



# Bloxham CE Primary School

## April 2024 Newsletter

Dear Families

Those of you who visit our site each day, will have seen that our builders have very much made themselves at home. Thank you to all families for bearing with us during the works, we have an anticipated end date of February 2025. Further communication about the works will follow over the next few months from the contractors, including an exciting competition for pupils. We appreciate the impact the works have on families particularly at the drop off and collection and have reached out to Cllr Mallon and the Parish Council to set up a meeting as soon as possible, to discuss traffic and other relevant issues and opportunities. Moving forward we will be looking to set up a working group to create a travel plan for the school which will consider safer routes to school, parking and traffic issues. If you are interested in joining this group, please register your interest via email to the office, with the subject TRAVEL PLAN.

As we head into the first of the two May bank Holidays, it certainly seems far longer than two weeks ago, that we returned from the Easter break. T5 began with a training session for staff, supporting subject leadership with a focus on monitoring. Opportunities such as these in which our teachers train together, really enable us to work collaboratively and ensure that we develop consistency and clarity, supporting better pupil outcomes.

Of course, it's not always possible for all teachers to attend all training. Last week Mrs Swan was able to train with the Diocese of Oxford to discover more about their new contemplation and reflection toolkit Space Makers. Space Makers was developed in response to the growing mental health crisis among young people as a way of encouraging a time of daily reflection away from the pressures of school and society. In a world where communication is increasingly digital, we are looking forward to introducing this across the school to support the mental health and self-worth of the children.

The summer term sees a wealth of other exciting opportunities too. From virtual trips to Ancient Greece, to actual visits to Osmington Bay and Cotswold Wildlife Park and more bringing learning to life. Please do check out our website calendar to see what's coming.

Our school field is now open at lunchtimes for Key Stage 2, with our outdoor gym also open for these year groups. Please remember that school equipment should not be accessed either before or after school, unless this is part of an organised teacher led activity, this is due to our risk assessment which includes height restrictions and specific supervision requirements.

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Finally a reminder that school is closed tomorrow, Friday 3 May and the following Monday, 6 May. We look forward to welcoming pupils back Tuesday 7 May. Have a good weekend, let's hope the sun shines!

**Sarah Marshall**



### Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during April was 95.81%, A massive well done to class 5B for achieving the highest attendance for a class in April at 99.22%. Congratulations to Year 5 for the highest attendance for a year group at 98.92%

Our April Super-Here0s are: Foundation/Keys Stage1: Finley and Ella

Key stage 2: Wynter and Joaby

### 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 two assemblies are for families of pupils in F1D and 2S**

8 May	F1D
22 May	2S
12 June	2A
26 June	5E
10 July	5B

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### **P.E. News**

In the first week back this term there were two football league matches. The girls played against William Morris and won 2-1, which is a great start. The Year 6 boys played their first football match away against Hanwell Fields. Although they lost, it was a great team effort with some good chances and some brave defending. Last week the girls played their second match, this time against Hanwell Fields. It was a really tough match and they were losing but pulled it back to win 3-2. Thank you parents for your support so far.

Last week the long-awaited rearranged Tag rugby took place at the Warriner. We took three teams, who all played about five or six matches. It was amazing to see the children put into practise their skills and develop their confidence. It was also great to see some superb sportsmanship and team work. All three of our teams finished with the same amount of points and in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall.

Today some of our Year 4 children will be taking part in a fun dodge ball festival. We hope these children enjoy themselves. Thank you to parents who have volunteered to help!



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### **Achievements from Outside the school**

Well done to Flossie who won Banbury Bid Easter Trail Chocolate Hamper!



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Also, to our keen swimmers Florence and Seren who completed a Swimathon to raise money for Cancer Research.

### Seren and Florence's swimathon



#### Introduction

Swimming is a great way to get your daily exercise and is really fun. It can contribute to your physical and mental health and participating in a swimathon can help others too.

#### Why are we doing it?

As we have both had family pass away from cancer and the swimathon contributes to preventing that, we thought it would be a nice way to pay respect and as we both are in Banbury swimming club, we can cover long distances and it can be done with multiple people, friends, and family.

