



Be . Build . Become

'Encourage one another and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5:11

Welcome Back to Bloxham CE Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to Bloxham CE Primary School. We hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break and had an opportunity to spend some time together as families.

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school and see them reconnecting with friends and staff and beginning to settle into their new classes. There is always something very special about the beginning of a new school year, and we are excited about everything that lies ahead.

As always, our school vision, "Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11), remains at the heart of all that we do. Throughout the year, we will continue to encourage every child to Be, Build and Become - to be themselves, build each other up and become the very best that they can be.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Meet the Teacher sessions on Wednesday. We hope you found the opportunity useful and that it gave you a clear picture of the year ahead for your child.

We appreciate that some families may have missed the notice about Meet the Teacher in our July newsletter or may simply have been unable to attend. The presentations shared by teachers will therefore be added to the school website, so that everyone has access to the information.

And, because we know how quickly family diaries fill up, some super-advance notice for next year: our 2027/28 Meet the Teacher will take place on Wednesday 8 September 2027. Please save the date!

Welcoming New and Returning Staff

We are delighted to welcome Miss Fitzgerald-Milner, who joins our Year 2 team, and Mr Harper, who joins us in Year 6. We know that they will both make a wonderful contribution to our school community and hope that you will join us in making them feel very welcome.

There is also some sad news to share. Mrs Robinson has made the difficult decision to embark upon a new adventure and will be leaving us at the end of September to take up a new role at The Old Coal Wharf.

Elaine has a long-standing connection with Bloxham School, both as a parent and as a member of staff over many years, and has been a valued part of our school community for a very long time. She brings a wealth of experience to her role, but, most importantly, an enormous amount of care for our children and families. Her warmth, knowledge of our school and genuine commitment to our pupils have made a real difference, and she will be very much missed by children, families and colleagues alike.

We are, however, delighted that she won't be going too far and wish her every happiness and success in her new adventure. We will make sure that there is an opportunity to thank Elaine properly and celebrate all that she has contributed to Bloxham before she leaves us.

We also have some very happy news to share. Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Gunning are both expecting babies and will begin their maternity leave during the Spring Term. We are absolutely delighted for them and their families.

We are already planning ahead to ensure continuity for the children during their maternity leave and are particularly pleased that Miss Jackson will be returning to Bloxham in January to provide cover for one of the maternity leaves. As someone who already knows our school, our children and our ways of working, it will be lovely to welcome her back to the team. Arrangements for the other maternity leave are also being planned carefully, and we will share the relevant details with families well in advance.

For now, we hope you will join us in congratulating Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Gunning on their lovely news and in looking forward to welcoming Miss Jackson back in the new year.

Assemblies and Celebrating Our Children

We very much value opportunities for parents and carers to join us in school and celebrate the children's learning and achievements.

Our sharing assemblies normally take place at 9:00am. Celebration Assembly takes place on Fridays and when your child is due to receive an award, you will receive an invitation to attend including further information on timings.

Class and year-group assembly dates will be shared separately, as will details of individual year-group trips and visits.

Parents and carers are also warmly invited to our Black History sharing assemblies in October, when children will have the opportunity to share some of the learning they have completed during Black

History Month. Please see the dates below for details of when your child's year group will be sharing.

Dates for Your Diary - 2026/27

We know that family diaries become busy very quickly, so below are some of the key whole-school dates for the year ahead. Please do add these to your calendars. Where an event is listed as taking place during a particular week, further details and specific arrangements will be shared nearer the time.

As we have done for several years, Terms 2, 4 and 6 will finish at 1:15pm. Please make a note of these earlier finishing times when planning ahead for the year.

Date	Event
Week beginning 28 September	Parent Consultation Week - further details and booking arrangements to follow - online
Monday 28 September	Harvest Celebrations @ St Mary's (AM time TBC)
Monday 19 October	Black History Sharing Assembly - Foundation Stage & Year 1, 9:00am
Tuesday 20 October	Black History Sharing Assembly - Years 2 & 3, 9:00am
Wednesday 21 October	Black History Sharing Assembly - Years 4 & 5, 9:00am
Thursday 22 October	Black History Sharing Assembly - Year 6, 9:00am
Friday 23 October	INSET Day / End of Term 1 - school closed to pupils
Monday 2 November	Start of Term 2
Week beginning 16 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Week beginning 30 November	Pupil Profile Meetings - for parents of children with a Pupil Profile; further details to follow - online
Friday 11 December	Open Classrooms - 2:15-2:45pm or 2:45-3:15pm
Monday 14 December	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert (PM time TBC)
Tuesday 15 December	FS & KS1 Christmas Nativity (PM time TBC)
Wednesday 16 December	FS & KS1 Christmas Nativity (PM time TBC)
Thursday 17 December	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert (PM time TBC)
Friday 18 December	End of Term 2 - 1:15pm finish
Monday 4 January 2027	Start of Term 3
Week beginning 8 February	Parent Consultation Week - further details and booking arrangements will be shared nearer the time- online
Friday 12 February	End of Term 3
Monday 22 February	Start of Term 4
Thursday 4 March	World Book Day
Wednesday 10 March	Open Classrooms - 2:15-2:45pm or 2:45-3:15pm
Week beginning 15 March	Shakespeare Week
Week beginning 22 March	Spring Reports sent to parents
Thursday 25 March	End of Term 4 - 1:15pm finish
Monday 12 April	Start of Term 5
Friday 30 April	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Friday 28 May	INSET Day / End of Term 5
Monday 7 June	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Tuesday 8 June	Start of Term 6
Friday 25 June	Sports Day
Monday 28 June	Whole-School Transition Day
Week beginning 5 July	End-of-Year Reports sent to parents
Wednesday 21 July	End of Term 6 - 1:15pm finish

Class/year-group assemblies and year-group trips and visits will be communicated separately. There will also inevitably be other events and opportunities added throughout the year, and we will keep you updated as these are confirmed.

Looking Ahead

There is a great deal to look forward to this year. Alongside continuing to develop the quality of teaching and learning, we will be developing our OPAL approach to play and outdoor learning, as well as continuing our focus on children's wellbeing, nurture and positive relationships.

Our iCATCH values - Inclusive, Caring, Ambitious, Trustworthy, Creative and Honest - will continue to underpin school life. We want our children not only to achieve well academically, but also to develop the confidence, resilience, kindness and curiosity that will help them thrive now and in the future.

A new school year is an opportunity for all of us to begin again, set ourselves new challenges and look forward to what we might achieve together. We are incredibly fortunate to have a community of children, families, staff and governors who care deeply about our school and one another.

Thank you for your continued support and for the important part you play in our school community. We are delighted to have everyone back and look forward to another happy, busy and successful year at Bloxham.

Kind regards,

Sarah Marshall

Headteacher