



Bloxham CE Primary School

Newsletter October 2023

Dear Families

It was lovely to see so many of you at our performances yesterday and to receive the feedback about how much you had enjoyed these. For those of you with children in Foundation Stage, there is of course a further treat to come on Tuesday. Thank you to all families for your very generous donations both for the reverse advent calendar and our interactive screen appeal. We have so far raised £422.14. Your generosity at a time of year when there are so many demands on finances is very much acknowledged and appreciated.

Christmas is well and truly underway and on behalf of everyone here at Bloxham CE Primary I wish all our families a very happy Christmas and New Year. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all our Bloxham staff for their hard work and support which enables our school to be the fabulous place it is and to provide such a breadth of experiences and opportunities for our children.

A year ago, our Ofsted report was published, setting out four key areas of action for the school to work on. In this last newsletter of 2023, I wanted to reflect on the work we have carried out as a school to address these issues.

Key action 1: To develop trust, respect and a positive school culture.

Over the last 12 months considerable time has been allocated to establishing a culture where collaboration, clarity and consistency are hand in hand with trust, honesty, and openness. We have worked together to create our new values and vision, developed opportunities for families to be involved in school life and through Threads and our new website for the wider community to also experience life at Bloxham. Our pupils now have a wide variety of afterschool clubs and music is very much back in school. There is a real sense of team spirit and community and Bloxham feels a different and happier school.

Key Action 2: To ensure that curriculum plans are clear about what pupils need to know and the best order to learn it in and that high-quality training supports teachers to implement these plans effectively.

Since Ofsted the school has made a significant investment in curriculum resources which support us in ensuring that teaching and learning is in line with both National Curriculum and EYFS requirements. We have purchased a variety of schemes, including Cornerstones and Power Maths to support teachers in ensuring that teaching is precisely ordered and builds correctly upon prior learning. We have worked with local authority leads to monitor teaching and create bespoke units of work for our school with staff undertaking training across a variety of subjects.

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As families you will be familiar with our knowledge organisers which identify key facts and vocabulary across our creative curriculum and our pupils will be able to tell you about learning intentions and the success criteria which guides them on the necessary components to achieving strong outcomes.

This work will continue to be developed in the new year, with training already booked to develop the role of subject leads, ensuring consistency and succession planning.

Key Action 3: Leaders should improve the effectiveness of assessment to ensure that pupils know and remember more across the school's curriculum.

At Bloxham we use assessments to support the progress of pupils. To further their learning by gauging their understanding and knowledge with a view to either extending this or addressing misconceptions; so that we enable them to make good progress academically and with consideration to their wellbeing.

The majority of the assessment at Bloxham CE Primary is formative - ongoing feedback and adaptation which underpins our teaching; three time a year however, pupils will undertake formal tests, helping them prepare them for national assessment tests both at the end of Key Stage 2 but also when they move to secondary school.

Class teachers enter the data from these tests into tracking grids, where they also enter the teacher judgements you receive as parents and carers, in our termly written reports. The grids enable us to quickly identify trends or individual dips in performance which are then discussed as part of regular pupil progress meetings between class teachers and senior leaders.

To supplement this process, Bloxham has instigated moderation meetings for schools within our local cluster. This enables our staff to meet on a termly basis with teachers from local schools, to share work and agree judgements.

Key Action 4: To ensure teachers design and sequence learning to ensure that children in the early years develop their language and consistently learn enough new words to help them communicate and for future reading.

Our Foundation Stage Team under the guidance of Miss Drury and Mr Arzberger have worked systematically to address the areas for action identified in the report. Supported by Miss Jennings our Phonics Lead, Read, Write Inc is firmly embedded in the Key Stage with daily sessions supporting pupils with their early reading skills. Skilful use of language and supported conversations during both structured teaching and continuous learning encourages the children to develop their language. Ambitious vocabulary is further developed through drawing club where after listening to a traditional tale, a well-known story or an animation from the past, the children are taken on an adventure with words, actions and descriptive drawings.

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Monitoring visits from the local authority continue to indicate successful response to this key action.

