



Bloxham CE Primary School

November 2024 Newsletter

Dear Families

The children have enjoyed another busy month and it feels like there has been a real focus on the arts and thinking about others, linking with our values of being creative, inclusive and caring. Those of you who read the Banbury Guardian may have seen several articles about what we've been up to.

The month began with a fabulous art project in association with Cotswolds Arts Through Schools and coordinated by Mrs Kidman, our Art and DT lead which led to the children each creating their very own pop art self-portrait, we hope these will soon be on display in our temporary hall.



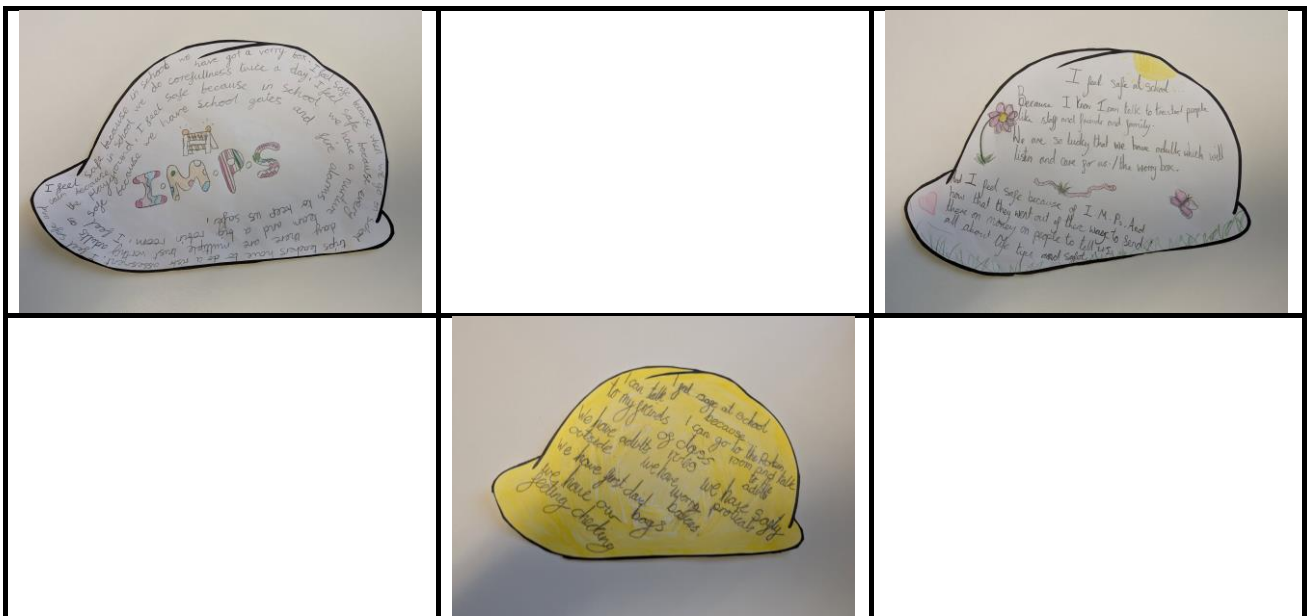
On Sunday 10th November our House Captains, supported by our RE Lead Mrs Swan, represented the school at the village Remembrance commemorations, it was noted that the children were incredible ambassadors for our school. Following last year's whole school clay poppies, this year we decided to create artwork which could contribute to the village as a whole and I am sure many of you will have seen the poppies the children created from the plastic bottles.

Encourage one another and build each other up.



We followed the Sunday village commemorations with two further services of remembrance on Monday 11th itself, with a short service in school for Years F to 4 and a service in church for Years 5 and 6. The Year 6 classes have been learning about World War II this term, including a focus on the impact within Bloxham, so being able to mark the event was particularly meaningful for them.

