



# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

26th July 2022



## MESSAGE FROM NIKKI BURROUGHS, EXECUTIVE HEAD



And so another academic year comes to an end – and what a year this one has been – perhaps with even more challenges than last year, however there has been lots to celebrate too!

The recent summer fêtes, sports days and transition events were a huge success and it was wonderful to be able to welcome so many families and friends back into our schools. I hope you enjoyed them as much as we did. We look forward to continuing to develop our parent partnerships further next year with even more events in our schools.



It has also been fantastic, specifically these last few weeks, to see so many of our children and young people access high quality, purposeful educational outings, work experience opportunities and residential trips. There have been trips to the Zoos, The Aquarium, numerous different parks, soft play areas and even a few trips paddle boarding to name but a few.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all those students leaving our school this Summer to go on to new adventures elsewhere, all the very best for the future. We have loved being part of their journey and hope they remember their time with us fondly.

I am sure you will all join me in extending thanks to our wonderful staff team for their incredible dedication and commitment throughout this extraordinarily challenging year.

My final thanks however, goes to you, our parents and carers, for allowing us the privilege of educating and caring for your children and young people, and to our superb children and young people themselves, who brighten up each and every one of our days. We look forward to continuing to help them grow and achieve even further next year.

I wish you all a fabulous summer holiday!

## DATES 2022

Wednesday 27th July ..... Last day of term for pupils and staff

Tuesday 6th September ..... Pupils return to school

Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st September ..... Parents' Evenings

Thursday 6th October ..... E-Safety Training Session for Parents & Carers

Tuesday 11th October ..... Online E-Safety Training Session for Parents & Carers

w/c 24th October ..... Half term holiday



**EVERYONE WILL BE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE; EVERYONE HAS A VOICE; NO-ONE IS EXCLUDED**



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## COST OF LUNCHES

With rising energy and food costs, the Federation needs to increase the cost of a school lunch **from September 2022.**

The cost of a Junior School meal will increase to £2.60 per day, and a Senior School meal will rise to £2.70 per day (an increase of 20p per meal).

Payment needs to remain upfront but you can choose whether to pay daily, weekly or half termly. The cost of cookery contributions will not change.

Thank you.



## MAKATON SIGN

This week's sign is "Good Afternoon".

[Makaton for 'good afternoon'](#) - YouTube



## SUMMER FETE

**thank you!**

**A BIG THANK YOU** for coming along and supporting the Summer Fete this year! We changed the day from a Saturday to a Friday, but lots of families still came along and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Congratulations to Mrs W for winning the summer hamper in our online draw! The raffle tickets which were sold online and also on the day raised over £350 alone!

As well as the PTFA members who worked incredibly hard organising the Tombola, the online raffle and Silent Auction, we also need to especially thank school staff Ellie Clarke, Abbie Heat and Sarah Kershaw who went out of their way to fundraise and ensure the Fete ran smoothly.

Now the pennies have been counted, we are delighted to announce the Fete raised a whopping **£1,632.09!**

Thank you so much everyone for your support.

## TRANSITION EVENT

We hope you managed to make it into Bidwell Brook School last week for the Transition Event.

If you have any questions or queries regarding your child's class next year, please do get in touch with us. Either contact your Class Teacher or put a call into Stella Wood, Head of School.



## TERM DATES 2022-2023

Term dates are at the end of this newsletter.

The last day of term this Summer is:

**Wednesday 27th July 2022**

We look forward to welcoming all the children and young people back on:

**Tuesday 6th September 2022**

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF)

The HAF Programme provides holiday activities and a meal for children aged 5-16 (and 4 year olds if in Reception) who are eligible for and receiving benefit-related Free School Meals. The programme also covers their families and their friends if this encourages the children to attend. To access the programme, you should book a place direct.

Full information can be found on the DCC website (click [here](#)).





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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### Some photos from Sports Day @ Bidwell Brook





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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### Music with Jessie's Fund



Some of our students have been engaging with musicians from Jessie's Fund. Jessie's Fund is a charity which helps children with additional and complex needs to communicate by using music. Music can provide a powerful and profound way in which children can express themselves and connect with the world around them. Musicians have been in school over the last couple of weeks running sessions for pupils and also training sessions for staff.

Do you have any musical instruments at home that you no longer use? If so, would you consider donating them to school?

As part of our strategic plan and site developments, we are currently auditing our musical instruments and it would be good if we could have some more instruments to use in classes. Thank you very much.



### Summer Fete

Here's some photos from our Fete.





