



Bloxham CE Primary School

March 2025 Newsletter

Dear Families

This term has been packed with exciting opportunities that truly reflect our school's vision: *to encourage one another and build each other up*. Across all year groups, pupils have demonstrated our values of being inclusive, caring, ambitious, trustworthy, honest, and creative.

In February, Year 5 pupils completed Bikeability, showing responsibility and determination as they built confidence on the roads—encouraging and supporting one another throughout. Year 3 enjoyed a visit to Symphony Hall, embracing creativity and cultural learning through a live music performance.

We also took part in Safer Internet Workshops, where pupils explored how to stay safe and kind online. Their honesty and thoughtful reflections highlighted how they are growing into trustworthy digital citizens. Our House Competition raised funds for the Local Larder, showing our caring and inclusive spirit in action as pupils worked together for a cause that helps others in our community.

The Hockey Festival gave children a chance to demonstrate teamwork and ambition. Pupils supported each other both on and off the pitch—true to our vision of building one another up.

March brought more memorable moments. World Book Day was a joyful celebration of stories and imagination, while Science Week inspired curiosity, problem-solving and a sense of wonder. During Open Classrooms, pupils proudly shared their learning with families—demonstrating honesty and confidence in their achievements.

The Year 5 Residential gave children a chance to step out of their comfort zones, build resilience and deepen friendships. Meanwhile, our Choir's visit to the Big Sing at Christ Church Cathedral was a fantastic opportunity to perform in a stunning setting, working together to create something truly special.

This week has also marked the beginning of a new series of whole-school collective worship exploring injustice and courageous advocacy. Pupils have been reflecting on the small but powerful changes they can make to stand up for what is right and help build a fairer, kinder world. This important theme will continue through to the end of the summer term, helping pupils develop their sense of justice and moral responsibility.

A major highlight this term has been seeing the scaffolding come down and moving into our new hall and studio. These beautiful spaces are already bringing us together through music, assemblies, and creative learning.

This term has truly shown how our pupils live out our vision and values—supporting, inspiring, and building each other up every step of the way.

Sarah Marshall

Encourage one another and build each other up.



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/>

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.



Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during Feb/March was 93.42%, A massive well done to class **6B** for achieving the highest attendance for a class in Feb and **3K** for March - each student will receive 10 KBVs! Congratulations to Year 3 for the highest attendance in Feb/Mar for a year group at 95.68%

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Our Feb/March Super-HereOs are:

Foundation/Keys Stage1: Annabel, Greyson, Rory, Carys, Joe, Norah, Lily

Key stage 2: Dougie, James, Isla, Millie, Archie, Ruby, Tim

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 Parent Portal on our school website within the Parents and Carers section. This dedicated space will be used to store key curriculum information and phonics videos.

Foundation Stage

What a busy and exciting few weeks we've had in Foundation! The children have embraced every learning opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy. Here are just a few of the wonderful experiences we've shared recently:

Ready, Steady, Grow!

We have been getting our hands dirty as part of our *Ready, Steady, Grow!* project, planting seeds and bulbs to observe the magic of new life. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Open Door session – the children loved sharing this experience with you, and it was wonderful to see their excitement as they carefully planted and watered their seeds. We can't wait to watch them grow!

A Trip to Remember – Warriner Farm

Our trip to Warriner Farm was a fantastic success! The children showed resilience and great spirits as they walked the two-mile round trip, and their enthusiasm didn't waver for a moment. They enjoyed meeting a range of animals, learning the difference between hay and straw, stroking a

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bearded dragon, and even witnessing the birth of two lambs – a truly unforgettable moment. Thank you for ensuring they were well-prepared for the day; their behaviour was exemplary, and they were a credit to you all.



Creative Inspiration – Self-Portraits with a Twist

Inspired by the artist **Giuseppe Arcimboldo**, the children have been exploring seasonal fruits and vegetables in a unique way—by creating self-portraits in his distinctive style! This sparked fantastic conversations about healthy eating and the different foods we see at different times of the year. Their creations were both imaginative and impressive!



