



Bloxham CE Primary School

January 2025 Newsletter

Dear Families

A new calendar year and a new term here at Bloxham full of events to look forward to. As ever our practices are driven by our school vision, "Encourage one another and build each other up" and supported by our "i-Catch" values – inclusive, caring, ambitious, trustworthy, creative and honest." Our broad curriculum with projects ranging from Bright Lights, Big City in Year 1 to Frozen Kingdom in Year 6 provides opportunities for the children to develop not only subject specific knowledge and skills but to also develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding as well as discovering how Fundamental British Values are part of their everyday experiences.

Sporting events, both friendly and competitive are established features here at Bloxham and the Spring term brings a series of indoor Athletics events and both a Rugby and Hockey Festival. January has also provided the opportunity for our pupils to focus on our value of inclusivity through a visit from Harry Baker, a Paralympian on the GB football team. Harry's session focussed on overcoming difficulties to achieve dreams and goals, which fitted perfectly with our whole school PSHE theme for this term entitled Dreams and Goals. Our partnership with Frank Wise School also continues this term, as well as new venture with Bloxham Grove, with pupils from both schools joining us for a series of sessions.



Our Year 6 pupils have developed their values of care, trust and honesty at Junior Citizen, where they learned how to stay safe by using a variety of scenarios designed to replicate home and outdoor environments. These included being made aware of how and where fires start and what to do in specific situations, spotting dangers in the home and how to make things safer and the risks associated with railways, around water and on our roads.

Looking forward to the remainder of the Spring term, we will be running our traditional Bikeability sessions and Year 5 pupils, will be creating their own allotment and visiting Warriner Farm as part of their topic "Sow, Grow, Farm". Year 3 will be travelling to Birmingham to enjoy a concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. Year 1 have Class Assemblies and Year 2 have a visit from the RNLI. The spring term also brings the first of three residential visits for this year, with Year 5 looking forward to their visit in March.

Encourage one another and build each other up.

Finally, we are excited to share information about our new after school Forest School Club, taking place on Wednesdays from 3.15pm to 5pm, led by a Level 3 Qualified Forest School Leader. The club will initially be open to KS2 pupils only and children will spend time in the wooded area, relaxing in hammocks, playing games and exploring with natural materials. There will also be a fire each week where the children can practise their skills with the fire steels and toast a snack on a stick. For more details, please see the separate email including information about how your child may be able to attend the sessions free of charge.

With this and completion of the new school hall, 2025 promises to be a wonderful year.

Sarah Marshall

School Calendar

We have a few of our 2025 calendars left, as we are a month into the new year these are available at a massively discounted price of £1, please either log onto the Shop section of School Money to purchase or pop a £1 into the office. We will send the calendar's home with the children once an order is placed.

Parking

Please could we again remind Families to be respectful when parking around residential areas and to please not block pathways or driveways. If you have concerns relating to the availability of parking or in relation to specific vehicles, please contact the relevant authority. Thank you

Parish Council: bloxhamparishcouncil@gmail.com

Oxfordshire Highways: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-highways-team#no-back>

Thames Valley Police: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/driving-vehicles-traffic/>

TA Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a Teaching Assistant. Although experience in this role is beneficial, this is not essential. The role requires a pass in both English and Mathematics GCSE (or equivalent qualification level) with the option to achieve this within the first year of employment. 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. We would be grateful if you could include your child's symptoms in any message that you leave.

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Golden Super –
Here-0s

Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during January was 95.44%. A massive well done to class **1A** for achieving the highest attendance for a class in January. Congratulations to Year 1 for the highest attendance for a year group at 96.89%

Our January Super-Here0s are:

Foundation/Keys Stage 1: Charlotte, Sophie, Louis, Layla

Key stage 2: Zach, Alex, Emma, Rory

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.

There is now a secure, password-protected area on our school website within the Parents and Carers section. This dedicated space will be used to store key curriculum information. In the future, we also hope to use this area to share recordings of performances and other special events. More details, including login information, will be shared soon.

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

We have had a fantastic few weeks in Foundation, and the children have settled brilliantly into their new Phonics groups with their teachers. They are already showing great enthusiasm and confidence in their learning, and we can't wait to see how they progress!

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As part of our new topic, *Long Ago*, we were thrilled to welcome a visitor from Bloxham Museum. They brought along a wonderful collection of old-fashioned household items and toys for us to explore. The children were fascinated by these objects from the past, and *Muffin the Mule* quickly became a firm favourite!

We have also been enjoying stories linked to our theme, including *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and *Rosie's Hat*. These stories have sparked lots of discussion about how life has changed over time, and the children have loved sharing their thoughts.

Another highlight of our learning has been discovering more about our own and our friends' heritage. We had meaningful conversations about family history and even learned a little about the Windrush Generation while exploring *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged in learning about different journeys and experiences.

