

31st October 2025

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**CLAYBROOKE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Together we flourish | Est 1814

Claybrooke Primary School
(Part of INSPIRING PRIMARIES ACADEMY TRUST)
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Head of School: Mr P. Rock

**Message from
Mr Rock**

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. I hope you all had a lovely half term break whatever you were up to. This is always a busy term with lots of exciting events coming up, particularly as we approach the end of the term. Please keep an eye on the 'Upcoming events' section of the newsletter, which is updated regularly.

PTA Spooky Disco

Thank you to all of the children who came along to our Spooky Disco on Tuesday evening. There were some fantastic, and scary costumes on show, as well as lots of dancing and treats consumed! Thank you to our amazing PTA for organising the disco and to everyone who came



**Be safe,
Be ready,
Be respectful.**



.Topic Showcase afternoon.
Thank you to everyone who came along to our 'Topic Showcase' on Wednesday afternoon. We hope you enjoyed visiting each of the classes, speaking to the children, taking part in some activities and learning about some of the fabulous work they have been doing in class. Your ongoing support is truly valued.



This week we also welcomed in the Open The Book team who performed a fantastic bible showcase sharing the message that every day is a new day and a new start.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Rock
Head of School



**Congratulations to our
certificate winners this week.
Excellent Work:
Bodhi, Sawyer & Aubrey
Values:
Emilia, Zion & Eden**





Go above and beyond!

Upcoming dates

Maple Class swimming: Each Tuesday afternoon.

Parent consultations
Monday 24th November &
Wednesday 26th November.

Friday 29th November. PTA
'Wear what you want' day.
Bring in items for tombola.

Friday 5th December.
PTA Christmas Bazaar. (In the
Village Hall)

Wednesday 10th December.
Christmas performance in the
Church. (2pm and 6pm)

Please think carefully about whether your child needs to be off school. Our attendance is dropping well below the national average of 95% We hope you will continue to support us to improve attendance.

Well done to those who have won awards outside school recently.



Team points this week:

Red: 76
Green: 86
Blue: 51
Yellow: 60

*WHOLE SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
31.10.25.*

Oak: 80.61%

Maple: 77.71%

Willow: 79.95%

Whole school: 79.29%

**MOMENTS
MATTER.
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



PTA 'SPOOKY' DISCO

THANK YOU TO OUR FANTASTIC PTA FOR AN AMAZING DISCO.
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME ALONG TO SUPPORT.



Claybrooke calendar 2025-26



Please see provisional dates for the upcoming academic year. (All dates are subject to change.)

<h1 style="color: blue;">Autumn Term 2025</h1>	
Date	Event
Tue 02/09	Meet the teacher / Curriculum information 3:30 - 4:00 (In each classroom) Oak class parents: Residential trip meeting will follow at 4pm
Wed 24/09	Macmillan Coffee non uniform day. (Bring in items for tombola)
Fri 26/09	Macmillan Coffee Morning @ Claybrooke Village Hall
Wed 08/10	Harvest Festival 2pm @ St Peters Church TBC
Tues 14/10	Taylor Shaw catering open event for parents 3:30 *
Thurs 16/10	PTA AGM 3:30pm in the school hall. Cancelled. Will be rescheduled
Thurs 16/10	School closes for half term
Fri 17/10	School INSET DAY. School closed to pupils
w/c 21/10	HALF TERM
Mon 27/10	School re-opens
Mon 27/10	School individual photographs
Wed 29/10	Topic Showcase 2.50-3:10 *
Thurs 30/10	PTA Spooky Discos (Willow 3pm - 4pm Maple and Oak 4:10 - 5:10pm)
w/c 24/11	Parent consultation week (dates to be confirmed)
Fri 28/11	'PTA 'Wear what you want' day. Bring items for Christmas Bazaar.
Thurs 27/11	PTA Christmas Craft 9 - 11:30am
Fri 05/12	PTA Christmas Bazaar (tbc) 5:30 - 7:30pm
Wed 10/12	Claybrooke Nativity & Christmas Carols @ St Peter's Church 1:30pm (TBC)
Wed 10/12	Claybrooke Nativity & Christmas Carols @ St Peter's Church 6:00 pm
Tue 16/12	School Christmas dinner
Wed 17/12	Willow Class panto trip
Fri 20/12	Break up for Christmas holidays
	End of Autumn Term

All dates subject to change

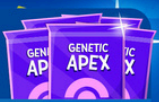
What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING



Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS



New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING



Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in "just one more game". This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS



Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE



A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY



Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS



Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

PLAY TOGETHER



Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

TEACH FAIRNESS



Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



Term Dates - Academic Year 2025-26

AUTUMN TERM
Tuesday 26th August 2025 - Thursday 16th October 2025 <small>(Bank Holiday Monday 25th August 2025)</small>
HALF TERM
Monday 27th October 2025 - Friday 19th December 2025
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
SPRING TERM
Tuesday 6th January 2026 - Friday 13th February 2026
HALF TERM
Monday 23rd February 2026 - Friday 27th March 2026
EASTER HOLIDAYS
SUMMER TERM
Monday 13th April 2026 - Friday 22nd May 2026 <small>(Closed for Bank Holiday Monday 4th May)</small>
HALF TERM
Monday 1st June 2026 - Thursday 9th July 2026
SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Teacher days:

- Thursday 21st August 2025
- Friday 22nd August 2025
- Friday 17th October 2025
- Monday 5th January 2026
- Friday 10th July 2026