



Bloxham CE Primary School

May 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the half-term break, I would first like to congratulate our Year 6 pupils, who completed their SATs last week with maturity, resilience and determination. We are incredibly proud of the calm and positive attitude they showed throughout the week and of the hard work they have put in across the year.

This term has also included a number of very positive visits from both the Local Authority and the Department for Education. Earlier this week, we were delighted to welcome our DfE link representative, who spent the morning enjoying English lessons across the school. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the breadth and ambition of our curriculum, with learning ranging from "Yucky Worms" in Foundation Stage, to Revolting Rhymes in Year 3 and Theseus and the Minotaur in Year 5. One particularly memorable moment came when a Year 2 pupil was asked what "ambitious" meant. The pupil confidently explained that being ambitious is one of our school values and means "doing your best and looking to improve," before adding that ambitious vocabulary means "making words better." It was a perfect example of our values being truly lived and understood by pupils across the school.

Across all visits, the calm atmosphere, the quality of relationships, the impeccable behaviour and the high levels of pupil engagement have been commented on. The consistency of routines and lesson structure across classes continues to be recognised as a strength of the school, alongside the wide range of strategies used by teachers to ensure all pupils participate fully and develop a strong understanding of their learning. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for their continued hard work, care and commitment. Their dedication to supporting and inspiring our pupils each day helps make Bloxham such a special place to learn and grow.

Finally, whilst May has certainly brought us a rather mixed selection of weather, we are hopeful that the forthcoming half-term break will provide everyone with the opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved rest, relaxation and if the forecast is to be believed, some sunshine and warmth. We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Dodson back to school following the break. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final half term of the academic year.

Sarah Marshall
Headteacher

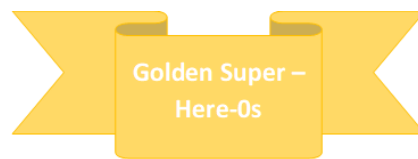
Encourage one another and build each other up.

Safeguarding Reminder

- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000
- **Childline:** 0800 1111
- **Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline:** 0800 731 0055
- **Banbury Foodbank & Community Support Services** 01295 661304
- **Samaritans:** 116 123

Changes to First Aid notifications

We have changed our procedures for notifying families of first aid injuries and head bumps. All notifications will now be sent as emails via Arbor. Head bump notifications will be sent as soon as the injury is logged, and a phone call will only be made if we feel your child is deteriorating and would benefit from leaving school early. All general first aid notifications will be sent at the close of the day via email.



Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during May was 94.23% A massive well done to class **3HK** at 97.1% for achieving the highest attendance for a class in May - each student will receive 10 KBVs! Congratulations to Year 3 for the highest attendance in May for a year group at 97%

Our May SuperHere0s are:

Foundation/Keys Stage1: Gracie, Bella, Ella

Key stage 2: Rebecca, Maggie, George

Warm Weather Reminder

As we (hopefully!) move into the warmer weather and the second half of the summer term, please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before school each morning and ensure they bring a named sun hat and water bottle with them each day.

We would also like to kindly remind families that fidgets should only be brought into school where there is a recognised need and this has been agreed in advance with the class teacher. Please note that toys, trading items or teddies should not be brought into school, and children should not bring money in to buy or sell items with others. Children in KS2 are welcome to bring a healthy snack, such as fruit, for break time.

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Finally, we greatly appreciate your continued support in ensuring reading folders are brought into school every day, as regular reading practice makes a significant difference to children's progress. Thank you, as always, for your cooperation and support.

Creativity week

Towards the end of Term 6, we will be holding a special Creativity Week to celebrate music, dance and art across the school. Each year group will take part in a range of creative workshops designed to enrich our curriculum and inspire a love of the arts.

To conclude the week, we will be inviting families into school on Friday 3 July for an afternoon showcase, where pupils will share and celebrate their creative achievements. Further details will follow shortly, but for now, please save the date — we look forward to welcoming you!

