



Bloxham CE Primary School

June 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards the end of another busy and successful school year, I would like to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to all of our families for your continued support.

Last week brought exceptionally warm weather and, as a result, we needed to make a number of adjustments to our normal collection arrangements to ensure that children remained safe and comfortable. Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation. The flexibility shown by our families helped these changes run smoothly and is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank everyone who joined us for Sports Day. It was wonderful to see so many families cheering the children on and celebrating their achievements. Since the event we have received numerous kind messages commenting on how enjoyable, inclusive and well organised it was. These messages mean a great deal to all of the staff who worked so hard behind the scenes.

A particular thank you must go to Mr Sorrell, whose meticulous planning and coordination ensured that the day ran so successfully. His enthusiasm, organisation and attention to detail, alongside the support of the whole staff team, made Sports Day another memorable occasion for our children.

I would also like to thank all of our Reception families who joined us for the Foundation Stage Class Assembly this Wednesday. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers into school to celebrate the children's learning and achievements. The confidence, enthusiasm and joy shown by our youngest pupils was a real credit to them, and we hope you enjoyed sharing this special milestone with us.

Congratulations to this term's Art Award recipients. These children have demonstrated creativity, imagination and pride in their artwork throughout the term.

🏆 Immy – 3DS 🏆 Haya – KS1BG 🏆 Leo – 5WB 🏆 Seb – 4KS 🏆 Rafe – 6GH

🏆 Johan – 4ZA 🏆 William – 5CJ 🏆 Ezra – KS1CB 🏆 Teddy – 3HK

Congratulations to all of our award winners—we are incredibly proud of you.




Whilst we continue to await the official publication of this year's Key Stage 2 SATs and Early Years Foundation Stage Profile outcomes later this month, we are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our pupils in this summer's national assessments.

National assessments provide just one measure of a child's achievement, but they also provide an important indication of the impact of teaching and learning across the school. We are incredibly proud that this year's outcomes continue to demonstrate the positive progress being made at Bloxham as we work together to ensure every child is able to **Be, Build and Become**.

Encourage one another and build each other up.

Congratulations to our fantastic Year 4 pupils, who have worked incredibly hard to develop their multiplication knowledge this year.



We are delighted to share that:

-  **72%** of pupils achieved the current national average score of 21 or above.
-  **54%** of pupils achieved an exceptional score of 24 or 25 out of 25.
-  **38%** of pupils achieved the maximum possible score of 25 out of 25.

These outstanding outcomes reflect the continued improvements we have made to the teaching of mathematics, the increasing ambition we have for every child and, most importantly, the determination and resilience shown by our pupils. Supported by our dedicated staff and families, our children continue to build the confidence and fluency that will serve them well throughout their education.

Our Year 1 pupils have also impressed us with their enthusiasm for reading.

We are incredibly thrilled that:

-  **82%** of pupils (31 children) met the expected national standard.
-  **21%** of pupils (8 children) achieved a perfect score of **40 out of 40**.

This represents a three percentage point improvement on last year's outcome, reflecting the continued strengthening of our early reading curriculum and phonics teaching. Learning to read is one of the most important milestones in a child's education, and these outcomes are a testament to the hard work of our pupils, the expertise of our staff and the invaluable support provided by parents and carers at home. Those children who require a little more time will continue to receive targeted support as they move into Year 2.

We are equally proud of our youngest learners. Our Reception children have made tremendous progress throughout the year, growing in confidence, independence and curiosity. They leave the Early Years Foundation Stage as enthusiastic learners who are well prepared for the exciting challenges of Year 1.

As with our Key Stage 2 SATs outcomes, the final Early Years Foundation Stage Profile data will be formally released later this month. We look forward to sharing these outcomes with families once they have been validated.

The progress our children have made this year reflects the increasing ambition of both our staff and our pupils, alongside the continual improvements we have made to teaching, learning and provision. Most importantly, it represents children who love learning and have developed the confidence, resilience and independence that will support them throughout their time at Bloxham.

