broadstones Newsletter

Edition 35
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Autumn 1
October 2026

Welcome to the Broadstones School Autumn 1 half term newsletter!

The academic year is now in full swing, with everyone settling into new routines, getting to know new faces, and commencing new areas of study.

In this edition we bring you details of the new recycling initiative at the Vale site; this year's Parents & Carers Social Day; the new bench made for the community; how to find out about accessing higher education; as well as school trips, Black History Month, Halloween, and last but by no means least - the name of the new school pupil ambassador is revealed.

Our last page is continuing with our horoscope focus; we give astrological advice to all those born under the star signs of Libra and Scorpio!

New Vale Composter

As part of our quest to participate in the Let's Go Zero campaign, we have now installed a state-of-the-art composter at the Vale, which will allow us to recycle 100% of our food waste.

We have been recycling for a good few years already: paper, plastic, metal and glass - across all of our sites, so with the addition of the new composter, we are well on our way to becoming far more sustainable, kinder to our planet and helping to safeguard future generations. Recycling has drastically cut our general waste that would have been destined for landfill.

The cost of the composter was generated by the kindness of our staff, parents, carers and children from our last two Presentation Evenings. This is such a positive and wholesome project and should be celebrated.

Alongside this we have just been invited back for our third annual Youth Climate Assembly at Stockport Town Hall, where our children's voices will be heard and will contribute to key decisions on green projects in our communities, funded by SMBC.



Recycling at the Vale



Alex in charge of the new Vale composter

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Annual Parents and Carers Social Day

Our annual Parents and Carers Social Day is taking place at Reddish Golf Club, on 4th November, between 11am and 2pm. Food and drink is provided.

This is an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to meet up in an informal setting, talk to staff, chat with parents and carers, and to hear directly from outside organisations that provide knowledge, information and practical and emotional help where needed.

Staff present at the venue will be available to help and speak with directly, and include John and Sue, the school proprietors; Ed, Outreach Manager; Jackie, Pastoral Lead, and Nicola, Attendance Officer.

Also attending the event this year are representatives from Mosaic, a specialist drug and alcohol service managed by Stockport Council. It provides confidential treatment, medical support, and community interventions to young people up to the age of 26, as well as families affected by substance abuse.

We look forward to seeing as many parents and carers as possible on the day and know they will find the information very helpful.

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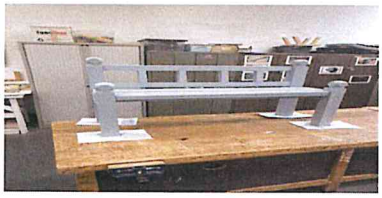
Creating a better Neighbourhood - one seat at a time!

A couple of our pupils have been very busy helping the community by building them a bench.

Both Kaidon and James have worked really hard on this project. They not only designed the bench, but measured it out, cut the specific pieces out, assembled them and painted it a lovely shade of blue.

These are fantastic skills to have, and it is wonderful that our school is not only teaching construction skills but are also contributing to the local community and showing people exactly what can be achieved when pupils are focused and motivated.

Through the acquisition of technical and trade-specific knowledge, with a bit of reading and numeracy thrown in, beautiful carpentry is formed, and confidences flourish.



The lovely bench for the community

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Sign Writing Course

This term our Broadstones popular Sign Writing Course has been well and truly underway with Steve and Adam.

Our adult students have learned how to create the perfect signs for their everyday use and for future potential endeavours.

The course ran on Wednesday evenings and is as popular as ever.

Broadstones looks forward to meeting new recruits in the future; please contact Broadstones School for details.







Some of our adult learners practising their new signwriting skills

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Science with Claire

Science lessons with Claire continue to be packed with practical experiments to bring the subject to life.

This half term, Zanaya has been investigating whether surface area affects the speed of the reaction between hydrochloric acid and calcium carbonate. She found out that the powder, with the larger surface area, reacts faster than the pieces with the smaller surface area.



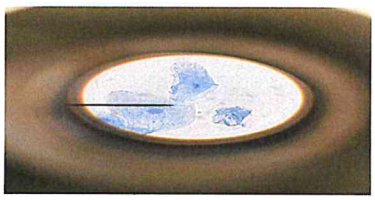
Zanaya's reactions

Also, several pupils have been learning about the variable resistor and have found out that when the slider is moved it can increase or decrease the current, which means that the light bulb shines brighter or dimmer accordingly.



Brook's hydrogen test

A few pupils have been looking at cheek cells and onion cells under the microscope to see how they are different in shape. The cheek cell has an irregular shape, and the onion cell is a regular rectangle shape.