Maths – Discovering Doubles

We've been exploring the concept of doubles in a fun and creative way! The children created beautiful **butterfly prints** using sponge painting before adding dots to one wing. They then folded over their butterflies to reveal the double and proudly shared their double facts with us. These fantastic pieces are now brightening up our **Maths display**—why not ask your child what they know about doubles?



Phonics – Home Support & Reminder

We are delighted to let you know that phonics videos for each group are now accessible on the parent portal on the school website. These are a great way to reinforce learning at home, and we really appreciate your continued support in helping the children develop their confidence and fluency.

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Additionally, we will be holding a **'Supporting Your Child in Phonics at Home' session on Tuesday 1st April at 15:45**. If you would like to attend, please complete the Google Form so we can plan accordingly.

A Quick Reminder – No Need for Toys from Home

We have noticed that a number of children have been bringing in toys from home recently. While we understand how special these items are, we have plenty of toys and resources available in school. More often than not, bringing in personal items can lead to problems—whether it's the worry of losing them or the challenge of sharing. We kindly ask that all toys stay at home to avoid any upset.

Looking Ahead – Term 5 Learning

Our **Term 5 Curriculum Overview** is available on the school website. This provides a preview of the exciting learning opportunities coming next term, along with plenty of fun ideas for activities to try at home. We hope you find it useful in supporting your child's learning journey!

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. It's a privilege to watch your children learn and grow each day, and we are so proud of all they have achieved this term.

Year 1

We are incredibly proud of our Year 1 pupils for showing such kindness and responsibility during their break-time! Showcasing the Bloxham Value of 'Caring,' some of our young helpers took it upon themselves to clean up the playground, eagerly collecting every piece of litter they could find. When asked why, they shared that they wanted to "look after the environment!" What a wonderful display of care and teamwork!



This term, the Year 1 pupils have been thoroughly enjoying our topic, *Bright Lights, Big City*, especially learning about the history of the Great Fire of London. They stepped into the shoes of Samuel Pepys, writing their own diary entries as if they had witnessed the historic event. These fantastic pieces of writing have been combined into a special class book, showcasing their creativity and understanding.

Year 2

This term in English we explored the book 'The Lost Words'. Inspired by the writing, we created our own acrostic poems about nature. In maths we learnt about measuring length, mass and temperature. As part of our geography learning about coastlines we were fortunate to have a visitor from the RNLI and she introduced us to waterside safety and the essential work they do. In

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science we continued to explore what plants need to survive and the children enjoyed our investigation into what grass needs to grow. They were mesmerised by the fact that the seeds still grew (less green and less dense) in the dark and without watering them! We were delighted to be the first visitors into the new hall as we enjoyed the Open the Book assembly, and we have been taken great advantage of singing in there too. In PE we played team building games and we are completing our DT project of creating beach huts.



Year 3

In DT this term we have been looking at automation toys and how they move. We made simple cams using cardboard, dowels for the axel and small boxes for the support structure. All of our cams successfully moved the follower and flag up and down.

In our topic, *Rocks, relics and rumbles* we have been learning about earthquakes and tsunamis and did an experiment where we made our own clay volcanoes and added ingredients to make it erupt like lava flowing down. We enjoyed watching it shoot out!

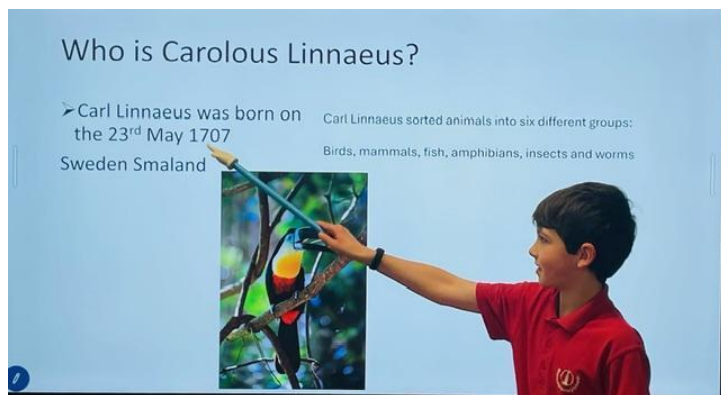
In science we have been looking at frictional forces and did an experiment to see whether they slowed an object down or not. Was the car slower on certain surfaces and why was that?