We know that national assessments tell only part of the story. Every child is unique, and we are incredibly proud of the progress, resilience and personal achievements shown by all of our pupils throughout the year.

Be . Build . Become

Looking Ahead – Transition to 2026–2027

Previously this month we shared a separate staffing update with families. As many of you will already know, Miss Staples has decided to take a well-earned break from teaching following more than twenty years of dedicated service to Bloxham CE Primary School.

Also leaving us this summer are:

- Miss Drury, who is taking a break from teaching.
- Mrs Barton, who has accepted a teaching position closer to home.
- Miss Rooney, whose fixed-term contract comes to an end.

Whilst we are naturally sad to say goodbye to valued colleagues, we thank each of them for everything they have contributed to our school community and wish them every happiness and success in the future.

We are equally delighted to welcome Mr Lewis Harper and Miss Natasha Fitzgerald Milner , who will be joining our team from September. We know they will receive a very warm Bloxham welcome from our children and families.

Below you will find the names of the class teachers for each year group for the 2026–2027 academic year. We hope this provides an exciting conversation starter for families to have together as children begin to look forward to September and the year ahead. On Tuesday 7 July, we will tell the children the name of the class they will be joining so they can be the ones to share this with you - we know this was an important change for the children last year and something they enjoyed doing.

Our whole-school Transition Day will then take place on Tuesday 14 July, when children will spend the day with their new teacher and classmates. We are also looking forward to welcoming our new members of staff as they begin to get to know the children and become part of the Bloxham family.

Whilst the majority of pupils will move into September with their current class, a small number of children will move between classes as we work to balance class sizes and ensure that we are able to meet the needs of all pupils effectively. These decisions have been made carefully, taking into account a wide range of educational, pastoral and operational considerations.

As with every year, class organisation is an operational decision made by the school. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate parental requests to move children between classes, and all class allocations are final.

Foundation and Year 1	Mr A and Mr Charlton
Year 2	Miss Fitzgerald Milner and Mrs Dodson/Mrs O'Donnell
Year 3	Mrs Gunning and Miss Aina
Year 4	Mrs Ducker/Mrs Swan and Mrs Kidman

Year 5	Miss Hilson and Mrs Johnstone
Year 6	Mr Harper and Mrs Baldwin/Mrs Swan

Transition arrangements for our Year 6 pupils will look slightly different this year as they prepare for the exciting move to secondary school. Year 6 families are asked to ensure they have checked the information shared via ParentHub, where full details of the arrangements can be found.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout another successful year. The partnership we enjoy between home and school is one of Bloxham's greatest strengths, and together we continue to help our children **Be, Build and Become**.

As we look ahead to the final few weeks of term, there is still much to celebrate and enjoy. We look forward to sharing these special moments with you and to finishing another fantastic year together.

Creative Week Showcase 3 July 2:45pm and Open Classrooms Wednesday 8 July from 2:15pm

With best wishes,

Sarah Marshall
Headteacher

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 June was 94.45% A massive well done to class 5CJ at 98.9% for achieving the highest attendance for a class in June - each student will receive 10 KBVs! Congratulations to Year 5 for the highest attendance in June for a year group at 96.45 %

Be . Build . Become

Warm Weather Reminder

As we move into the warmer weather and the second half of the summer term, please remember to apply suncream 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.

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

Next week 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. We look forward to welcoming you!

Reminder - Dates for diary:

- W/C 29th June - Creativity Week
- 3 July - Creativity Week Showcase

Year Group News

Foundation

What a wonderful start to the final term! The children have been making the most of the sunshine during their Forest School sessions, where they have loved bug hunting, exploring the natural environment and developing their curiosity through outdoor learning.

We were also incredibly proud of the children at Sports Day. They showed fantastic determination, resilience and sportsmanship, cheering one another on and giving every event their very best effort.

Today, the children took part in a fantastic Opera workshop, which marked the first of several exciting creative experiences planned over the coming weeks. They embraced the session with enthusiasm and confidence, and we can't wait to see them enjoy the rest of the workshops.