Monday 11th, also marked the start of our Antibullying week, coordinated by Miss Beale, PSHE Lead. Events included Odd Socks day, theatre presentations and a focus on how we keep each other safe in school. The posters created by Year 6 demonstrate the variety of strategies and supports in place for our wonderful Bloxham pupils. Laura Youngman our OCC officer and Gillian Barnes our SEND and Inclusion governor were also in school during the week and were able to talk to pupils about their learning and to hear how pupils feel safe in school. It was commented that the children were able to articulate what anti bullying is and what action to take if they are bullied and that one of the many strengths of the school is its safeguarding culture, with its importance demonstrated through staff observance during the OCC visit.



The theme of safety has also been supported by our first travel plan group meeting, in which staff, parents and the Parish Council joined together to consider the travel and transport issues affecting our school. This was also looked at by pupils as part of our Road Safety week, with Pupil Parliament raising the issue with Sean Woodcock MP as part of his visit last Friday.

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Finally, November has ended where we started with a celebration of the Arts and a Dance Festival for pupils in Year 1, a Bollywood Dance workshop for Year 3 and a World War II dance workshop for Year 6.

Thank you to all our Bloxham staff who organise these amazing wider opportunities for our pupils to enrich our curriculum offer. Please do follow our Threads account for further information on activities the children are enjoying.

Sarah Marshall

School Early Finish

A reminder that school will finish early for all pupils on Friday 20th December with a 1:15 close.

Thank yous!

We have received some very generous donations recently so we would like to send a big **THANK YOU** to:

- FoBPS for a set of Big Cat Reading books.
- Mrs Adams for donating a welcome supply Chrome books to school.
- Bloxham Co-op who have been fundraising on our behalf for Forest School equipment

Fresh Start Christmas Lunch 12th December

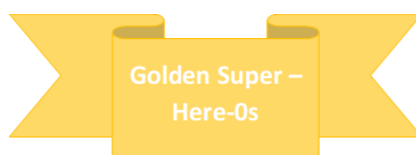
Please note that the ONLY option for a school lunch on this day will be a Christmas Lunch. If your child is not having the Festive lunch, please can you ensure that they have a packed lunch as there will be no late options available. Thank you.

TA Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a Teaching Assistant. For further details on this role, please contact the School Office.

Reporting illness for your child

Please report your child's absence every day either by leaving a message on the Absence line or using the email address: attendance@bloxham-pri.oxon.sch.uk.



Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during November was 94%. A massive well done to class 2B for achieving the highest attendance for a class in November at 96.83%. Congratulations to year 2 for the highest attendance for a year group at 96.3 %

Our November Super-Here0s are:

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Foundation/Keys Stage 1: Myla, Arabella and Charlotte

Key stage 2: Harry, Lydia and Adam

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

We have four Designated Safeguarding Leads in school. The main two on a day-to-day basis are Mrs Louise Thomas and Mrs Kerry Dwyer, with additional DSLs being Mr Singleton and Mr Arzberger. If you have immediate, urgent safeguarding concerns about a child, you can contact the police direct, or the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 050 7666. If you have concerns that are not immediate / urgent, please do contact the school to speak to a DSL. More information and our policy can be found here <https://www.bloxhamprimary.com/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=18>

Frank Wise Inclusion Partnership

We have been delighted to begin a new inclusion partnership with a class from Frank Wise School in Banbury. A class of pupils is visiting us every Monday afternoon to learn with a Year 2 class here. We are keen to enable the children to develop friendships and enjoy shared experiences together. One of our PSHE themes is 'celebrating difference' and this is the theme in action! The Year 2 children will be sharing their experiences with the rest of the school, and we hope to widen this to include other classes at a later stage too.

Short breaks for children with SEN and disabilities

Please see the link below to short breaks information which has everything going on across the county for children with SEN and disabilities. There is also the parent group information attached. Parents can sign up to get the monthly newsletter using this link– [Short breaks for disabled children | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Healthy Lunchboxes

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Just a reminder that we strongly discourage children from bringing sweets to school in their lunchboxes, to promote a healthy balanced diet.

Years 5 and 6 – wellies for field at lunchtimes

As outlined in previous correspondence, if the field is dry enough at lunchtimes, children from years 5 and 6 who have wellies in school will be permitted to play on the field. They are welcome to leave the wellies in school.

