



Broad Oak Primary School

Newsletter

Thursday 2nd October 2025

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A Word from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been another busy one at school. On Tuesday 30th September our children completed our Kindness Walk. The children had a fantastic time in fancy dress and carrying their signs with messages of kindness. Our KS2 classes were paired up with our Early Years and KS1 classes. It was wonderful to see the older pupils taking care of and encouraging their younger peers. Thank you for all of your sponsorship money, for anyone that hasn't brought their sponsorship money into school it is not too late to do so. All money raised will be used to improve our outdoor play equipment.

On Wednesday 1st October our Y5 children joined with Elm class to present our Reception Welcome Assembly. The Y5 children have been spending time getting to know our new reception in-take and helping them to settle into life at Broad Oak. The parents of Elm class were invited along and thoroughly enjoyed the event. We were very proud of our Y5 pupils and all of our pupils in Elm class for taking part in their first class assembly.

Last week our School Councillors met for the first time. The children have been elected by their classmates to sit on School Council, Eco Council and Sports Council.

Throughout the year the children will be working on various projects including charity fundraising events. In addition they will collaborate to work towards gaining our silver Rights Respecting School Award.

Next week we will be holding our first Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th October (Aspen class will be Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th). You are able to book your appointment slot via the Arbor app. If you have not yet signed up to the Arbor app please speak to a member of the admin team who will be happy to help you. The Book Fair will also be available on Parents' Evening.

Friday 10th October is World Mental Health Day. We will be marking the day by asking the children to wear yellow to school. During the day the children will complete activities in the classroom on this year's theme Mental Health during Catastrophes and Emergencies.

Best wishes,

Mr. Kevin Corteen.
Headteacher.

Attitude

Behaviour

Courage

Determination

Enthusiasm

Friendship

Resilience

Star of the Week:

Congratulations to those children that have been chosen as Star of the Week in our Celebration assemblies over the last two weeks. We are all very proud of you!

This week:

Elm - Albie, Pine - Ismail, Ash - Amir, Beech - Joe, Hazel - Zakariya, Rowan - Cade, Aspen - Lilly, Spruce - Eva.

Last week:

Elm - Hiba, Pine - Faris, Ash - Nicole, Beech - Zidane, Hazel - Aniya, Rowan - Muhammad, Aspen - Vania, Spruce - Lucy.

Attendance:

Our attendance target for this academic year remain at **97%**.

Our whole school attendance figure for 2024-25 was **94%**.

Average attendance to the week ending 26.09.25 was **93.4%**

The following classes had attendance above our school target of 97% W/E 26.09.25:

Pine - 97%, Hazel - 97%, Beech - 98%, Aspen - 97%.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



**We are now collecting items
for our Harvest Festival
on Monday 6th October.**

Please send any donations into school with your child.

We are collecting the following items:

Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Long-life milk, Rice, Tinned meat: (corned beef, ham, spam), Fray Bentos pies, Chickpeas, Jam, Tinned fruit, Custard, Rice pudding, Sweetcorn, Tinned potatoes & Tuna.

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WHOLE
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and events at
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Twitter (@BroadOakPS) and
Instagram (@broadoakps).**

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Acorn Class have settled really well back in to school life after the Summer break! The children are building strong relationships with each other, their new teacher Mr Kelly and all the adults in the room. The children have responded positively to the class rules and our routines.



We have also been working on our fine motor skills by making characters from our book. The children have also been working on our social skills by playing turn taking games. It has been a fantastic start to Acorns year - keep it up Acorns!



The children have worked hard in different activities and lessons such as in Art, making their own Acorns, Cooking, making Rice Krispie cakes and pitta pizzas and in English we have been learning how to use capital letters and full stops correctly.

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All pupils have jumped into Reception with two feet this year! All pupils have been exploring the indoor and outdoor activities and the staff have been loving getting to know all the pupils.



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Ash class have enjoyed making dens as part of our Forest Crew lessons.



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Spruce Class have been working with partners on balances that use counter tension and counter balance.



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- ✓ Experienced and caring staff
- ✓ Forest Crew for all ages
- ✓ Full wrap-around care (Nursery-Year 6)
- ✓ New EYFS space with whole role play area!

EYFS OPEN DAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2025

2pm

Broad Oak Lane,
East Didsbury
M205QB

Get in touch today!

growingtogether@broad oak.manchester.sch.uk

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins - something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites - doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

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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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>



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