



Bloxham CE Primary School

March 2024 Newsletter

Dear Families

We have reached the end of what seems to have been a very wet T4. However, at Bloxham we haven't let the weather dampen our spirits.

March began with our Year 6 residential. I'm sure many of you will remember visiting Kilvrough yourselves from your school days and will recall the fabulous opportunities and experiences you experienced. Our visit brought no less pleasure and the sun quite literally shone for us that week as the children climbed, canoed and caved. Our Year 6s really did us proud, their resilience, determination and support for one another, demonstrated at every opportunity. Bedrooms were kept tidy, beds made every day and front of house skills demonstrated as the children took turns to set, serve and clear tables at mealtimes! Please see our Threads feed for photographs.

Our memorable experiences have continued throughout March, with Science Week, World Book Day, Comic Relief, our Easter Egg Competition and perhaps the highlight for many of the children our very own B Factor Talent Show!

Running alongside the opportunities for pupils, we have continued to drive school improvement. Miss Hilson has undertaken a review of computing across the school, with pupils in all classes keen to show off their super skills. We have also had visits from our School Improvement Partner, OXSIT and from our supporting Maths advisor. All visits have confirmed the progress the school has made, the strength of teaching and the consistency of practice across the school. My thanks to all members of our school team who have ensured these results.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our families a happy Easter. We look forward to seeing the children return **TUESDAY 16th APRIL**.

Sarah Marshall

Cash free School

After Easter the school will move to be cash free, all payments for trips and other school shop items must be paid through School Money. Donations for any fundraisers will be via "Just giving" or other similar systems.

Inset Days

A reminder that School is closed for INSET Monday 15 April and Friday 3 May.

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Safeguarding

A reminder that we are only able to dismiss pupils to authorised adults, this is at both the end of the day and for medical appointments during the day. Siblings over the age of 16 may collect, provided that we have received this authorisation in advance from an adult with parental responsibility. We are unable to dismiss to siblings under the age of 16.



Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during March was 96.14%, A massive well done to class 2S for achieving the highest attendance for a class in March at 98.2%. Congratulations to Year 1 for the highest attendance for a year group at 98.04%

Our March Super-Here0s are: Foundation/Keys Stage1: Teddy, William, Espen and Eliza

Key stage 2: Clayton, Sebastian, Megan and Isla

Car parking after Easter

The building works for our new school hall will commence during the Easter holidays. This will mean that significant parts of the existing carpark will be closed and carparking reduced. Due to these changes we are no longer able to accommodate any parking on our site for breakfast club, OSC or collection and drop off during the school day. Please alert the office if you hold a blue badge and normally park onsite so that we can advise you of where to park.

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Visiting and Communication with school

Over the last month or so, we have been conscious that a small number of parents appear to be unaware of the school communication structure. Class teaching staff will generally be on classroom doors for quick messages at both collection and drop off. If classroom doors are closed messages may be passed via the office. For longer conversations please book an appointment – this should be requested via the office. Any emails or letters, again please send via the office in the first instance. As previously communicated social media is not an appropriate forum to raise concerns as the school is unable to address matters raised in this manner.

We would also ask families to consider the manner and timing of communications and the impact these have on both the staff and their families when emails are received during the evening. As per the school's communication policy we ask families to communicate with staff during core hours only.

After Easter the office will only be open to visitors for limited hours each day. Please can families ensure that children are correctly equipped for the school day and avoid dropping off items during the school day as we will be unable to deliver these to the children.

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 6B and F1D**

24 April	6B
8 May	F1D
22 May	2S
12 June	2A
26 June	5E
10 July	5B

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P.E. News

The month started with our Y4 girls representing North Oxfordshire at the County Finals Football competition at Witney. They competed against schools from across the County in a round robin event. Out of six matches they won 4 and lost 2 by one goal. They are now bronze medal County finalists! Well done girls, what a fantastic result!



As Y6 were away in Kilvrough, a team of Y5 stepped up to play in the Y5/6 hockey festival at Tudor Hall. They showed such resilience against tough competition (mainly Y6) and they improved with each match, with the team finally gaining a win in the last round. Well done to those children for their determination and team work!

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On International Women's day we welcomed back a former pupil, Emily Auld. She spoke about her journey as a footballer, starting at Bloxham FC and then eventually playing for Arsenal and England. The children were really inspired by her and asked some thoughtful questions. My thanks to Emily who gave up her time to visit us.