Our Literacy and Understanding the World topic this term is On the Beach. The children have enjoyed looking through holiday brochures, sharing their own holiday experiences and learning about caring for our oceans through the story *Somebody Swallowed Stanley*. Inspired by the book, they worked together to create a giant whale collage using recycled plastic materials, helping to spread the important message about reducing ocean plastic pollution.

It's been a fantastic few weeks, and we're looking forward to many more exciting learning opportunities in the weeks ahead!

Key Stage 1

In English, the children in KS1 have been developing their instruction writing inspired by *Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine*. After completing their first drafts, they revisited their work to improve it as authors, thinking carefully about how to make each step clear and easy for the reader to follow. The children edited their instructions by checking the order of events, choosing stronger command verbs and adding time words and adverbs to make their writing more precise. It has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence as they refine their work and begin to think like real writers.

In Maths this term, the children have worked incredibly hard on developing their understanding of time. Our Year 1 children have been building confidence in telling the time to o'clock and half past, while our Year 2 children have been extending this further by reading quarter past, quarter to and times to 5 minutes. We have been so impressed with the children's enthusiasm and determination as they have practised these new skills, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to all of the children who took part in the school assessments this term. They approached them with such positivity and determination. They worked incredibly hard and made us all very proud!

As Mrs Barton prepares to leave at the end of this term, she would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to all of the children, parents and staff for their kindness and support. It has been a real privilege to teach and be part of the children's learning journey, and Mrs Barton is so proud of everything they have achieved this year. She will take many wonderful memories with her and would like to wish all of the children and their families the very best for the future.

Year 3

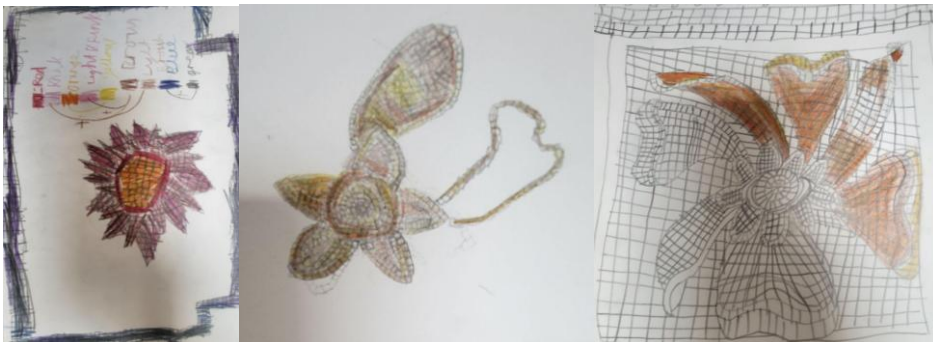
The children have worked really hard on their assessments this month and they should feel very proud of themselves.

In Maths we have now finished our unit on time and will be moving onto shapes and angles. In English, we have continued to read the Diary of a Roman Slave, Iliona and the children have started to plan out part of a diary entry.

In Science, the children have been learning about light sources and reflectors. We have also learnt about how to protect ourselves from the sun. We carried out an investigation into different brands of suncream of the same SPF, but unfortunately it did not work.

In P.E., the children have been working on teamwork skills through our OAA unit and they have been practising batting and fielding in our Rounders unit.

In art, we have been looking at the History of Mosaics and exploring their patterns and shapes in our sketchbooks. The children have produced some amazing work.



Year 4

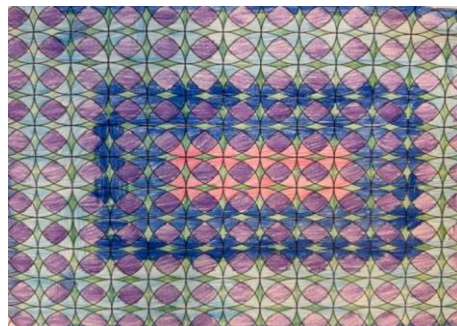
Firstly, a big well done needs to all of the Year 4 pupils who applied their times table knowledge brilliantly during the MTC assessment week **AND** also gave it their all when completing the Year 4 Summative assessments. Miss Staples and Miss Aina are immensely proud of each and every one of the children.

