



## Bloxham CE Primary School

### September 2024 Newsletter

Dear Families

Thank you to families who joined us for our Meet the Teacher events, we hope you found the session useful. For those families unable to attend, the presentations are now available on the Year group pages of our website.

We were delighted to welcome families of children in 4S to our first Class Assembly of the year. A little different in format due to the restrictions of space, this was held in the children's classroom where they wowed us sharing their English learning journey, including some wonderful kennings worthy of being part of a Shakespearian play at the RSC! We hope to be able to upload an audio file to our website so that all families have access to their accomplishment.

For families of children in 4C, 2J and 2B due to join us for class assemblies before half term, these will also be held in classrooms as our temporary hall will not be available until after the half term break. Please drop your children as normal and then exit the site, the Courtington Lane gate will then be reopened at 9:00am for you to enter your child's classroom via the appropriate playground door.




A reminder that we are currently seeking an additional parent governor. If you are interested in this position, please either see details on our website [Bloxham Church of England Primary School - Information about Governance \(bloxhamprimary.com\)](https://bloxhamprimary.com) or follow this direct link to the application form [Parent Governor Application Form \(google.com\)](https://google.com). The closing date is noon, 9 October.

**Sarah Marshall**

#### **Drop off on Rainy Days**

As we have had occasion to experience on too many days of late, drop off on rainy days is straight to classroom doors. If you are in any doubt, an umbrella sign will be displayed at entrance gates. A reminder however that the Courtington Lane gate remains entrance only at drop off. We ask families to respect this request and prioritise the safety of the children over any potential speed or convenience, thank you.



Golden Super –  
Here-0s

## **Attendance**

Overall attendance across the whole school during September was 96.6 %. A massive well done to class 2B for achieving the highest attendance for a class in September at 98.69%. Congratulations to Year 2 for the highest attendance for a year group at 98.13 %

Our September Super-Here0s are: Foundation/Keys Stage 1: Lilani & Hector

Key stage 2: Lucy & Callie

As you are aware, there have been changes to Attendance legislation that came into force in August 2024. This is set by the County Attendance Team as part of the Department of Education's incentive to improve attendance. There will be a letter coming out next week that highlights all the changes and how, as a school we have to implement them.

## **Parking**

Just a reminder to please not park on the zig zag lines outside of school. It is not the responsibility of school staff to monitor parental parking. Please do contact either the Parish Council or Highways to report any illegal parking.

We continue to receive concerns from local residents about parents' inconsiderate parking. Please be mindful of where you park, especially on residential streets and consider your and your children's general safety, the residents' driveways and whether you might be inadvertently restricting access to emergency vehicles that may need to gain access.

Over the last few weeks, staff have experienced difficulties accessing the car park due to cars being parked where there is insufficient space for vehicles to move around the site. The school facilitates the use of the staff car park to support families dropping children for breakfast club. If there is insufficient space, however, please use alternative parking opposite the school.

## **Lunchtime Assistant**

We currently have vacancies for lunchtime supervisors. If you are interested, please contact the office. The hours are 12pm-1pm every day.

## **Individual and sibling School Photographs**

Photographs will be taken in school on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. This will be for children and siblings who currently attend Bloxham Primary School.

## **Office Hours and equipment brought in late**

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Our school office is open each day 8:30 – 12:00 and 1:00-4:00. Outside of these times, messages should either be emailed or left as a voicemail. If your child leaves equipment at home which is required for the day, we will no longer call home as standard. If you become aware that an item is at home and are able to drop it at school, please ensure it is clearly marked with your child's name and class and leave it in the box in our foyer. Monitors will aim to check and deliver items at 10:30 and 12:30, however we are unable to guarantee this.

## Uniform

A reminder that pupils are expected to wear our school uniform at all times. As we move into the colder weather, please do feel able however to provide your child(ren) with additional base layers if they feel the cold. Please ensure that all clothing is labelled with your child's full name to ease return in the event that it becomes separated from your child. We have a new lost property box in the quad area, at the bottom of the Year 2 ramp. Please check there if your child has lost an item of clothing or other property.