In Science, we put on our investigation hats to help *Humpty Dumpty* and his cousins—Eggward, Eggbert, Eggwina, and Egglebert—stay safe in case of another fall! Through lots of fun and experimentation, the children explored different materials and ways to protect the eggs, developing their problem-solving and teamwork skills.

We are so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been in their learning. Thank you for your ongoing support—we look forward to sharing more exciting learning adventures with you soon!



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Year 1



This month, our students have truly shone in their narrative writing, taking inspiration from *The Queen's Hat*. Their creativity and storytelling skills brought the adventures to life in the most delightful ways! To spark their imaginations, they were treated to a special visit from the Queen herself (though some might say she bore a striking resemblance to Mr. Barton—shhh!). It was a royally wonderful experience that made their writing even more magical.

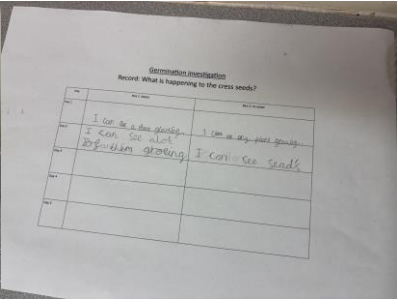
Year 2

This month, Year 2 have been exploring our exciting project, *Coastline*! We have been learning all about the UK's beautiful coastal areas, from sandy beaches to towering cliffs. A highlight has been our wonderful display of photos from pupils' holidays around the UK coast—thank you to everyone who contributed! The children have loved spotting familiar places and discovering new ones.

In Science, we have been investigating *Plant Survival*. We have been experimenting with growing seeds, comparing one with water and one without to see what plants need to grow. The children have made fantastic predictions and are carefully observing the changes. It's been a busy and exciting month of learning!



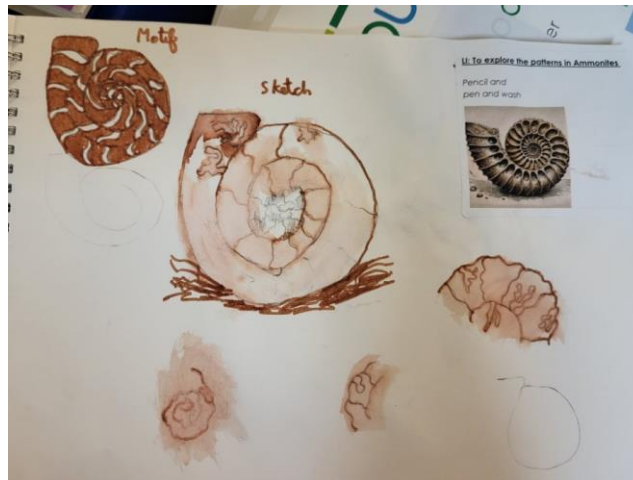
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Year 3



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Year 3 have been learning about rocks, fossils and soils this term in Geography, Art and science lessons. We have been undertaking exciting science experiments to find out what type of rock it is and observing and sketching fossils using pen and wash and collage

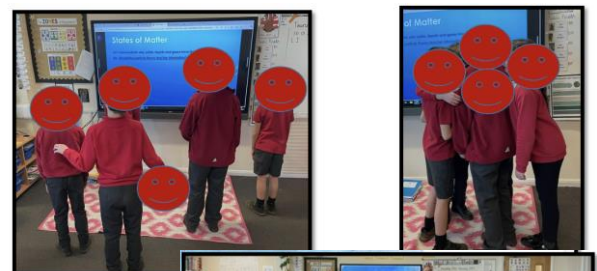
In English we have been creating an exclusive report as budding Journalists on a terrible news incident where Mrs Kidman's car fell down a sink hole in the car park! (It didn't really but the kids thought it was real!) We have been studying reported (indirect) and direct speech and incorporating this into our reports.

Year 4

Year 4 have engaged in a fantastic science exploration on states of matter and the particle theory. They showed great enthusiasm as they explored how matter changes from solid to liquid to gas, and moved around to imitate the particles!



The children performed our imaginative river poems inspired by a winter river walk to the Gogs and poem studies. They showcased their fantastic descriptive language in front of the entire school. It was heartwarming to see their creativity shine, surrounded by an appreciative audience.



We were honoured to have Mr. Coles, our caretaker, visit classrooms to discuss water use in the school. His insights on conservation and responsibility were invaluable! The information the children have gathered will form part of their next piece of writing.



Year 5

Since the start of term, Year 5 pupils have enjoyed spending some learning time outside. Our new topic 'Sow, Grow and Farm' has enabled the pupils to learn about allotments and the seasonality of fruit and vegetables. In addition to this, the Year 5 pupils have now taken responsibility of the

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school allotment with the aim to grow produce for the local community and raise funds for local causes while also learning about sustainable farming.