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## E-SAFETY TRAINING FOR FAMILIES



Remember completing a Technology Questionnaire, telling us how often your child or young person accesses their electronic device and what they view and engage with when online? We've reviewed your feedback and would like to invite you, to what we hope, will be the first of a number of e-safety training sessions in the next academic year.

The first training session at Bidwell Brook School will be taking place in the School Hall on:

Thursday 6th October 2022 between 10.30 am and 12 noon.

For our working families, we will also be running an online Teams session on:

Tuesday 11th October starting at 5.30 pm until 7 pm.

Please pop one of these dates into your diary now, and we'll be in touch with further details in September on how you can sign up.

## FURTHER EDUCATION CHANGING TO SIXTH FORM

This academic year, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our Key Stage 5 (FE) department, including its strategic direction and curriculum offer. As a result, I can confirm that from September 2022, the Learn to Live Federation will no longer have a department with a designation of Further Education (FE). For young people being educated in Years 12 to 14, the department will be known as the "Sixth Form". Classes will be named "Sixth Form 1" and "Sixth Form 2".

Education within our Sixth Form will still follow the Learn to Live Federation's personalised curriculum for all students. Our young people will continue to be taught a breadth of subjects including functional English and Maths. Preparing for Adulthood will remain a key focus within Years 12 to 14 as we continue to develop students' employability skills and provide opportunities for relevant work experience placements. Our aim in Sixth Form is to ensure young people are as prepared as possible for their next steps towards becoming an independent adult, and to be able to participate and contribute meaningfully within their own local community.

At the Parents' Evening which will take place during week commencing 19th September 2022, you will have the chance to discuss the above with your Class Teacher but if you have questions you would like answered in the meantime, please contact Stella Wood, Head of School.

Being part of the Years 12 to 14 cohort is an exciting time for students both in terms of their education and the opportunities it provides, as well as specific privileges it brings whilst in school. We hope everyone will enjoy being a member of our Sixth Form.

Preparing for  
**Adulthood**





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## SUMMER READING

This Summer, why not encourage your child to delve into a book and be inspired by tales of creativity?! Join the Summer Reading Challenge online and see where your child can go this summer. Click on the image below for more info:



## SOCIALIBILITY APP

For more than one billion disabled people worldwide, poor accessibility poses a significant barrier to social inclusion, equal opportunity and quality of life.

Whether you're disabled or, elderly, or pushing a pram or simply with someone who is – knowing the accessibility (or lack thereof) of a venue in advance makes a world of difference. With the right planning, obstacles can be overcome, stress can be avoided, and everyone can be included.

By making it quick, easy and free to find detailed & reliable accessibility information, Sociability helps disabled people find accessible places and enjoy greater social inclusion.

Scan this QR code to install the Sociability app to find your accessible place.





# Bidwell Brook Student Council newsletter

## Summer 2022



### Playground -

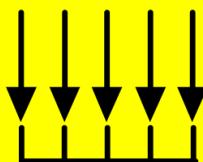
We have some new equipment on the Playground that the Student Council helped to choose.

The Student Council decided that we need more swings next.

They thought the Fort Area was a good place to have the swings.

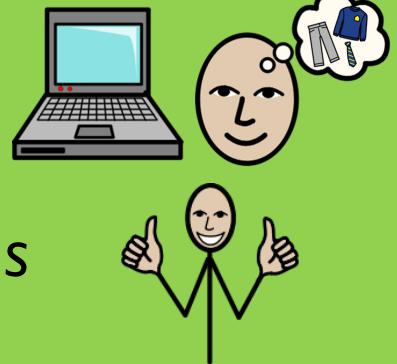
The Student Council checked with every student which swings they like the best.

The students told Lynne that they liked all the swings, so we will be getting one of each swing. Lynne has raised the money for the swings. They'll be here next year.



## Uniform-

The Student Council trialled using an online form to get student views about school uniform.

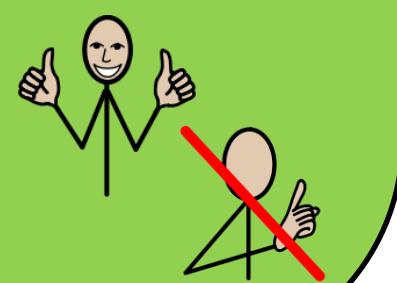
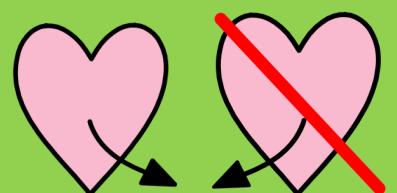


The Student Council supported and encouraged their classmates to fill in the online form too.

