps a fairytale or a story you invented. Tell that story to a family member or friend and try to make the story exciting by using different tones of voice, facial expressions, and hand gestures.

Speaking

Reflection Questions

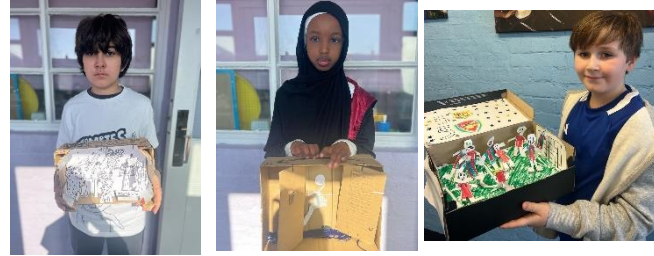
Getting Started: How do we know if we are speaking clearly?

Intermediate: As you speak how can you put your points into a logical order so you can be easily understood?

Advanced: How can you use tone, expression and gesture to make your speaking engaging?

Mastery: How can you adapt the content of what you are saying, in response to listeners?

BOOK IN A BOX!



The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now sit under wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- 1. CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**
Before interpreting technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with, if they need help at all. Occasional digital reading points can assist by scanning and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can be used in various ways as part of their reading learning process. Proper use and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- 2. READING ON SCREEN**
Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font size, the used background colour can significantly enhance comprehension for many readers, while text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Encourage children to personalise their settings on their devices to ensure they can read more comfortably and with greater confidence.
- 3. ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**
Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and many include text-to-voice, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- 4. INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**
Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, definition look-ups and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while encouraging on-demand reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 5. VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**
Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve story-telling, puzzles or problem-solving often include logic-oriented text to encourage children to read these texts aloud or discuss them with friends, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 6. SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**
Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Regularly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- 7. USING AUDIOBOOKS**
Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, developing word recognition and fluency for struggling readers. Listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- 8. VOICE-TO-TEXT WRITING AND READING**
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- 9. TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**
Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built-in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- 10. SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**
While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-16 years old, requiring parental guidance. However, many social media videos feature captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to monitor the platform's content controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can promote a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert
Cathryn Neal is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO, she recently launched her own site, NeuroNotes, which offers a library of short, fun and inspirational videos for educators, carers and also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

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STAFF VS PUPILS FOOTBALL!