The following week all the children in the school took part in a skipping workshop, where they were able to improve their skipping skills or learn new tricks. It was great to see some teachers join in too!

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On Thursday 14th March, one netball team took part in a competitive event at the Warriner, this was designed to stretch the most able children and put their skills to the test. We were the only school from our Partnership and it was great to play against other schools from the Banbury and Bicester area. The team won every match except one, where they only lost by 1 goal and we finished in first place overall.

The following Monday saw two netball teams play their first league match against St Leonard's school from Banbury, with our Y6 team winning and the Y5 team losing. As the club has grown, it will be great for Y5 to develop and practise their skills with our Y6 before they leave. Thank you to parents for your support.

Our Y5/6 boys took part in the Cross Country County Finals on Wednesday 20th in Abingdon. It was a good flat course with no major obstacles but with the top schools across the County there, competition was tough. Well done to all the boys who ran so well, all in the top 60 in the county. Congratulations to Josh for an amazing 8th place as an individual. As a team we finished in 5th place, but only 27 points behind the winners and only 12 points behind bronze!



On Friday 22nd March some children from Y5 took part in a Tag Rugby festival hosted by Banbury Rugby Club. The day consisted of matches against other school in North Oxfordshire, lunch provided by the club and a visit by Jason Robinson, former England player! A very memorable day!

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Achievements from Outside the school



Henry P and Izea E-B (4SO), Toby K (4A), Edward (1J) and Peyo E-B (2A) pictured here after a thorough 'Litter Pick' of The Grove Road, Bloxham. Mr Pitcher shared with us that the children all asked for "litter pickers" from Father Christmas. Being on the 'good' list they were duly delivered! All children received a KBV for their ongoing efforts towards caring for the village community with their regular 'Littler Picks'. What super little 'Eco Warriors' too!

Bloxham has the B-Factor!

We experienced immense enjoyment during the culmination of the B-Factor talent show. Each of our talented auditionees received 10 KBVs, while finalists were awarded 20 KBVs each. The runners-up were granted an impressive 50 KBVs for their house colours, but our victorious winners, Misha S – 2A, and Mason L- 6B, sang and danced their way to claim the title and were bestowed an astounding 100 house points for their team.



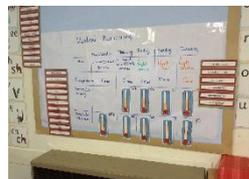
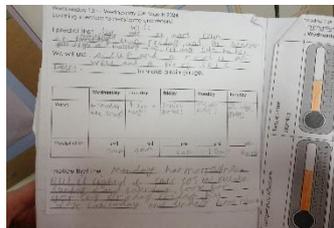
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Science Week

During Science Week, all classes had fun enjoying science activities and developing their scientific skills. In Year 1, they studied the weather over the course of a week. Year 3 made books to celebrate World Book Day and Science Week. In Year 6, we continued with our topic of Electricity and investigated voltage, and then programmed Micro:Bits to make a sensor work as part of a circuit. The whole school took part in 'The Big Plastic Count' and Year 6 will be collating the findings of this survey and sharing findings with the whole school.



Pupil Parliament

We had a pupil parliament meeting and came up with the idea of 'Red to Toe' which meant the whole school had to come in fully red clothing. I think everyone loved this day and dressing up. We asked for everyone to bring in cakes for a cake sale during the day and after school. Thank you to everyone who brought in cakes and spent £1 or more on cakes. The money we raised went to Comic Relief where they spend it to help the homeless and other people in need. Thank you again for all your donations!!!

By Ollie 5B Pupil Parliament rep



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Foundation Stage

Foundation have had an incredibly exciting month as part of their Ready, Steady, Grow learning. We enjoyed our trip to Warriner Farm and all of the adults who came were so impressed with the way the children walked to and from the farm and their brilliant behaviour while we were there. We fed goats, stroked a lamb and learnt a lot about the different animals we saw.



This week, we had a chef come in to school to help us with cooking an apple and strawberry crumble. The children learnt how to use a knife and peeler safely whilst chopping the fruit and enjoyed getting all messy rubbing the butter, flour and sugar together at the end. We then got to enjoy our crumble together for our afternoon snack. This experience has inspired our literacy learning as we begin to write instructions.

