



Bloxham CE Primary School

Newsletter September 2023

Dear Families

We have had a wonderful start to the new year. It hardly seems possible that we are at the end of September already and yet so much has already been accomplished.

The children have embraced our new school values with typical Bloxham energy and are showing staff how they can demonstrate these around school. In turn, they are thoroughly enjoying earning housepoints and KBVs.

The new range of clubs available to pupils is also proving popular, my thanks to both staff and parents who are volunteering their time to run these and to the children for showing great attitudes and behaviour during these.

Other extra curricular events during September have included Dot Day, Footy Kids and the first educational visit of the year to the Cotswold Toy Museum. Events in October include Black History week, Hello Yellow and our Year 6 visit to Holdenby House.

Thank you to parents who joined us for our Meet the Teacher presentations. We hope you found these a useful opportunity to discover a little more about what school will be like for your child this year and to hear the expectations staff have for them.

Thank you too, to our Year 1 families who joined us for our "Learn with your Child " phonics presentation. The children really do benefit from a strong home /school partnership and again we hope you found this session helpful. Any families who would like further support or advice linked to phonics are most welcome to contact Miss Jennings, our Phonics Lead.

Our next opportunity for you to share in school life is Open Classrooms which will be taking place Tuesday 10 October at 2:15pm. This term we will be asking families to RSVP to this event, to ensure that where families are unable to attend, we are able to appropriately support pupils. If you are new to the school or are unsure about what this event entails please do speak to your child's class teacher.

Have a wonderful weekend

Sarah Marshall

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Staff News

We welcome several new members of staff to Bloxham this academic year. Mrs Dodson, Mrs Lee, Miss Avis and Mr Charlton join us as class teachers with Nicole King, Amy Kershaw and Lauren Spencer joining our team of support staff.

Another new addition to our Bloxham family is Sidney, Miss Drury's baby boy who arrived safely earlier this month. We send the whole of the Drury family our congratulations.

FoBPS

Thank you to the Friends of Bloxham Primary School (FoBPS) who are fundraising this year to support the purchase of further Chromebooks for the school. Dates to add to your diaries and calendars are shown below. Please do try and join them for the AGM, Friday 13th October. If you are a new member of our school community the FoBPS is a great way to meet new parents and become part of school life.

Friday 13 th October 9 am	AGM
Friday 10 th November, gates open 5 pm, fireworks display 7 pm.	Fireworks
Friday 1 st December	Non-uniform day for Christmas Present Room donations
Friday 8 th December	Present room wrap event
Friday 23 rd February & Friday 1 st March	Discos
April/ May TBC	Hollywood and Hotdogs
Friday 21 st June.	Summer Fete
Friday 19 th July.	Break the Rules

Attendance

This time of year not only brings us greyer and more miserable weather, but also a whole host of coughs, sneezes and other bugs. Wherever possible please do continue to send your child to school, sometimes a simple dose of Calpol style medicine is sufficient to enable them to get through the day. There is no longer a requirement to isolate for a positive COVID result, again if your child is well enough to be in school they should attend.

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Unfortunately, where pupils have a sickness and diarrhoea bug, 48 hours absence following the last bout is required.

Overall attendance across the whole school during September was 96%, with class 3B achieving the highest attendance for the month of 98.8%. Congratulations to 3B.

Safeguarding

Staff received safeguarding training at the start of term as well as a session on updates to the guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. There is a strong emphasis on online safety and the importance of schools having effective filtering and monitoring systems in place. This same issue is important for families – being aware of how to ensure children cannot access unsuitable content online as well as checking what they have viewed. If you need some guidance in this area, the following link may be useful: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Teaching and Learning Advisor Visit

Owen Tromans spent valuable time with teachers last week. He supported their planning of new writing units that are linked to The Cornerstones Curriculum now being delivered at Bloxham. Both long serving and new teachers embraced this professional development opportunity that will promote good quality teaching and provide rich writing opportunities for the children.

Early Years Advisor Visit

The children were pleased to meet Sarah Pugh this week who popped by for the morning to see our fantastic little learners in action. We learned another new sound in Phonics (we now know the first fifteen set 1 sounds) and then learned about the five senses before all going a sensory walk together. With inclusion at the heart of all we do at Bloxham and a familial approach to welcoming each other, Sarah was delighted with how well the children have settled into their learning journey.

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Dot Day



Hello Yellow -Tuesday 10th October

#HelloYellow for World Mental Health Day. We'll be joining thousands of other schools by wearing yellow to stand out and show up for young people's mental health. To take part, we're inviting pupils wear non uniform and something yellow to school on 10th October.

Foundation Stage – Let's Explore

It's been a busy week in Foundation as we've been reflecting on our learning so far, gathering the children's voices and adding them to our displays. The children love to not only see their valued work going up on the walls but seeing their thoughts and ideas about their learning being collected too. Here you can see a variety of maps of the school and our garden that the children have made as part of our Let's Explore learning experience and our firm favourite role play area decorated to look like Max's bedroom from Maurice Sendak's 'Where the Wild Things Are'. Don't forget to check Tapestry for more updates too!

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Year 1 Educational Visit

The first educational visit of the academic year to the Cotswold Toy Museum was a great success! Here are some of the children's highlights: "We had to go on a long bus journey to get to the museum" Freddie. "We saw lots of old and new toys." Maggie. "We even had the chance to make our own toy! It was a spinning top which when spun all the colours blended" Fliss.

All the children represented the school fantastically and all the adults were very proud.