#### Our interest

We both showed an interest at an early age in swimming. Florence joined because of her friend as they went up stages together, they both got offered a place in Banbury swimming club together. As Seren was also in the lessons, she joined the club as well.



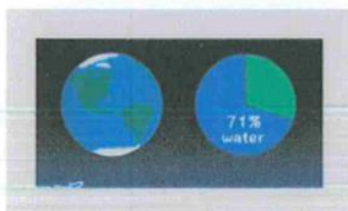
#### Do your part!

If you would like to donate, this is a QR code to our just giving page.



#### Watery facts

Did you know that 71% of the world is made up of water?



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### Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage have really enjoyed our 'Animal Safari' topic. We have looked at non-fiction books to research different animals and we have all been so impressed with the children's knowledge. The children have used this research to write sentences about the animals we have researched, putting their fantastic phonics skills into action.



We have made the most of the nice weather this week and the children have really enjoyed our new performance area, showing off their dancing, acting and musical instrument skills. The adults have loved seeing the children express themselves in this way, particularly their excellent sharing of the musical instruments and time on the stage!

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We are reading a poem by Eloise Greenfield *By Myself* and preparing to write our own poems.





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In music, Year 2 have been exploring improvisation and learnt much about rhythm and dynamics using a range of percussion instruments. They have particularly loved playing the African drums! In link to our magnificent monarchs, the children explored rhythms in names such as Queen Elizabeth, King Charles and Prince William.



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### Year 3

We are studying 'Beautiful Botanicals', learning about botanical art and what it means to be a botanical artist. In our school garden we explored the visual elements of botanical subject matter in petals and leaves. We sketched them from different angles and recorded swatches of the colour we could see.



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### Year 4

In history we have been studying 'Ancient Civilisations'. We have been looking at many artefacts which have provided us with evidence about the past. The design, decorations and materials used provided us with evidence of the wealth, power and status of the object's owner. We have been very creative in Art with moulding our very own Ancient Sumerian statuettes. Have a look at some of the fabulous results from (in order) Ellie, Primrose, Zach, Mia and Rafe!



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Linked to this learning, we have also been studying the story, 'The Egyptian Cinderella.'

We designed our own posters written from the point of view of the person who has lost an item or from the Pharaoh Amasis, trying to locate the wearer of the rose-gold coloured slipper so that he could make the maiden his queen!

### **Year 5**

We are learning about the Ancient Greeks this term. As a springboard for our learning, we had a virtual reality experience. It was great! We learned about the gods and their different roles. We found out that the Greeks invented the Olympics, but at that time only men could compete, which they did naked. We learned about mathematicians and philosophers, and we can recognise the different styles of columns that the Greeks used in their important buildings, Doric, Ionic and Corinthian.



### **Year 6**

Some of Year 6 attended a Tag Rugby event at The Warriner last Thursday – the children played well, displaying our school values of inclusivity and determination and showed sportsmanship throughout.

Year 6 have enjoyed the start of our new Science topic: 'Circulatory System'. The children have completed some excellent research, coming up with their own questions and using a range of sources to find out the answers.

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In RE, all the children are building on their prior learning about Islam. Their big question: Does belief in Akirah (life after death) help Muslims to lead a good life? We have questioned our perceptions of Heaven and Hell, as well as what we do to lead good lives and why we do that. The learning about Islamic practices has been very enlightening for the children.

We are busily preparing for the KS2 SATs and are proud of the children's continuous positive attitude to their learning. We are certain that they are all going to shine!

### **Collective Worship**

The children and adults have been learning about a new way 'to normalise the contemplative within their lives' (ODBE Contemplative Toolkit) through calming practices. The aim is to help everyone to flourish as human 'beings' as opposed to human 'doings'. To find Peace and Hope, to realise dreams and find deep fulfilment. For some, there may be an experience of or a growth in Faith. Ask the children to show you what they have been doing.

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/space-makers-the-contemplative-toolkit-for-schools.php>

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