Just this week during Science, the Year 5 pupils learnt facts about worms before going outside and participating in worm charming! The pupils had a fantastic time despite only charming out 4 worms from the school field!

During English, we've started our next text, Charlotte's Web. The pupils have been identifying and looking in greater depth at the different features used in a newspaper report. This will support the pupils in the build-up to producing their own newspaper report linked to the story of Charlotte's Web next week. In Maths, all Year 5 pupils have shown great perseverance in the new unit of multiplication and division. The pupils are exploring different methods to help them solve problems.

And finally, during Art lessons, the pupils have been taking inspiration from different artist/sculptors such as Andy Goldsworthy, Jaakko Penu, Robert Smithson and Nils Udo. To help immerse the pupils into this topic, they took part in creating their own earth art on the school field.



Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed participating in Indoor Athletics events at the Warriner School. The focus of these events was 'Self-Belief' and they all worked enthusiastically to improve their skills, of balance, speed and co-ordination. We have embarked on our topic of 'Frozen Kingdoms' by taking part in an inspiring Virtual Expedition with an expert from the Scott Polar Research Institute. The children loved asking questions. In Science, we have been 'Hands-on' experimenting with electrical components. This has involved building circuits and recording them using the correct symbols. In Art we have been focusing on Inuit art and will be producing soap sculptures and prints.

Collective Worship

A busy January for Collective Worship starting with Epiphany which means 'reveal'. The Birth of Jesus was revealed to the Kings – three kings, but maybe more. They embarked on a long, possibly three years long journey to meet the son of God. We have done more 'Space maker' practice to help us 'see' more clearly. We are looking forward to a visit from Charlie Kerr; the Diocesan Education leader, who will enlighten all staff on the intricacies of Space Maker. We enjoyed the New Testament story of Jesus visiting the temple as a twelve year old boy and questioning the 'High Priests', as well as Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan. Both KS1 and KS2

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greatly enjoyed another wonderful performance from the 'Open the Book' team. We learned about Abraham and Sarah as they travelled to the Promised Land and gained a family. God's voice emanating from under the altar table was very effective. As a school, we are familiarising with 'The Lord's Prayer' or 'Our Father'. We have begun to practise the prayer in Collective Worship, led by those children and adults who know it already. In addition, we continue to celebrate examples of respect. There is growing evidence of a greater level of politeness, consideration and sensitivity across the school community. On 27th January in a Celebration Assembly, we took a moment to reflect on the victims of the Holocaust as the liberation of Auschwitz was remembered eighty years on. February begins with Candlemas; more on that next month.

High Flyers After School Club

We've had a fun, exciting and busy few weeks!

The children have been loving arts and crafts, getting creative with lots of fantastic activities. During Oral Hygiene Week, they made tooth fairy's and took part in toothy- themed activities- a great way to learn about looking after their smiles!

We also got imaginative with junk modelling, where the children built some amazing robots in all different shapes, and designs- so much creativity on display!

This week, we've been celebrating Chinese New Year, making colourful lanterns and amazing snake crafts. The highlight of the week was a delicious stir-fry, which the children loved!

Outdoors, we've been making the most of the good weather, enjoying football matches, skipping games, and parachute fun. It was great to run around, laugh, and let off some steam!

High Flyer of the Week

A big well done to the High Flyer Certificate winners:

Arabella- for being so kind and always helping others.

Ellie- for her enthusiasm in activities and for helping the younger children.

Fantastic work, both of you!

We're looking forward to another exciting week ahead with lots more fun activities!

New to High Flyers-

Running along side our afternoon sessions why not try our Craft and Create Fridays!

Here's what to expect:

Arts and Crafts Galore- The children get to try-out a variety of art projects- painting- drawing-sculpting, and more!

All materials provided: we've got all the tools for a hands-on experience, so your child can just bring their enthusiasm

Holiday Club

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Why not try our February Holiday Club at Christopher Rawlins School in Adderbury.

Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th of February.

This time we're bringing you a fun- filled and exciting two-day event with the amazing theme of Walt Disney's Moana and Science!

There will be lots of amazing activities planned to keep the children entertained, engaged and learning through play.

From adventurous Moana- inspired fun to exciting hands-on science experiments, it's sure to be a hit!

We can't wait to see your children there for a couple of days filled with fun, laughter and learning!

You can book through our website, <https://www.highflyers.org.uk> or on our booking platform <https://highflyersoxfordlimited.ipalbookings.com/>

Vouchers - for those working over 16 hours, you can take advantage of the 'Government's Choices Scheme', to save 20% on childcare. Also, when booking through our system you can pay by bank payment, so there is no booking fee.

We also offer 10% off for siblings attending the club!

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