This information was sent to the Senior Leaders.

The Senior Leaders heard that some students want uniform and some don't.

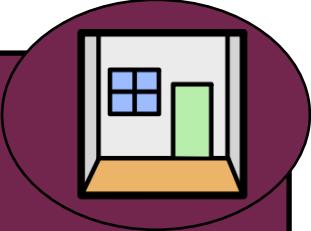
The decision is that students will be encouraged to wear a uniform up to Key Stage 4, but they don't have to.



## CDMT Rooms—The Student Council chose the names for the CDMT rooms.



Sunshine Room      Sensory Circuit      Bubble Room  
Room



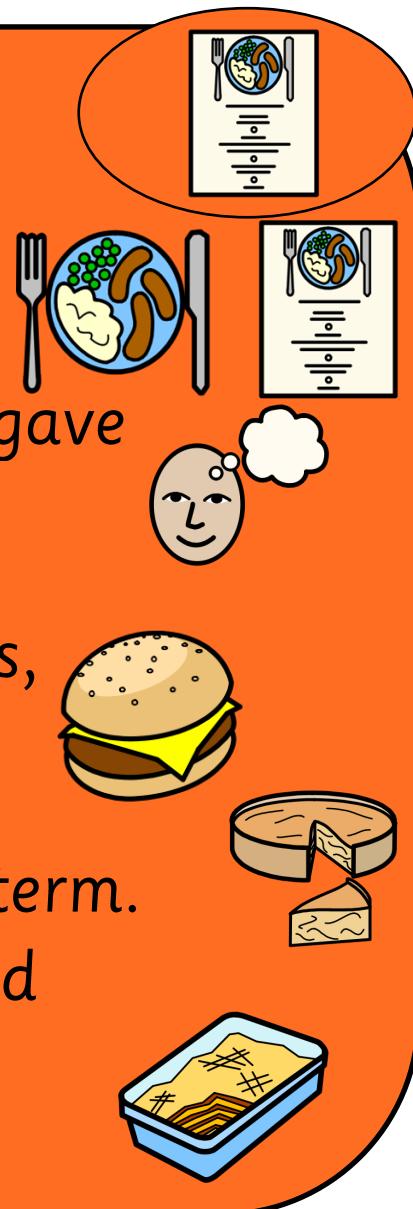
## Summer School Dinner Menu-

The Student Council agreed they wanted a say in the Summer School Dinner menu.

Students from across the school gave their views.

Tony met with the Student Council. He added cheese burgers, pear sponge, chicken nuggets (sweet and sour chicken), katsu curry and quiche in the summer term.

In the autumn term, Tony will add macaroni cheese with roasted cauliflower and lasagne.

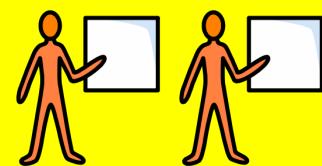
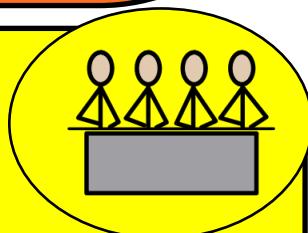


## Teacher Interviews—

Student Council members interviewed 8 teachers who wanted to work at Bidwell Brook.

They supported the adult interview panel to make their decision about who got the jobs.

Two new Teachers will start in September—Rosie and Lily.



If you want more information about the Student Council, please contact Dawn



## Joint work with Ellen Tinkham Student Council—



Some of the Student Council have been working with reps from Ellen Tinkham on things like:

- The Behaviour Policy which gives staff and students clear guidelines for how things should happen at school.
- Self-Evaluation, which is a way students can record what they have learnt and what they liked and didn't like about lessons.



## Enterprise and Careers -

The Student Council have given feedback about Enterprise and Careers. They helped to launch a competition to name our new Federation Enterprise Company.



## Sunflower Lanyards

The Student Council have been working on getting Sunflower Lanyards in place for those who want to wear them. They will be ready in September.