This Half Term the children have completed a dramatic narrative inspired by the text *Marcy and the Riddle of The Sphinx*. The children have now begun to explore poetry by Maya Angelou, following a biography of her life. They are enjoying the powerful nature and messages that they have quickly identified in the poems - *Still I Rise* and *Life Doesn't Frighten Me*.

Time is now the area of focus in maths now that fractions, decimals and money have been completed. The children seemed to really enjoy decimal work and then applying this knowledge to money problems as well as additions and subtractions.

Comparing similarities and differences of ancient civilisations has generated some very interesting discussions about hierarchy and life for some was privileged and for others, very difficult.

Beautiful artwork has been produced by our creative cohort inspired by Islamic patterns and there is much anticipation for the start of the DT Project entitled Tomb Builders.



Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been exploring the Greek myth *Theseus and the Minotaur*. We introduced the story through a mystery lesson using a series of intriguing clues, with the children working together to guess the myth – an activity they thoroughly enjoyed! We then studied the story in detail, considering the characters, themes and different versions of the myth before writing persuasive letters to convince a character to betray King Minos.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of decimals by learning to multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000. We have also been adding and subtracting decimals with both the same and different numbers of decimal places, building confidence in applying these skills to a range of reasoning and problem-solving activities.

We have begun our exciting new topic on Expressionism. The children have explored how Expressionist artists used colour, shape and brushstrokes to express emotions rather than create realistic images. They have enjoyed discussing how different artworks make us feel and experimenting with expressive techniques.

Our *Groundbreaking Greeks* topic has continued as we investigated the different periods of Ancient Greek history. The children have researched and compared daily life across each time period, exploring how buildings, crafts, clothing, attitudes and settlements changed over time.

In Science, we have continued our learning about materials through a range of practical investigations, including filtering and evaporation. We have also learnt about homogeneous and heterogeneous mixtures, using experiments to deepen our understanding of their properties and how different materials can be separated.



Our PSHE lessons have focused on puberty and the changes experienced by both boys and girls. Through thoughtful class discussions, the children have explored the physical and emotional changes that take place during puberty in a respectful and supportive environment.

In RE, we have been exploring the concept of wisdom. By studying a range of parables from the Bible, the children have discussed what wisdom means and considered how it differs from knowledge, reflecting on how these teachings can guide our own choices and actions.

Year 6

This month, Year 6 have been showcasing their creativity and developing their digital music skills by composing their own end-of-year songs using the YuStudio digital audio workstation (DAW). Throughout the project, pupils have learned how to create and edit MIDI tracks, incorporate pre-recorded samples, and record their own audio to build unique musical compositions. It has been fantastic to see the children applying their technical knowledge alongside their creativity, producing songs that reflect their memories, experiences and personalities as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

In Computing, Year 6 have been developing their programming skills using BBC micro. The children learned how to create programs that respond to a range of variable inputs, including button presses, movement and sensors. They applied their understanding of algorithms, selection and variables to design and build their own interactive projects, such as click counters and puzzle-solving games. It has been wonderful to see pupils testing, debugging and refining their code, demonstrating resilience and creativity as they brought their ideas to life.

Alongside these exciting projects, Year 6 have continued to focus on developing and refining their writing skills. The children have worked hard to apply a wide range of vocabulary, sentence structures and writing techniques across the curriculum, producing work of an exceptionally high standard. We have been incredibly proud of the effort, creativity and maturity they have shown, and this term has provided many opportunities for them to showcase the fantastic progress they have made as writers during their time in primary school.

Achievements Outside of School

We would like to congratulate some of our KS1 boys who had won trophies and medals for their amazing efforts at Banbury Football Club. Awards included the Middleton Cheney Tournament and the Kidlington Tournament. Congratulations team!! 🏆