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Year 1

Year 1 have loved being meteorologists as part of our Seasonal Changes learning. We made windsocks and using the Beaufort scale we made an estimate of the wind each day. We also developed our skills of reading scales carefully and used these to support us in measuring the temperature and precipitation.

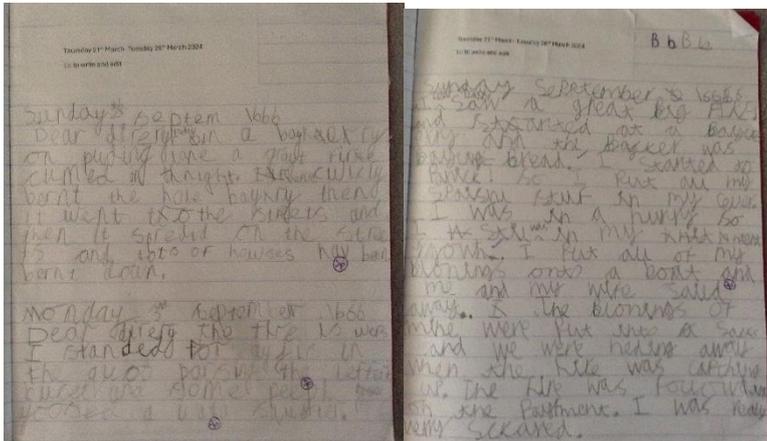


We have also been loving writing diary entries as though we are Samuel Pepys in 1666. We have used our knowledge of London and the Great Fire to write some wonderful work:

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Year 2

Year 2 had the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the learning by visiting the local nature reserve in the village, looking for seasonal flowers and identifying trees. The children continued their knowledge of plants by dissecting a daffodil to identify parts of a flower and their purpose. The children then used this knowledge alongside facts that they gathered from books and the internet to create their own information text.



In Maths, Year 2 have been focusing on multiplication and division and have shown a good understanding of the learning so far! The children have been using manipulatives to help reinforce the learning.

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And finally, the children have really enjoyed having the opportunity to use the chrome books in computing to collect data and present their findings as a pictogram. A great website which we used was <https://www.i2e.com/i2data>



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Year 3

Year 3 have been working on exploring their senses outside in the school garden and have begun to record these experiences in their writing.



We have also learned to code sounds and movements using Scratch software. This has been new learning for the children this year and has been greatly enjoyed!