As we move into 2024, we look forward to continuing our journey, to ensure that the provision at Bloxham is broad and balanced and grows in strength, so that our pupils have the best possible opportunities and experiences.

Sarah Marshall

County Council Press Release - New School Hall

Many of you will have spotted the County Council press release earlier this week about our "new school hall" – we are certainly fingers crossed here for Tuesday. If you haven't already seen the release, here it is:



Pupils at Bloxham Church of England Primary School are set to benefit from just under £2.8 million programme of renovations and improvements, funded by Oxfordshire County Council, subject to approval by the cabinet member for finance, Councillor Dan Levy.

The school has already been expanded in stages, over several years, to support increased demand for places.

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This latest programme of work would involve constructing a new school hall with storage, repurposing the current hall as a multifunctional teaching space and the refurbishment of an existing building to provide a kitchen.

Councillor John Howson, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services, said: "These are exciting plans for Bloxham Church of England Primary School, reflecting our commitment to provide a top class learning and teaching environment for Oxfordshire's children. My cabinet colleagues will discuss these plans at the 19 December meeting and a decision will be taken then."

The new hall would be located at the front of the school, adjacent to the main entrance and would be of red brick to blend with the existing school building.

Improvements to the school's forecourt and parking area would also be made, including adding a disabled parking space.

Planning permission was granted in April 2023 for the scheme. Subject to cabinet approval, construction is due to start early 2024 and would take around a year to complete.

Key Stage 2 Performance video

The video of our final whole key stage carol service rehearsal is now available on our website. Please go to the Our Bloxham Curriculum tab, where you will find a page entitled Performances and Services.

Safeguarding and wellbeing over Christmas

While many children love the magic of Christmas, for some, it is not a happy holiday to look forward to at all. For some children and their families, there is no sparkle in the December festivities because it isn't filled with happiness, family and friends, joy and peace.

There could be various pressures for families, such as isolation, expense, access arrangements between families, change of routine, overindulgence and relationships tensions. Please do contact us if you would like the nurture team's support.

Sources of support can be found below:

The NSPCC are here to help 24/7 and children can call their Childline number on 0800 1111

Help from the NSPCC for adults concerned about a child 0808 800 5000

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Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258

If an immediate response from Children's Social Care is necessary, call 0345 050 7666. If you have an urgent concern for a child call 999 or 101.

FoBPS

Thank you to the FoBPS for joining us last Friday to organise the present room wrap. The children were so excited and proud of the gifts they chose.



Dates for 2024

Friday 23rd February & 1st March	Discos
April/ May TBC	Hollywood and Hotdogs
Friday 21st June.	Summer Fete
Friday 19th July.	Break the Rules

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Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during December was 95.68%. A massive well done to class 4A for achieving the highest attendance for a class in December at 98.05%. Congratulations to Year 2 for the highest attendance for a year group at 97.11%

This month we have introduced our golden Super-Here-Os. Pupils who have 100% attendance in one week, are entered into a draw to become Super-Here-O of the week. The winning pupils for which there is one in KS2 and one across FS/KS1 are announced in celebration assembly with the pupils being awarded a golden house point token.

Well done to the 74 pupils who have achieved a complete 100% attendance since September.

Class Assembly Dates

Our class assemblies will take place on Wednesdays 8:55 – 9:30 (approx), please see the table below for dates. **Our next assembly is for families of pupils in 1J**

17 January	1J
31 January	1L
28 February	4A
13 March	4S
27 March	6H
24 April	6B
8 May	F1D
22 May	2S
12 June	2A
26 June	5E
10 July	5B

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PE News

The children really enjoyed taking part in the Santa Run, raising money for Katherine House Hospice. They learned about Katherine House and how they support the local community. Mrs Ducker was proud of the children challenging themselves to complete as many laps as possible. Great fun was had by all!



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Foundation Stage

Foundation have been working really hard practising for our nativity, the Sleepy Shepherd, which we are so excited to share with our grown ups next week. Please could parents practice lines over the weekend so children can hear which line is before theirs!

We have completed all of the children's phonics and are so impressed with the progress they have made. The assessments allow us to group the children with others that are at a similar stage in their learning.

