Boorley Park News and Updates 5th July 2024



Our Assembly

Our focus in assembly this week was on determination. We thought carefully about different examples of when people have been determined and looked at Derek Redmond not giving up in the 1992 Olympics. The children were able to recognise that sometimes when we are challenged by something, reaching out for support and using the encouragement from others helps us to succeed. Determination also requires a positive attitude and a belief that we can succeed.



Summer Fayre

I would like to express my gratitude to the wonderful PTA team who organised and led the fantastic summer fayre last weekend. The day was beautifully sunny and this was also reflected in the happy faces and smiles of our Boorley families and the local community enjoying the event.

We are delighted to share that we have raised an incredible £3,210.56p, all of which will go towards the play trail that will be built in the early part of the Autumn term. Thank you for attending this and for supporting the PTA in raising vital funds for the school. A huge thank you to Hazel, Steph and team (including lots of children who came to help set up) for their hard work in making this such a successful event for everyone to enjoy.



Transition

Below are some useful guides for parents and carers to use with children to support in the lead up to the summer holidays, throughout the break and as you prepare children for their return to school in September. There are lots of people here to support you so please do not be afraid to ask for the support you feel is needed for your child.



Celebrations & goodbye

Be honest and supportive of the whole process. Talk positively, developing strength and resilience. Don't add to anxiety or negativity. Change is both exciting and scary, but everything that is new soon becomes normal.

Make sure your child enjoys the end of year celebrations and creates the mementoes and keepsakes which will allow them to successfully say goodbye.



Perhaps have your own small end of year after school party with a few key friends or family. Think about what you can do at home that will be particularly special for your child.

School Holidays

Make the most of your holiday time to relax and take part in whatever leisure activities are of most interest to your child. Sometimes the first few days/week children just need to rest and enjoy some down time at home, especially after a busy end of term.



If they need extra support with anything practical or with social and emotional support during this time, seek this out or support this yourself. Keeping some form of routine across the holiday will help getting back into school routine in September.



Towards the end of the holiday your child might start to get anxious and this will likely come out in their behaviour. Use this time to reflect on the positive end of term at last school and the re-uniting with key friends or building of new friendships at the new setting. Keep talking positively!

If anything is of particular concern, plan and mitigate against this. For example a new walk or bus ride to school; do this towards the end of holidays to help prepare.

New Term



Think ahead and plan around anything that might be an issue – bed times, getting up, getting ready on time, organising school bag, clothes etc. For the first few days/weeks you might need to do much more than usual to support your child to reduce anxiety and stress.



Plan to reduce any anxiety, stress or grumpy behaviour with kindness and love. Get all their favourite food in for before, after and during school. Remember when your child returns from school don't bombard them with questions, let them rest and settle for a while.

Don't plan do to anything too hectic at weekends or after school for the first few weeks, the mental, physical and emotional energy they will use up in the first few weeks will be exhausting.

Dates for Your Diaries—2023-2024

Whole School

Summer Term 2024

- Saturday 29th June PTA Summer Fayre 12-4pm
- Tuesday 23rd July Last Day of Term
- Wednesday 24th July Monday 2nd September Summer Holidays

Autumn Term 2024

- Tuesday 3rd September First Day of Autumn Term 1
- Friday 11th October INSET DAY School closed for pupils
- Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November Half Term Holidays
- Monday 4th November First Day of Autumn Term 2
- Friday 29th November INSET DAY School closed for pupils
- Friday 20th December Last Day of Term
- Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025 Christmas Holidays

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6th January 2025 - First Day of Spring Term 1

Year 1

- Rabbit Class Monday 15th July—9:15am—Celebration Assembly for Parents
- Otter Class Tuesday 16th July—9:15am—Celebration Assembly for Parents

Year 2

- **Hedgehog Class** Wednesday 17th July—9:15am—Celebration Assembly for Parents
- Fox Class Thursday 18th July—9:15am—Celebration Assembly for Parents

Year 4

 Tuesday 9th July- 2:45pm—Parent Event in Owl Class - A 'showcase' of their work from throughout the year



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

BOO!

ONLINE TROLLING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? The term "Trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.



ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare

HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial surhomophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media — an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

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HALF"

A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

Meet Our Expert

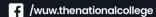
Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: national college.com/guides/online-trolling









Boorley Park Term Dates 2024/25





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Bank Holiday
School Holiday

INSET Day (school closed to children)