Great Big Bug Hunts for Great Big Green Week

We are pleased to announce that during Great Big Green Week this year (6-14 June) we will be holding school wide bug hunting activities. Starting on Monday 8th June there will be opportunities for children to discover what amazing critters we share our school grounds with and to investigate the different habitats and areas that we, as a school, are so fortunate to have.

The Bug Hunts will be led by Forest School Leader Hanna and are thanks to funding that has been secured from The Climate Coalition and supported by Oxfordshire County Council.



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your choices matter

Reminder - Dates for diary:

- 4 & 5 June - Class and individual B/W photographs in school
- 19 June - Sports Day (26 June reserved if too wet)
- 24 June - FS Class assembly

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Year Group News

Foundation



As part of our Animal Safari project, Foundation Stage enjoyed a fantastic visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park this month. From penguins and birds to camels, wolves, giraffes, lions and zebras — just to name a few — the children had a wonderful time exploring and learning more about a wide range of animals and their habitats.

The children were beautifully behaved and represented the school brilliantly throughout the trip. A huge thank you to all of our helpers for supporting us and helping to make the visit such a success.



Key Stage 1

This half term in English, KS1 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the story stimulus “*Ma'mamalade Sandwich, Your Majesty?*” inspired by Paddington Bear meeting the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The children have immersed themselves in the story through drama, role play, discussion and writing activities. We have explored character feelings through hot seating, gathered ambitious vocabulary to describe the grand palace setting, practised using conjunctions to join ideas and experimented with dialogue between characters. The children then used all of these skills to plan, write and improve their own Paddington-inspired narratives. It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence as writers and use such imaginative and ambitious vocabulary in their work.



Year 3

Year 3 have been practising their athletics skills this term, specifically sprinting techniques, standing long jump and a distance throw. This culminated with an intra- house event where all the children represented their houses and collected house points. Well done to all the children who were

supportive of each other and showed determination and resilience throughout. Some children will now be selected to represent our school at the Warriner Quads Kids Festival.

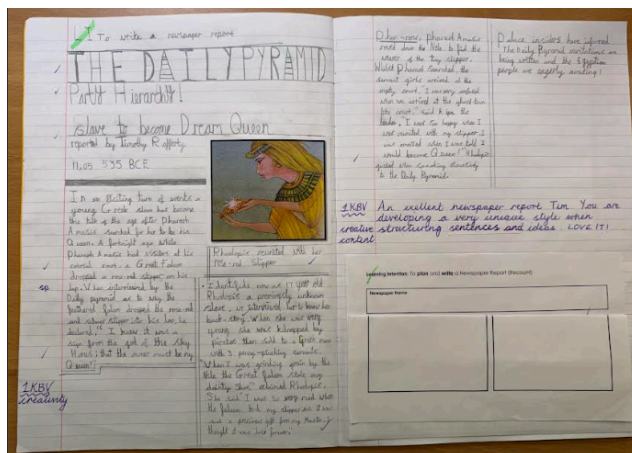
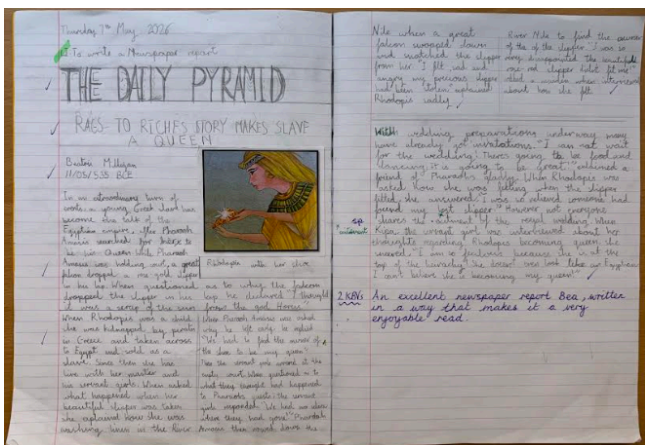
In Maths, we have now completed our unit on Money and have moved onto Time now, which we will be carrying on next term.