Year 2 Exploring Colours

Year 2 have been getting creative with colours during our Art topic. The children have enjoyed mixing colours and studying the colour wheel. They've also explored primary and secondary colours, hues and how artists use colour in their artwork.

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Year 3 Stone Age

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed collecting materials to design and make stone age style tools, linking to our topic 'Through the Ages'.



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Singing

The school have been singing some new songs this year, and we've all really enjoyed them! It's become such a favourite that we've even started singing in the classroom...



Year 4

The Year 4 children who wished to be considered as a candidate for the role of Pupil Parliament Representative really impressed both Mrs Akers and Miss Staples. Their reasons for being considered clearly illustrated that the children have a strong commitment to the Bloxham Primary School Values. I am sure you will agree when you read the following key phrases some used.

- I would give my friends a voice and be fair.
- I will work to reduce bullying and the littering around school.
- I want to work for the school community.
- I am responsible and kind so will care about your thoughts.
- I want to make sure that every child is cared for and respected.
- I care about the learning environment inside and outside of school.

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Year 5

This week Year 5 have been exploring British values and diversity in PSHE. To celebrate we have been reading Elmer and producing artwork embracing everyone's patterns and colours! We have also been reading the Iron Man in English exploring relative clauses and cliffhangers. We tackled number lines placing numbers to 1,000,000 and partitioning. Congratulations to our new Year 5 Sports Reps and to our new members of Pupil Parliament

Year 6

Year 6 have thrown themselves into their learning so far this academic year. We have expressed our creativity through our Art topic 'Bees, Beetles and Butterflies' and through Dot Day. We enjoyed our session with I.M.P.S and learnt invaluable skills.



Osmington Bay Residential

Preparations for our Year 5 Osmington Bay residential are well underway. We have had an unprecedented response with over 90% of pupils signed up for this exciting adventure.

Every little counts... we have been able to reduce the overall trip price due to the successful uptake, which enables us to reduce the price per head of the coach transport. Please look out for an email with further information regarding payments.

For Year 6, information regarding the Kilvrough Residential will also be sent out soon.

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Maths



This term we have renewed our school subscription to Times Table Rock Stars and wish to revamp Times Table Rock Stars within school and promote children learning their times tables.

Times Tables Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme that helps the children to master their tables. Times Table Rock stars works on the premise that World Famous Rock musicians are the best at what they do because they have spent hours practising guitar chords, writing music or playing on the drums. It is just the same with times tables- all Times Tables Rock Stars need to do is practise and practise and practise.

In school, the children are going to be practising their tables weekly and we'd encourage your child to participate at home in short bursts. Your child will come on Monday with their new log in details. Any issues, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We are rolling this programme out from Year 2 up; however, Year 2 will not start until after half term. Year 1 children will receive their log ins later in the academic year. In school we are going to be doing lots to promote the use of TT Rock Stars. Each week there will be a school 'Rocker of the week'. This is someone who may have shown a lot of improvement in their times table, someone who has been practising regularly or someone who is just incredibly fast! The Rocker will be awarded a certificate and pose for a Rock Star photo.

Later in the academic year, we will hold a Times Table Rock Star Day. The children can come into school dressed either as a rock star or their Avatar from TT Rock Stars. On the day there will be various fun TT Rock Star themed activities. The whole school will take part in this day so that the younger ones can join in the fun. Keep an eye out for the date ready for your diary!

Thank you,

Mathew Singleton

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P.E.

Years 3-6 are currently practising their cross country running skills, building up their stamina and pace. Those children who want to, are entering themselves into the cross country trials, which will happen in their PE lesson time over the next few weeks. After the trials the top 4 or 5 boys and girls from each year group will be selected to take part in the level 2 competition at Sibford in November. We will celebrate all those who will take part in the trials at school and then those children selected will be notified before the end of term. Those not taking part in the trials will still continue to build up their stamina and fitness by completing as much of the course that they can. Please make sure your child has a change of shoes for PE (all years). Children in years 5 and 6 **may** bring football boots but **trainers as well**.

Thank you

Mrs Ducker

Harvest

Dear parents and carers

Throughout the term, in Collective Worship on Thursday, we have been celebrating Harvest.

As the church is currently undergoing renovation, we are not able to gather there as a whole school for our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service. As an alternative, the children and staff will be gathering in the playground to share songs that they have been learning with Mr Charlton as well as reading poems and prayers. Although we cannot invite parents and carers to join us, we hope to record the event and share it with you all.

In considering our place amongst this community, and further afield, we would like to invite you to make non-perishable donations to the Sunshine Centre in Banbury.

<https://sunshinecentre.org/contact/>



The
**Sunshine
Centre**

SUPPORTING & ENCOURAGING COMMUNITIES

Contact Us

The Sunshine Centre Edmunds Road Banbury
Oxon OX16 0PJ Call: 01295 276769 Email:

community@sunshinecentre.org Our Social

Media Links

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sunshinecentre.org



A message from Jill Edge, founder:

'I am delighted to hear that you have chosen the Centre for this year's harvest donations and we are all so grateful.

A selection of shampoos, washing liquids, tinned fruits and rice puddings would be great to have to be able to provide some variety in the community larder. However, our larder users would benefit from anything that is donated. So, any tinned foods, dried pasta, cereals and so on would be appreciated.'

They have a just giving page so that you have the option to make a financial contribution if that is more convenient to you.

Please bring your donations from week beg: 02.10.23 until 19.10.23.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.

With Kind Regards
Claire Swan
Faith Leader

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