Foundation Stage

This term has started with a *snap, crackle, and pop!* as we explored the festivals of Diwali and Bonfire Night, sparking creativity and curiosity in our learning. The children contributed beautifully to the school's *Bloxham Poppy Display*, adding their own unique creations to honour this meaningful tradition.

A highlight of the term so far has been a visit from the local fire service! The children were thrilled to tour a real fire engine, exploring its features and equipment. This hands-on experience was both exciting and educational, leaving many inspired by our community heroes.

In Phonics, the children have settled wonderfully into their new groups, and it's a joy to see each one thriving. With tailored activities, they're tackling just the right level of challenge, building their confidence and skills every day.

Our *Marvellous Machines* learning experience has truly captured everyone's imaginations! We've been developing critical thinking by comparing old and new machines, engaging in thoughtful discussions about their uses, and unleashing our creativity as we designed our very own *Magnificent Things*. The children's ideas and designs have been inspiring, and their enthusiasm for learning is infectious.

We've also been busy practising for our *Nativity performance*, and we can't wait to share this special event with you at St Mary's Church on **17th December at 2pm**. The next few weeks promise to be filled with glitter (eco, of course!) and sparkle as we dive into making all kinds of festive decorations for our *Christmas Door competition*. The children will also be developing their wonderful writing skills by creating lists and cards, while continuing their Maths learning journey by exploring *space and measure*.

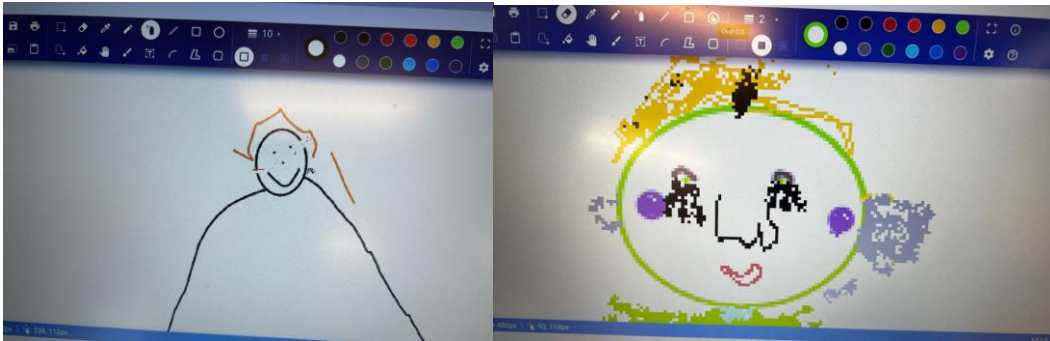
It's been a fantastic start to the term, and we're looking forward to ending the year on a high note with lots of festive fun and learning!

Year 1

Year 1 has had a fantastic term full of learning and fun! In maths, the children have been naming and sorting 2D and 3D shapes. Inspired by the book *Stanley's Stick*, they wrote creative descriptive pieces in literacy. In science, they began exploring materials used to build shelters. To top it off, some of our pupils enjoyed an exciting dance workshop,

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showing off their moves. It's been a great start to the term! The children have been having a great time learning to draw self-portraits using laptops. Along the way, they've picked up some impressive skills like using drawing software, experimenting with colours, and figuring out digital tools like brushes and erasers. It's also helped them sharpen their observation skills as they look closely at their own features to recreate them. Plus, they're becoming more confident with technology while having fun exploring their creative side!



Year 2

The Year 2 children were thrilled to welcome Banbury Fire Service for an exciting and educational visit about fire safety in the home. The firefighters shared important tips on how to prevent fires and stay safe in emergencies, capturing the children's attention with their engaging stories and demonstrations. A highlight of the visit was when the children got to climb inside the fire engine, explore its fascinating equipment, and learn how the firefighters use their tools to help others. The hands-on experience left the children inspired and buzzing with excitement, while also reinforcing vital safety lessons in a memorable way.