We have been carrying out an investigation in Science to see what would happen if a plant had no roots. On another plant we covered the leaves with Vaseline (to block the pores) and foil (to block the sun). This should inhibit transpiration and photosynthesis. We will monitor the progress in the first week back...



Year 4

The **Egyptian Cinderella** has been the inspiration for the children's writing this term. They have taken on the role of newspaper reporters, recounting the events leading up to the wedding of The Pharaoh Amasis and Rhodopis, a Greek slave girl. This text, historically, is the very first 'Cinderella' tale based on a true story, which piqued the children's interest greatly. A tricky concept they have really embraced is that of Reported and Direct Speech. Here are two examples that are both a detailed and an enjoyable read.



Decimals has continued to be the focus of the children's Maths learning which they have appeared to not only thoroughly enjoy but have a very secure and in many cases a deeper understanding of. The cohort's commitment to retaining their knowledge of the Times Tables is a testament to their ambition to do well in the statutory assessment in June.

The children have expressed their creative prowess through the development of their modelling skills when using clay. The children learned how to make an armature using wire of different thicknesses which they then built their very individual statuettes around.



Making circuits using different components proved to be a highlight this term. Adding motors to circuits to send ducks and paper discs dizzy was not only fun but a great way to test their circuits were a complete loop allowing the electrical current to flow through the wires. Children also predicted whether more complex circuits would work and if not, why not and then 'fixed' them so that the circuit was a complete loop. Next term the children will apply their learning about conductors and insulators in an investigation about conductive and non-conductive materials.



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Year 5

Using our class text, *Who Let the Gods Out?*, the children have been working towards writing a diary entry from the perspective of the main character. Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed the book, especially as it has helped deepen their understanding of Greek mythology, linking closely with our History topic on Ancient Greece. The children have shown great creativity when exploring characters' thoughts and feelings through their writing.

In Maths, we completed our Geometry unit where the children learnt to measure and draw angles accurately using protractors. They also explored translating shapes on an axis and developed confidence explaining their mathematical reasoning. We were very impressed with the resilience and precision shown throughout this topic. We moved onto adding and subtracting decimals which the children demonstrated a confident understanding of.

We have continued our Materials topic by investigating the properties of different materials, including thermal insulators and conductors. The children learnt how to make accurate predictions and conclusions using the data they collected. In particular, they enjoyed investigating which material was the best thermal insulator for keeping a cup of hot water warm.

In History Year 5 have continued learning about the different time periods in Ancient Greece and explored what life was like during each era. The children also learnt about reliable historical sources and how historians use evidence from the past to learn about ancient civilisations.

In French, the children have learnt how to describe different types of houses, where they are located and the rooms inside them. Through lots of oral practice, the children have developed confidence in speaking another language and have worked hard on improving their pronunciation.

Linking with our overarching 'Groundbreaking Greeks' topic, the children designed and created Greek temples and theatres using junk modelling materials in DT. They thoroughly enjoyed planning each stage of their models and it was wonderful to see their creativity and teamwork bring their ideas to life.

All of Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to cook pizzas this term. Bloxham Grove Academy kindly allowed us to use their facilities and the children loved preparing, cooking and, of course, eating their delicious finished pizzas!

Year 6

We are incredibly proud to announce that our wonderful Year 6 pupils have officially completed their SATs! The dedication, resilience, and maturity they have shown not just this week, but throughout the entire run-up to the assessments, has been nothing short of exemplary. They approached every paper with a focused mind and a positive attitude, proving themselves to be fantastic role models for the rest of the school. We would like to extend a huge congratulations to

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every single child for their hard work, and a heartfelt thank you to our school families for your unwavering support and encouragement during this busy time. They have truly earned a moment to celebrate their achievements!

Just before our high achieving week, the classroom had transformed into a vibrant hub of creativity. The children channeled their energy into celebrating the incredible 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough using the abstract art style they have been developing all half term. In a brilliant fusion of numeracy and art, the children cleverly abstracted the numbers 1 and 0, transforming them into vibrant animal forms that come together to spell out '100'. From elegant giraffes forming the number one to coiled snakes and ocean creatures shaping the zeros, their imaginative masterpieces are a wonderfully fitting tribute to Sir David's legacy.