## School Website

Please do regularly checkout our school website, particularly the calendar for important dates throughout the school year ([School calendar](#)) class and curriculum pages.

We have also added a new Community News section to the website so please check for any events happening within the local area.

## Safeguarding

Since the new term started, all staff have read updated guidance in "Keeping Children Safe in Education." This includes an updated definition of safeguarding, which emphasises protecting children from maltreatment, **whether that is within or outside the home, including online** (this last part has been added). Online safety is a key focus for us and all children receive regular lessons on this. Within school, we are working closely with our provider Turn It On to ensure that all content is appropriately filtered and monitored. At home, it might be worth being aware that some platforms, such as YouTube Kids, automatically filter out most inappropriate content. No automated system is perfect, so it may not catch everything. Videos that look like they're child-friendly can include violent or disturbing content. They might be suggested videos or appear in search results. One way to combat this is to **turn off search**:

- Tap the 'Lock' icon in the bottom corner of any page
- Enter your custom passcode (or complete the multiplication problem)
- Select 'Settings', and select your child's profile and enter your parent account password
- Switch 'Allow searching' to off

For further information, see attached guidance sheet **Child Safety on YouTube Kids** taken from The Key.

## Beard Drawing Competition

Congratulations to Arthur and William who are the winners of this competition!

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## Achievements from Outside the school

Noah in class 5D was named player of the match on Saturday, in his ice hockey team, Oxford junior stars 😊 he scored a total of 6 goals!!  
Huge well done to Noah!



After 4 wonderful years together, Mr. Barton and Miss Avis are engaged to be married! They will marry next year after having a wonderful summer in the happiest place on Earth, Disney World, where he proposed in front of Cinderella's castle. Huge congratulations to our fantastic teachers!

## PE news

Following a PE lead meeting, we are delighted to announce that we have funded all our children to access 'The Corefulness Programme'. The children find their space in the classroom every morning and afternoon and follow a series of simple exercises designed to help with fine and gross motor skills, as well as helping to improve concentration. Please see the website for more details.

<https://corefulness.com/courses/corefulness-primary-schools/>

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Also, the children have been practising cross country running and some have qualified for the next round, which will take place next week.

## Foundation Stage



We are excited to share an update on our learning journey so far! The children have been engaging in a variety of fun and educational activities that have fostered their growth and development in so many ways. Immersing ourselves in the natural world around us, we've gone on 'Bear Hunts', nature walks, and sensory walks before mapping our journeys. We've even taken our learning outdoors, using the outside areas to extend our play-based activities. The children have become "Wild Things," made "Wild Things," fed them, and even thrown rumpuses with their friends. It's been wonderful to watch their imaginations flourish! We've also spent time talking about our homes and sharing our favourite rooms and activities in them. The children have drawn pictures of their special people, showing how important family and connection are to them. In Phonics, we have begun our journey by introducing Fred the Frog, who the children have really enjoyed meeting. We've been learning new sounds and exploring our call signs. The children have especially loved practicing the 'bounce' for each sound, making phonics sessions both exciting and engaging! In Maths, the children have already begun to secure a strong understanding of numbers up to 5. We've just begun exploring comparing numbers, and the children are doing brilliantly. We've created number lines using natural resources and counted collections of all sorts of objects, both indoors and outdoors. Their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning through play have been a joy to see! We are so proud of the progress the children have made, and we look forward to continuing our learning adventure together.



Year 1

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This term in Year One, the children have been on an exciting learning journey! In Maths, they've been practicing counting forwards and backwards from 1 to 10 and exploring the concepts of "greater than" and "less than," which has helped build their confidence with numbers. In English, they've been learning to write simple instructions, such as how to play with a toy, and making a jam sandwich. Let's just say, the year 1s completely understand the importance of *clear* instructions! The children have also enjoyed taking a step back in time to explore what life was like in the 1950s, discovering how different things were back then. In PE, they have been developing their coordination skills with fun activities focused on catching and throwing, which has been a great way to improve their motor skills and teamwork. It's been a fantastic start to the year, and the teachers are so proud of how much they've learned already!