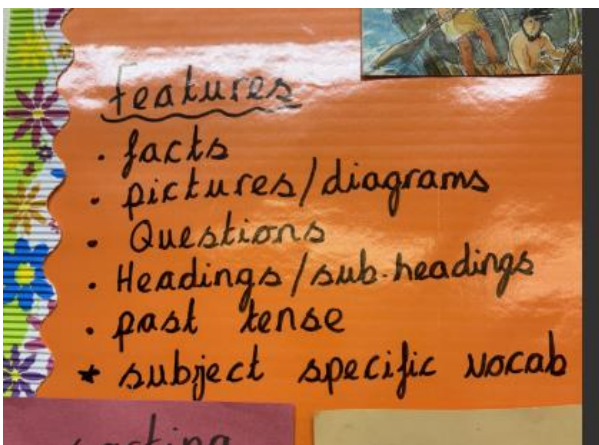
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Year 3

We were lucky to have a Bollywood dance workshop connected to last term's RE topic of Diwali. The children really enjoyed learning the moves and performing the routine. They then had the opportunity to create some of their own actions with a partner.



In English we have been busy preparing our information to write our non-chronological reports on Stonehenge. The children have learnt the key features of this style and will be using these in their own reports.

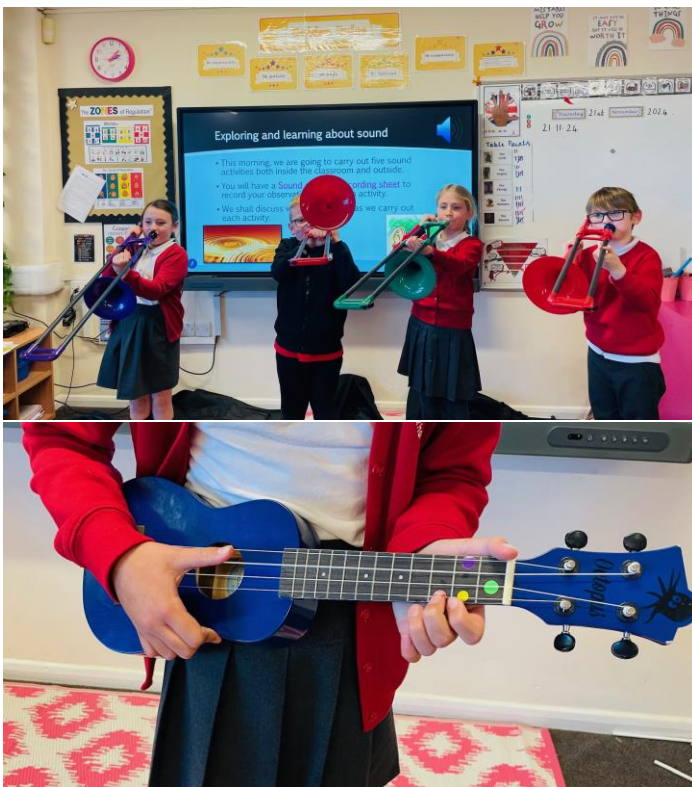


In DT we have been talking about the different ways to cook food. We looked at boiling water and then simmering it to cook some delicious hotdogs for us to enjoy. This week we will be preparing and cooking ratatouille!



Year 4

The children have embarked on an exciting journey to explore musical instruments and discover how sound is created. They participated in six engaging sound activities, both inside and outside the classroom. Throughout these activities, the children recorded their observations and shared their newfound knowledge about how the design of instruments can affect pitch and how the application of force influences volume. Additionally, they had the opportunity to witness the creation of sound through visible vibrations, deepening their understanding of this fascinating subject.



Year 5

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This term, the Year 5 children have been diving into exciting new topics across their subjects. In science, they started exploring *Earth and Space*, and a highlight was heading outdoors to recreate the solar system using inflatable planets, making learning hands-on and memorable. In art, they've been honing their skills by experimenting with shades and tints, inspired by studying various artists and how they effectively use these techniques to create impact in their work. The children have shown great enthusiasm and creativity in their learning so far!