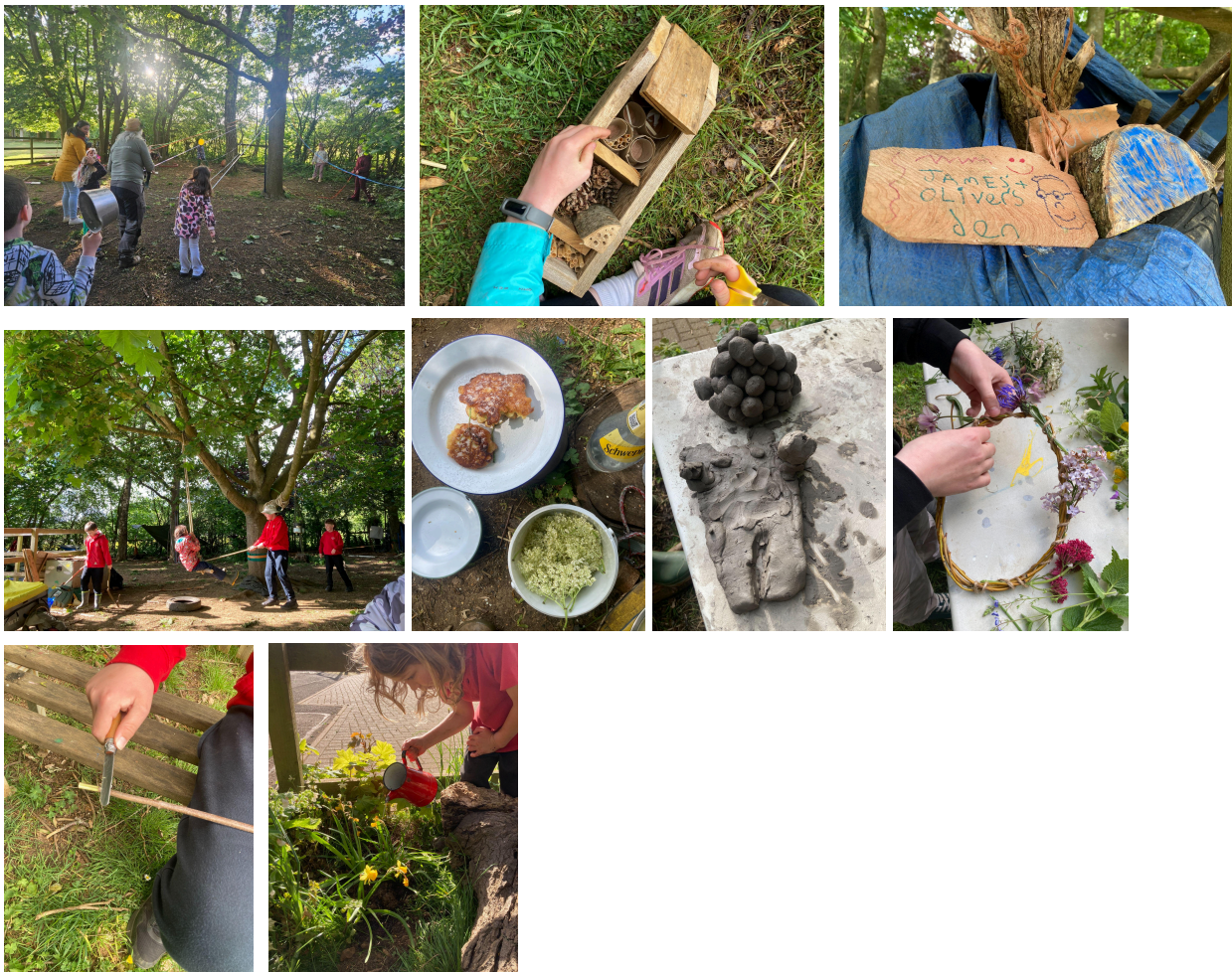
News from Forest School - the Growing Wild Area!