## TERM DATES 2022-2023

	Sep-2022					Oct-2022					Nov-2022				
<b>Monday</b>		T	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
<b>Tuesday</b>		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
<b>Wednesday</b>		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
<b>Thursday</b>	T	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
<b>Friday</b>	T	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
<b>Saturday</b>	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
<b>Sunday</b>	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
	Dec-2022					Jan-2023					Feb-2023				
<b>Monday</b>		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
<b>Tuesday</b>		6	13	20	27	T	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
<b>Wednesday</b>		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	
<b>Thursday</b>	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	
<b>Friday</b>	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
<b>Saturday</b>	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
<b>Sunday</b>	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	33	5	12	19	26	
	Mar-2023					Apr-2023					May-2023				
<b>Monday</b>		6	13	20	27		3	10	T	24	1	8	15	22	29
<b>Tuesday</b>		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30
<b>Wednesday</b>	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
<b>Thursday</b>	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	
<b>Friday</b>	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	
<b>Saturday</b>	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	
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	Jun-2023					Jul-2023					Aug-2023				
<b>Monday</b>		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	O	31		7	14	21	28
<b>Tuesday</b>		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	O		1	8	15	22	29
<b>Wednesday</b>		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
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<b>Sunday</b>	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
key:	pupils in school				school holidays (school closed)			staff training days (non pupil days)			occasional days (school closed)			Bank Holidays and weekends	

# STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

How many tips can you find?

UNSURE?  
ASK A TRUSTED ADULT



AGE RESTRICTION  
13+



According to the Roblox website, 'Roblox is the world's largest interactive social platform for play.' For those of you who are unfamiliar with the game, it is a multi-player online gaming platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. Roblox is free to play and available on all modern smartphones, tablets, desktops, Xbox One, Oculus Rift, and HTC Vive.



# What parents need to know about ROBLOX

## ROBLOX STUDIO

The Roblox Studio allows users to create their own games and 'worlds' for others to play on the platform. As the games are user generated, it gives users the freedom to potentially include things you do not want your child to be exposed to, for example, weapons, violence and even pornographic content. There are no age restrictions on the games created in the Roblox Studio and to remove games from the platform Roblox relies on people reporting negative/violent content.



## CHATTING & FRIEND REQUESTS

Whilst the games in Roblox are aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds, there are currently no age restrictions for signing up. This means that both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other and send friend requests through the platform. Once a friend request is accepted, this means that they can communicate with each other outside of gameplay.



## ROBUX ONLINE PAYMENTS

When a user creates a game, they earn something called 'Robux,' which works as a currency within the platform and enables the purchase of upgrades and memberships. If the created game is of good quality and attracts multiple players and in-game adverts, children have the ability to earn a lot of 'Robux.' Once a user has earned a certain amount of Robux, they can convert this to real cash and withdraw it to a PayPal account. To withdraw money, users need to be over 13, have a PayPal account and have paid for the Roblox premium subscription.



# National Online Safety

# Top Tips for Parents

## ALERT!

Tell your children to be careful and to think twice before they click any random advert or popup. There are a lot of phishing scams that advertise free roblox etc. with the intent of stealing your child's personal information.

## UNLIST SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Make sure your child's social media accounts are not listed in the settings/account information. If they are, advise them to set them to private or remove them from their account. This will ensure that nobody will be able to find and contact them on their social media platforms outside of Roblox.



## CHECK SHARED INFORMATION

In the account settings, check that your child is not giving away any personal information in their bio/profile. For example, their full name, phone number or snapchat name. If you see that they have, explain why this is potentially dangerous and remove immediately.

## 2-STEP VERIFICATION

Roblox has a great two-step verification security feature which we recommend you enable to add an extra layer of security to your child's account.

## HAVE A CHAT ABOUT 'GRIEFING'

Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player in a game. This can be done by setting traps, damaging or stealing something from another player, intentionally killing them and generally doing something in the game to spoil their gameplay. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating and upsetting for players.

## RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Roblox is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional in-game purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will enable you to restrict how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

## DISABLE IN-GAME CHAT

Roblox is great for children to play together and chat to each other. However, if you want to completely turn off in-game chat for your child (meaning they cannot contact anyone, including their friends) you can do so by following these steps: When logged in, go to the Account Settings page by clicking on the gear icon at the top right corner of the page, then click Settings. Next, click on the Privacy tab and under 'Who can chat with me in game?' select 'No one' and this will disable in-game chat.

## IS YOUR CHILD UNDER 13?

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of YouTube videos showing children how to change their age settings on Roblox, so firstly, you should talk to your child to set up some rules/an agreement. There are additional safety features for children under 13, for example having their posts and chats filtered for inappropriate content and behaviour, so it is worth checking that your child has set up their account with the correct age. You can find this in their account settings.

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