Year 6

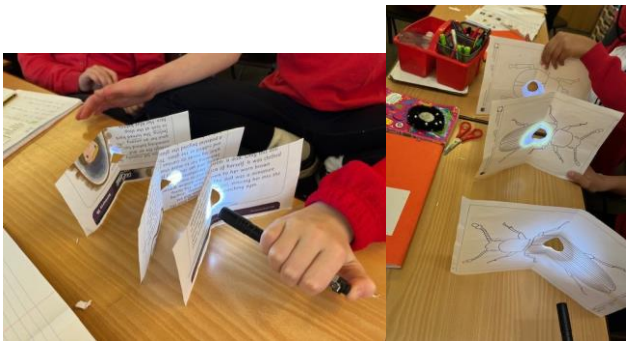
Year 6 enjoyed exploring WW1 and WW2 artefacts from Bloxham Museum. We learnt about local history including soldiers who lived in Bloxham. We enjoyed hearing war stories from the village and exploring the artefacts including a grenade and a real air raid siren!

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In English, the children have written emotive war poems inspired by an animated clip: 'Beyond the Lines'. The children have included a range of figurative language and imagery to write effective poems.

In Science, we have been exploring the question: 'How does light travel?'. The children shared their ideas, and we discussed key concepts. The children then set up an investigation to explore the question and discussed their findings.



Collective Worship and Remembrance Sunday

We have enjoyed Half Term since I last wrote. A chance to rest and reflect on a term well charted. Respect has been a considerable theme in Collective Worship this term as we endeavour to raise the levels and standards of Respect across the school and into the local community. Teachers' pockets have been filled with KBV tokens so that children can be rewarded instantly when they show consideration to others. There is a greater ring of 'Good Morning and Hello' around the school. Doors are being held open, compliments paid, kindnesses shown. Let's make Bloxham Primary School a school rich in respectfulness.

Remembrance Sunday was a considerably respectful day as we paused our busy lives to remember those who have fought to defend and lost lives in the process. Eight of our Year Six children met at the War Memorial in Bloxham to represent our school and to lay a wreath.

On Monday 11th November in an additional Act of Worship, Year Five and Six gathered at St Mary's Church in the village for a short Remembrance Service. Rev Dale joined us as we sang the National Anthem and listened to poems and prayers as well as the 'Last Post'. The children were deeply respectful with a full two minutes of silence at 11.00am.

In school, Collective Worship has focussed on stories from the Old Testament, such as Joseph and his dream coat followed by his exile to Egypt and rise to recognition. We have been lucky to welcome 'Open the Book', who have performed the story of Adam and Eve and Noah building the ark, to Year Six. They will share the Christmas Story with the whole

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school in December. For now, we must prepare for Advent when we will welcome Rev Dale to share in our Collective Worship as we light the symbolic candles each week.



Achievements from Outside of School



We are proud to share that Maisy, Olivia and Isobel represented the 1st Bloxham Brownies at the Bloxham remembrance service on November 10th. Olivia and Maisy honourably laid the wreath, while Isobel read out the names of those we remember. Their participation not only showcased the values of our Brownies but also demonstrated their commitment to

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honouring our community's heroes. Thank you, Maisy, Olivia and Isobel, for your heartfelt contributions.

Pupil Parliament

It has been a busy month for Pupil Parliament! We helped organise the Remembrance Poppy Appeal in school, selling Poppies and merchandise to support the British Legion; had Anti-bullying week with workshops and Odd Sock Day under the theme Respect; held a Children in Need non-uniform day where we raised £225.85 and had a meeting with our local MP!



We welcomed local MP Sean Woodcock as part of Parliament Week for a lively discussion on democracy, leadership, and local and global issues. During the Q&A session, the team posed thoughtful and challenging questions, demonstrating their awareness of the world around them. From "Do you have time to be with your family?" to "What are you doing about cleaning up rivers and streams?" the children tackled both personal and political topics with confidence. We also highlighted to Sean the concerns around road safety outside of the school and he agreed to help us follow this up by endorsing a letter to the County Council.



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