The Forest school area really feels like it's getting a good amount of use now. It is being added to by the children all the time, initiating their own play equipment, putting up rope swings and rope ladders, and so many dens. There has been lots of planting going on to enhance the habitats we have on site. The children have taken on suggestions of sowing sunflower seeds, creating flower beds, planting bulbs and transplanting ornamental grasses and those with green fingers have embraced the opportunity to enhance the space in this way. Some Year 6 children really enjoyed helping to construct a basic log store using a saw, hammer and nails to cut roofing slats to length and then attaching them to beams. We've even managed to upcycle some old unusable hammocks into bunting to add some colour to our ridge line.

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The area has also been used by Foundation Stage to focus on bees, playing games to learn about pollination and to make alder bees. The Year 6s enjoy the area every lunchtime, making use of the hammocks and slackline and of course the tree climbing. We've even hosted some Maypole dancing when the Wild About Bloxham group used the space for their May session. The trees were blessed with clay tree spirits and ribboned flower crowns adorned heads.

Wednesday's After-school Forest Club has really enjoyed clay and sticks this block, getting decorative with the paint pens. The bug hotel has been filled with a variety of materials to provide more habitats for bugs and loppers have been used extensively to trim den building branches. There has been some sharpening of sticks for arrows and bow making. A favourite discovery has been the jungle excursions into an area the children have called The Underworld. From the fire we've enjoyed elderflower fritters, toasted crumpets with butter and honey, roasted pineapple in cinnamon sugar and hot chocolate.



THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

6-14 JUNE 2026

Come and enjoy a variety of local events celebrating nature, community and positive action on climate change.
WELCOME TO BLOXHAM'S GBGW!

Early opener!

Sat 30 May, 09:30-12:30
Bloxham Farmers' Market
Ex-Servicemen's Village Hall

Sun 7 Jun, 12:00-14:00

Great Big Bug Hunt
(£3 per family / child age 8+)
Email: m.jones@warriner.oxon.sch.uk

Mon 8 Jun, 18:30 for 19:00

TALK. Dr Carolyn Jewell:
What role can business play in restoring nature?
St Mary's, Bloxham

Wed 10 Jun, 17:45-19:00

WALK & TALK. **Biodiversity Net Gain** with Ells Farm Project Manager Rob Pile
17:45 WALK: Courtington Lane (Hobb Hill path). 18:30 TALK: Ells Farm, Bloxham

Mon 15 Jun, 19:00 for 19:30

TALK. Dr Tim Lunel: **How Communities can be at the Forefront of Energy Security & Resilience with Local Renewable Energy**
ExSMVH, Bloxham

Sat 6 Jun, 10:00-13:00

Celebration of Nature Writing
ft. local author Linda Newbery & others
(£5, redeemable against book purchase)
Rosara at Nicholsons, North Aston

Sun 7 Jun, 11:00-14:00

Plant Sale & GBGW Bloxham Opening Ceremony
Elephant & Castle garden, Bloxham

Tue 9 Jun, 18:30 for 19:00

TALK & DISCUSSION. Climate Psychologist Linda Aspey: **Making Sense of our Inner Worlds in Turbulent Times**
Bloxham Mill Business Centre

Fri 12 Jun, 18:30 for 19:00

Film Night: Fantastic Fungi,
incl. veg supper & drinks
ExSMVH, Bloxham

Sun 21 Jun, 19:00-21:00

Solstice Stroll & Crafts Session
(£5, adults only)
Email: hannarj3@gmail.com

Most events are FREE (♥). For more:



biodiversitybloxham.org.uk



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Climate Action Oxfordshire

Supported by: Oxfordshire County Council; Climate Action Oxfordshire; CAG Oxfordshire; Bloxham Parish Council; Bloxham Mill Business Centre; Bloxham WI; Bloxham Co-op; St Mary's Church; Elephant & Castle.

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