Charlie's slide looking at cheek cells

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Navigating Higher Education

Broadstones was recently made aware of a series of events that are taking place on-line, designed to help parents and carers help their children to navigate the world of higher education.

The talks are all on-line, between 6 and 7pm on various dates between now and May 11th 2027. Places will need to be booked in advance, on-line.

Parents have already had this information sent out but if you have overlooked this somehow and are interested, to get more information and to book your place, contact: gmhigher.ac.uk/parents-carers

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Music Trip to Henry Watson Music Library

Some of our music pupils have been treated to a visit to the Henry Watson Music Library on Friday 6th November.

This is one of the oldest and largest public music libraries in the U.K., located inside Manchester Central Library at St. Peter's Square.

Pupils will view the library and the newly built music studio and then will get the chance to watch a live performance by the Royal Northern College of Music.

We are very lucky to be given this opportunity to attend and thank Ryan for organising this. More details in next half term's newsletter.

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Staircase House Visit

The Bungalow RSHE, (formally known as PSHE), visited the Staircase House museum in Stockport recently.

This beautifully restored 15th-century townhouse, located in the historic Market Place of Stockport, is widely regarded as the town's oldest secular building; it dates to around 1460.

It is celebrated for its rare 1618 Jacobean cage-newel staircase, which is one of only three surviving examples in the entire country.

Today, the Grade II listed building operates as an immersive museum managed by Stockport Museums, taking visitors through seven centuries of English domestic life.

Also, taking place on the Market Place at the time was filming for Daddy *Issues*. - a comedy series set in Stockport, which we were able to watch directly.

We rounded off the trip with a walk around the traditional sweet shop - The Candy Shack, where we purchased an array of sweet delights.

Bowling Trip

Also, the Vale Group went bowling at The Light, Stockport, a bonding exercise between some of our new pupils.

Top players on the day were: Jacob, Dillan and London who demonstrated great examples of perfect stance and grip, footwork and pendulum arm swings.







Images taken at the bowling alley



Black History Month

All pupils, across the curriculum, have been learning about key figures associated with Black History Month, an annual observance dedicated to celebrating the achievements, history and contributions of black and African diaspora people.

This is a topic we take very seriously at school. Each year we encourage our pupils to learn about some amazing black people that have all experienced immense struggles while simultaneously showing great resilience and leadership. Their immensely hard work and endurance led to a greater societal understanding of issues such as misrepresentation, and in time, effected great change and understanding leading to a greater sense of equality in society.

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Halloween Menu



Chopped Finger Rolls, Maggoty Dustbin Pasta and Smokey Katsue (Katsue) curry were all on the Halloween menu this half term.

For those pupils who couldn't be persuaded, there was a more traditional option available - pasta bowls, jackets and sandwiches.

As Halloween falls during the half term holiday this year, we are more excited than usual to celebrate Halloween, or Fright Night, or The Witching Hour, etc.

Originating over 2000 years ago, and varying in meaning dependent on religious interpretations, all agree that on 31st October there is a distinct 'thinning of the veil', which makes the barrier between the living world and the dead (spiritual) world at its thinnest.

Whatever is going on, let's all enjoy this great excuse to get dressed up and scare the life out of each other!

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New School Ambassador

And last but by no means least, we announce our new school pupil ambassador - Izzy.

Izzy learned of her success on Monday 19th October. She was thrilled to be appointed. We asked her for a reaction and she, in true Isabelle style declared: "Thanks guys for voting for me. I will make this year peak!"

Izzy went head-to-head with two other very worthy candidates - Zanaya and Alfie. All candidates had to make formal applications. Their individual statements of intent were appraised by their peers who were then allocated one vote each.

We know Izzy will make an excellent ambassador because she possesses all the requisite qualities; she is completely trustworthy, disciplined, an active listener, and highly respected amongst staff and pupils alike.

We would also like to thank Zanaya and Alfie who also campaigned for the role, who were very worthy candidates indeed.

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2026 -2027 half term Astrologicc focus overview - Libra & Scorpio

Libra

Personal Power: Pluto continues to offer an extreme boost to confidenc personal magnetism, and long-term career rewards.

Relationships & Reflection: Early 2027 may bring minor uncertainties c domestic shifts, but spring introduce planetary alignments that restore warmth in love and project solutions i career

Scorpio

Stabilizing Bonds: Relationship pressures ease significantly as unpredictable outer planet transits shift away from direct opposition, helping close partnerships settle into deeper trust.

Identity Shifts: Venus retrograde cycles prompt personal epiphanies, inviting you to release old emotional baggage and communicate more openl with your partner.

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