We have had a wonderful first 2 terms in Foundation and wish all of our families a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about Our Wonderful World. We have become more confident with labelling continents and oceans. We have loved making our own maps and identifying features of villages, towns and cities.

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Year 2

In Maths, the children have moved onto learning about 2D and 3D shapes. They children were very excited and enjoyed learning about symmetry and investigating how many lines of symmetry 2D shapes have.

In English, the children have completed learning about Rosa Parks...which they loved! For the few final weeks, we have been focusing on a topic called 'Let's Explore the World' which will help prepare the children for their Coastlines topic in the new year.

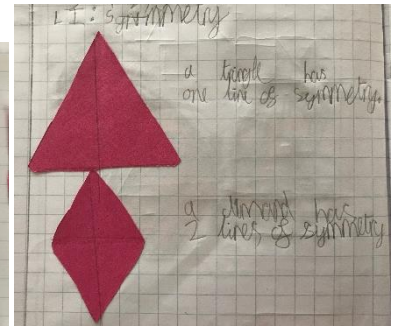
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Once again, we'd like to say a massive thank you to all the children for making the Nativity performances such a success. Those who attended, I'm sure will agree, the children performed brilliantly and represented the school incredibly well.



Year 3 - the Year 3 report has been written by the pupils.

Learning in Year 3

In English we have been learning about brochures. We are making our own brochures about our own stone age zoo. Mine is called Stone Age Zoomania.

Maths

In Maths we are learning about timetables, multiplication and division, place value within 1000 and addition and subtraction. My favourite part was drawing arrays when we did multiplication.

We also do an end of unit check which means we review the unit that we just did, when we do the end of unit check I feel excited for the next unit.

History

In History we have been learning about *Through The Ages* . So far we have learnt about the Stone Age , bronze age, iron **age and the celts**. **We also drew cave paintings. We drew a Celtic warrior and made Bell Beaker pots using clay.**

We had a stone age day. A stone age day is where an archaeologist comes in and talks about different time periods such as : Paleolithic and neolithic .

Healthy eating

We even made tacos !!!!!!!!!!! We have also been learning about health and nutrition (and a bit about skeletons too) We pretended to have a fake cast. We tried to have a drink but it just went everywhere (I got soaked).

We made tacos, we all gotta go stirring the meat and eating one. I liked the taco, but not the filling.

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ARt

In art we are focusing on **mixing** and the colour wheel. We drew prehistoric pots and Stone age people. We made Christmas cards first we made the outlines with tape to make a perfect triangle we painted inside the tape and then we **peeled the tape off!!** We added our trunks then we added 3 little gems on top.

In French we learnt greetings, how to say hello, how are you? We learnt about the weather and that **joyeux noel** means merry Christmas in French.

Written by Betty

In 3B and 3C we have been learning...

English

In English this term we've been making brochures about our own "stone age zoo". mine is called "Stone age zoomania animal park".

It was really fun making brochures.

Art

In art we have been making things with clay like ...bell beaker pots, poppies and we've not just been making things with clay we have also been painting Christmas cards by getting tape in triangles and painting them.

Painting!

yellow and blue makes green, blue and red makes purple, yellow and red makes orange.

DT

In DT we've been making **tacos** that was fun too. We all baked them. we have some booklets that we drew our tacos in and coloured in. We even got to eat them. I loved baking them.

History

In history we have been learning about the stone age, Iron and bronze. We have a lot of work in our history books (learning Experience books).

Science

In science we've been learning about human and animal skeletons .And the animal groups.

Maths

In maths we've been solving times - tables and multiplications. And we have made a times tables paper chains , there's little people who help us there names are Astrid, Flo, Dexter, Sparks and Ash my favorite is Sparks, we've been comparing numbers up to 1,000. Adding and subtracting numbers up to 3 digits.

French

In French we have been talking about Weather, greetings. We've got it all in our french books. I know Bonjour je - m'appelle Emma is... hello my name is Emma. And Ecoutez is... listen, Joyeux Noel is merry christmas.