## Year 2

During our History lessons, Year 2 are learning about 'Significant People'. We had a workshop all about William Morris. Sonia from Banbury Museum brought lots of artefacts for us to look at and hold. We made a production line and pretended to manufacture cars, we had to work as a team, being efficient and fast! We learnt that William Morris built Minis, he built Spitfires in WWII, and he generously paid for The Nuffield Hospital in Oxford to be built.



This month, our young artists explored the magic of colour mixing, learning how to blend primary colours to create new shades and hues. After experimenting with different combinations, they moved on to the tactile fun of clay, shaping their own printing blocks. The students enjoyed using their unique clay stamps to create colourful prints, combining creativity and hands-on learning!



## Year 3

Year 3 have been practising their stamina and pace in our cross country running and 3W have loved going to Bloxham school for their first few swimming lessons.

In Topic, the children have explored how people survived in the Early Stone Age, as well as learning about the terms BC and AD and ordering historical periods on a timeline.

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In Maths, we have been ordering numbers and measurements and comparing numbers. Where possible, we have used our outside environment to stimulate our learning in a practical way.



#### Year 4

We have been fortunate enough to be able to embrace the last of the summer sun this term by performing yoga poses on the field. The focus has been on moving in time with our breath and remembering the order of poses in a flow. Look at the balanced tree poses below!

In Music, we have been expanding our expertise on the trumpet and performing short pieces as a class. We've learned to control our breathing to create an even tone across pitches. Soon they'll all be blowing their own trumpets!



#### Year 5

Year 5 have had a great start to the school year! We started the year with the discovery of a robotic arm in the new school hall construction site, which we think has come from the Iron Man!

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The children have enjoyed their work on the Iron Man in English and are currently working hard in writing their own narratives, imagining that the Iron Man has woken up in today's time, after a 50 year long sleep. We have begun our studying of the Shang Dynasty, and the children acted as researchers to find out clues, from artefacts found on an archaeological dig, about what life was like for people living in Ancient China. In art, the children thoroughly enjoyed doing clay casting and have created some wonderful pieces of artwork. Well done Year 5 for a great start!

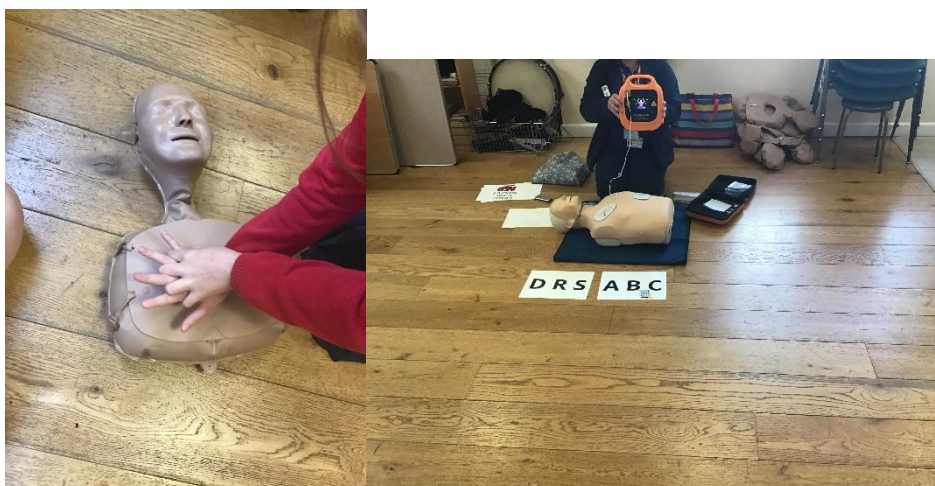


## Year 6

Year 6 have been visited by I.M.P.S (Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools). We learnt key life skills including how to give chest compressions and the recovery position. We also went through ways of minimising injuries and what to do in different scenarios. Well done Year 6 for your super engagement! <https://www.impsweb.co.uk/kidszone/>

6H have enjoyed their swimming sessions, especially wearing their pyjamas for the water safety session! Well Done 6H.