In our art lesson, we have been looking at figurative sketching of the human form and tried hard to sketch and shade the details of our hands.

Year 4

Our students showcased their impressive home learning projects centred around the life and contributions of Carl Linnaeus (a statue of whom is found in Oxford University's Museum of Natural History). Each child put in a remarkable effort to present their findings, demonstrating creativity and enthusiasm. Their work ranged from detailed reports to colourful posters, engaging presentations and 3-D models. It was inspiring to see how they connected their learning to real-

world applications, fostering a deeper appreciation for biodiversity. We applaud their hard work and creativity in bringing this important figure in science to life!



Year 5

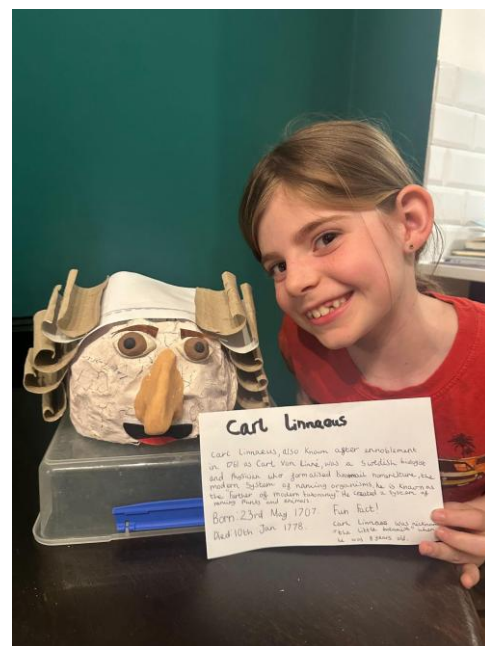
Year 5 Residential Trip to Whitemoor Lakes

Year 5 pupils embarked on an exciting three-day residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes, where they took part in a range of thrilling outdoor activities. From the moment they arrived, the children threw themselves into every challenge with enthusiasm, resilience, and teamwork.

Throughout the trip, pupils had the opportunity to push themselves beyond their comfort zones with activities such as climbing, abseiling, and the exhilarating leap of faith. Depending on their group, they also took to the water for either kayaking or canoeing, developing their confidence and teamwork skills along the way. In the evenings, everyone gathered around the campfire, sharing songs, laughter, and stories—creating wonderful memories to last a lifetime.

All pupils represented the school fantastically, demonstrating perseverance, kindness, and a positive attitude in everything they did. The adults who attended were incredibly proud of them, not only for their achievements in the activities but also for their teamwork, support for one another, and excellent behaviour throughout the trip.

It was truly a memorable experience for everyone involved, and we are certain that the children will treasure these moments for years to come!



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Year 5 Visit to Warriner Farm

Earlier this term, our Year 5 pupils visited Warriner Farm to deepen their understanding of 'Sow, Grow and Farm.' During the trip, they explored sustainable farming practices, investigated different soil types, and even got up close with the farm animals. The hands-on experience brought their learning to life, helping them appreciate the importance of agriculture and the environment.

Year 5 Deadly Minibeast Reports

Year 5 have been busy researching and writing fascinating non-chronological reports about deadly minibeasts. They explored the key features of an effective report before using Chromebooks and the school library to gather information on their chosen creature.

With a focus on clear structure, engaging facts, and technical vocabulary, the pupils produced some impressive pieces of writing. Their hard work and enthusiasm shone through, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts!