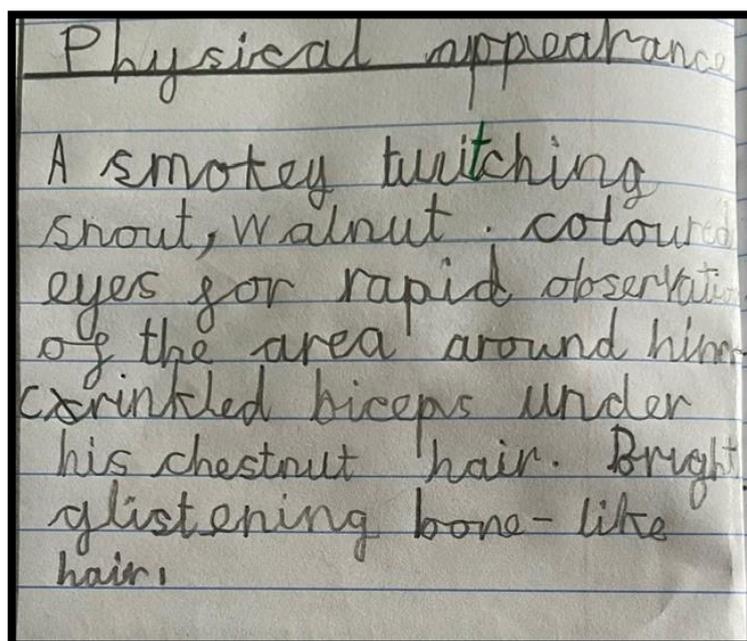
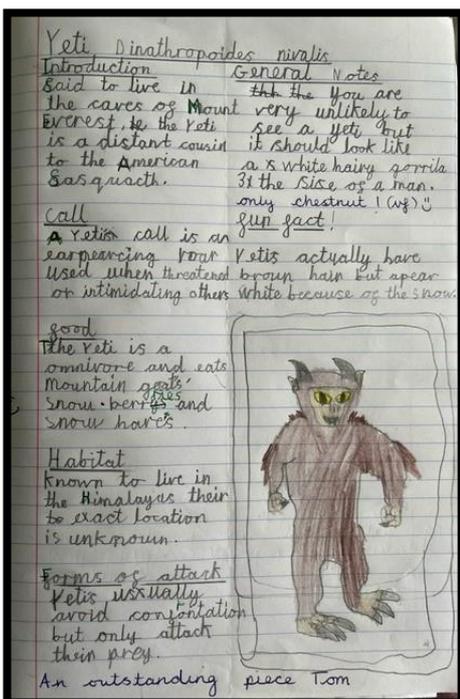
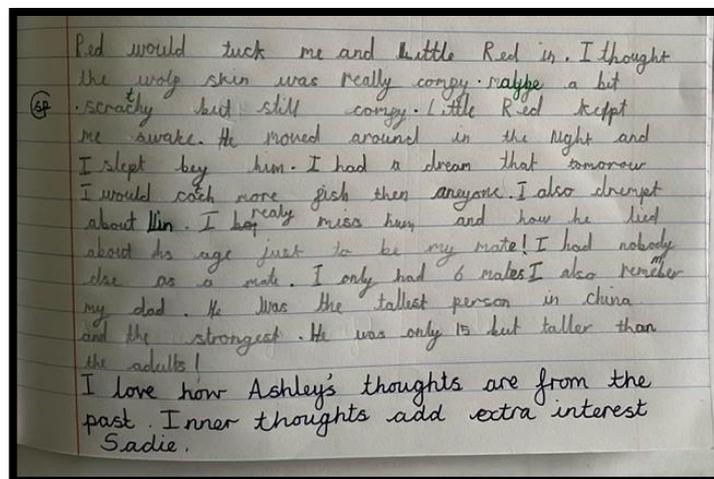
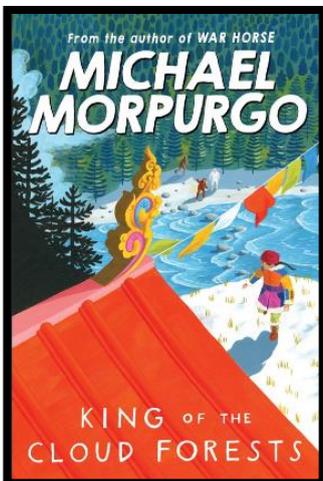
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Year 4

Following the success of their poetry writing, the Year 4 children have been broadening their range of writing skills, inspired by the class text **'King of the Cloud Forests'** by **Michael Morpurgo**. Please enjoy extracts from their **'Yeti character descriptions'** and **'Diary Entries'** written from the point of view of Ashley, the main human character in the story. Writing by **Sadie W, Thomas McV, Harvey B, Henry K and Georgia H (in that order)**





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Year 5

We worked on a piece of fictional narrative writing based on The Nowhere Emporium. This enchanting fantasy tale celebrates the boundless power of imagination. Daniel Holmes discovers the Nowhere Emporium while fleeing bullies from his children's home. Entranced by the shop's treasures, he finds himself immersed in a world of wonder and beauty. We created some Emporiums of our own, placing things in there that were important to us.



Year 6

Year 6 had a fantastic week at Kilvrough. We are so proud of all the children for their strength and determination and for completing all activities with a smile! We have been studying Environmental Art, and created our own sculptures out of recycled materials to raise awareness of single-use plastic. In English, Year 6 have written engaging newspaper articles based on the book 'The Watertower'.

Easter Egg Competition

We had just under 100 entries for our Easter Egg competition. All pupils entering have been awarded a minimum of 10KBVs, with runners up gaining 25 KBVs and year group winners securing 50KBVs and a chocolatey treat (to be consumed at home).

Well done to runners up: Carys W, Gracie C, Nancy-Rae B, Hannah J, Primrose W P, Jasmine B, Varvara H, Evie D, Orla N, Matilda G, Anna R, Amelie D and Alice.

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Congratulations to our Year group winners:

Year R	Milo A	
Year 1	Annabel T	
Year 2	Beth S J	
Year 3	Elise T	
Year 4	Isobel B	
Year 5	Martha Mcl	
Year 6	Elleah T	

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