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## Collective Worship

In the first two weeks of term, we gathered in the playground for Collective Worship. We made circles around each other with the teachers holding hands around the children on the outside of the largest circle. We welcomed everyone; new and existing members of our Primary School. We talked about how God looks after us but that we need to look after ourselves and each other as well. This week, we enjoyed a 'Teams' Collective Worship with each class dialling in. We talked about our world and how we can look after it. Everyone agreed that not kicking doors was important as they had come from trees. Then, we all shared the story of 'The Creation'. Next week, we will share the story of Noah building his ark.

This year, for Harvest, we will be gathering food and toiletry donations for the Breadline Project in Banbury.

[Home \(breadlineproject.org\)](http://breadlineproject.org)

More information on that to follow. On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October the school will gather at St Mary's for the Harvest Festival Service. We are very sorry to not be able to include parents and carers but will endeavour to share details of the occasion with you.

## Important Safeguarding Update for After-School Clubs and Collection Procedures

As our after-school clubs are firmly underway, I'd like to take this opportunity to share some important reminders to ensure the safety of all children as they transition between school and their after-school activities.

It is essential that everyone is fully aware of collection procedures and other safeguarding measures, so please take a moment to read the following carefully.

### Attendance at After-School Clubs

**If your child has been allocated a place in one of our after-school clubs, they are expected to attend each week.** If for any reason your child is not attending club, please ensure that a message is sent to the office as early as possible. Please either drop an email to [office.3064@bloxham-pri.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3064@bloxham-pri.oxon.sch.uk) or leave us a message **(01295) 720 224** This will enable club registers to be updated and helps avoid situations where staff are searching for children who have already been collected.

### Collection Points for After-School Clubs

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If your child attends an after-school club, please make sure you are clear on where to collect them at the end of the session. Each club has designated pick-up points, and these must be followed to avoid any confusion or delays. Please also ensure your child knows which they are attending.

### **High Flyers After School Club**

If your child attends High Flyers, it is crucial that their class teacher is aware of their regular attendance schedule. This ensures that the teacher can direct them to the appropriate place at the end of the school day.

**For last-minute or one-off bookings**, please inform the school office who will pass this message to your child's class teacher. This will ensure your child is safely transferred to the club.

### **High Flyers Children attending School-Run After-School Clubs**

If your child is attending a school-run club on any given day, please inform the High Flyers team. They will need to adjust their register accordingly, again this helps avoid situations where staff are searching for children who have already been collected or are attending another activity.

High Flyers should also be informed if your child is due to attend their session but is absent from school as this avoids any confusion during their registration. An email, or quick text to 07511 570456/[highflyersclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:highflyersclub@hotmail.co.uk) will help them manage this smoothly.

Ensuring all children are accounted for and safely supervised is our top priority, and your cooperation helps us achieve this. If you have any questions regarding the after-school clubs, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Security of Bikes and Scooters**

If your child brings a bike or scooter, it should be stored in our bike sheds on the edge of the school field. The school grounds are locked after the school day and therefore if your child is attending either High Flyers or an after school club we ask that they avoid bringing bikes or scooters on these days as they will be unable to retrieve them easily after 3:15. This is for both security and safety reasons.

We are committed to creating a safe and smooth transition for all children between school and after-school. By working together and ensuring clear communication, we can keep the process efficient and, most importantly, keep all of our children safe.

Thank you once again for your support and cooperation. Together, we can continue to provide a caring and secure environment for our school community.

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