Year 6

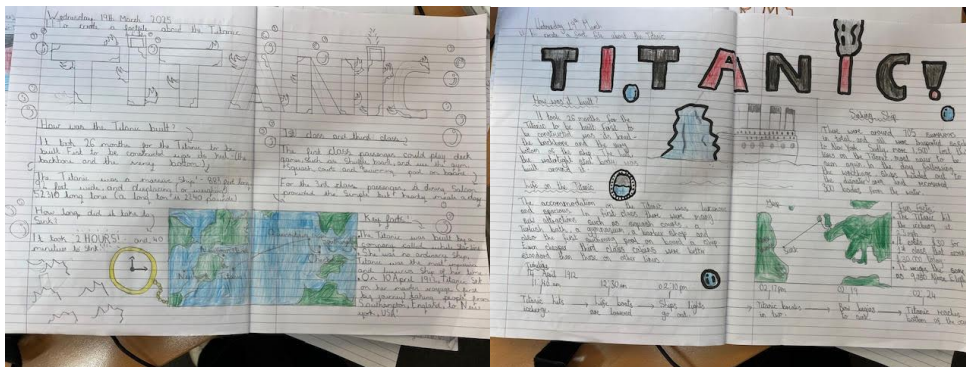
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To celebrate British Science Week Year 6 researched Jane Goodall and enjoyed presenting their learning to each other. We investigated thermal insulators using lard and ice cubes!

In English, we have been focusing on mystery and suspense writing using the intriguing story of 'The Water Tower'. We created monsters that may have been lurking in the water tower and wrote gripping narratives!



Year 6 have also been researching and creating wonderful fact files on the 'Unsinkable Titanic' as part of our 'Frozen Kingdoms' topic.



Computing Club

Each week a group of Year 6 students have been attending a Computing Club at Bloxham School. They have been learning to programme Micro:Bits with the support of older students and successfully made a 'Rock, paper, scissors' game last week.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship has been extra special since the opening of the fantastic hall. The acoustics are splendid and the children have shown great appreciation for the wonderful space. Lent has dominated our meetings. Children and adults have shared what they are doing as well as enjoying stories about Jesus in the wilderness and his arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Year One made a huge number of valued contributions that day, as they have been learning about Palm Sunday in their Religious Education classes. We have also enjoyed stories about The Good Samaritan and Zaccheus the tax collector. Open the Book team have visited us twice and shared plays about Jacob and Esau as well as Jacob's ladder. We are looking forward to their play about

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the Crucifixion, next week. Mr Charlton has led some invigorating singing assemblies which has boosted everyone's spirits. Happy Easter.



Sponsored Read and Book Gifting

A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers that gifted a lovely number of books or supported their children taking part in the 'Sponsored Read'. Over £200 was raised which will be used to purchase books to be enjoyed by your children.

A very special mention must go to Yuvraj in 5S for raising £70 through the enjoyment of reading. For this ambitious effort, Yuvraj has received 50 KBVs (House Points).

Choir

Our school choir performed in a cathedral on Thursday 27th March!! They did so with energy, flair and appropriateness. We had been invited to join the 'Big Spring Sing' at Christ Church, Oxford. We joined 12 other primary schools from across the Diocese to learn more about the work of the charity Christian Aid. All the songs we performed were based on global issues and levels of injustice. Through our words and actions, we all felt empowered to continue to help and improve the plight of others. A huge thank you to all the staff who joined us and also to the great number of parent volunteers who gave up their morning to support us. Thank you!



School Garden

This month, Ms Cruse has had lots of student helpers from across all year groups working together to clear up the school garden, making it ready for new planting. With plenty of teamwork, they have been busy digging out old plants, weeding, and preparing the soil for a fresh start. A special focus has also been given to tidying up the Year 1/2 middle area garden, ensuring it is a welcoming and well-maintained space. Their hard work and dedication are making a real

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difference, and we can't wait to see the garden come to life in the coming months! Thank you Ms Cruse and Helpers!

PE

We have taken part in various sporting events in Feb/March including a T1 Rugby Festival, Hockey Festival and Cross-country County finals – well done to all children who have represented the school so well at these events.

Achievements outside of school

Hockey

Callum and Elliot at the In2Hockey Oxfordshire tournament for the U10s team. The team went 5 games without conceding a single goal winning 3-0 in the final against Henley. They have secured their place in the South of England Regional finals at the end of April.

Also on the team but not shown in picture from Bloxham Primary School were Rory and Lloyd.