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We have been learning throwing and catching skills and parsing skills partner work too. We go swimming on Tuesdays. We have different groups. I love swimming!

By Emma

Year3 learning in year3(3B and 3C)

In term 2 we were learning about history. We were learning about

The Stone Age. I wrote a report about The Amsbury Archer.

We had a Stone Age Day. I dressed up as a hunter. We did an assembly about it on December 6th 2023

Maths

In maths we have been learning about times-tables calculations adding and subtracting. We have our power maths books

to keep track of our lesson. Our times-tables will get harder and harder.

English

In English we have been making brochures for our stone age zoo. First we planned it out. Then we folded up pieces of paper to make our brochures, we could draw pictures and use fancy writing.

Art

In art we have been learning about mixing colours like red and yellow makes orange. We have our own Green art books. We have been making bell beaker pots and poppies out of clay.

Science

We have been learning about skeletons and muscles. I have a pivot joint in my neck and ball and socket joints connecting my legs to my pelvis.

We have been learning about Healthy eating my group made tacos then we ate them [they were delicious]

Merry Christmas

Written by William age 8

Year 4

In French in Year 4 we have been learning to describe monsters that we have made. We are very confident when speaking French and love singing all the songs. I think you will be impressed with the level of French in this description by Jazz.

'Here is my monster. He is called Bob. He has a blue head. He has a red mouth. He has black and white hair. In my opinion he is very sporty and a bit strange. He is five years old. My monster lives with me. On Wednesday he munches on three hedgehogs, but he is still hungry! He has two white teeth.

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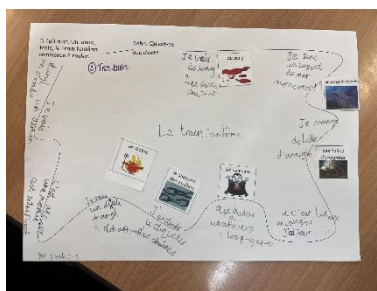
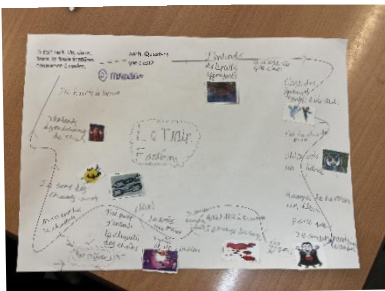
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Year 6

In Science, Year 6 have been learning about 'Light Theory'. As part of this they have been investigating shadows. They then recorded their findings and drew diagrams.



In French, Year 6 have enjoyed learning French phrases (and learning the actions too!) and writing their own ghost train stories! Ms Oatridge was very impressed with their hard work.



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Pupil Parliament

Pupil parliament have written reports about the projects and initiatives that we as a school have been focusing on.

Pupil Parliament

Pupil Parliament is a group of children at our school that make decisions about special days\weeks. These include:

Children's Mental Health Day - #HelloYellow

Children in need Fundraiser

Anti-bullying week - Odd Sock Day

We are also campaigning for:

A safe crossing into school

A dog shelter

A first aid shelter

A new bench

Thank you

By Oliver James 5B PP rep

Pupil Parliament

In pupil parliament we make and present assemblies on the topic or charity we're focusing on, so far we've done Children in Need ,Odd Sock Day and make a noise about bullying.

In pupil parliament we believe it is very important for people to feel safe in our school and have special people to talk to if they are having a hard time at home or at school. If you need anything we are here to help. If you're feeling down about bullying or anything, just remember you're not alone.

signed

6h Sofia craciun 6b eve warne holland

We are your PPreps

Thanks for reading

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Other News

Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to all our generous families who have donated to this initiative.

We have a super haul to donate to The Trussell Trust.



Bloxham Pre-School

Bloxham Pre School are recruiting an Administrator to be responsible for the overall administration and finances on behalf of the charity Trustees.

18 hours per week– school term time only with some additional hours during the summer holidays to be agreed.

Hourly rate is dependent on experience and qualifications.

For a copy of the role description or if you would like to discuss further, please contact Debbie Davies 01295 722959 or managerbloxhampreschool@outlook.com

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