



Bloxham CE Primary School

May 2025 Newsletter

Dear Families

Over the past two and a half years, Bloxham Primary has undergone a real transformation. It's something we feel every day—in the energy in the classrooms, the commitment of our staff, enthusiasm of the children, and the trust and engagement of our families. And it's something you've told us you feel too.

This progress hasn't happened by accident. It's been driven by our values—to be **inclusive, caring, ambitious, trustworthy, creative, and honest**—and by our commitment to really listen to the community we serve, encouraging one another and building each other up.

One area where this is especially evident is in our support for children with special educational needs and disabilities. As part of our inclusive approach, we've introduced a parent SEND support group, creating a safe and welcoming space for families to connect and seek advice. Our Inclusion Manager and staff team have worked hard to ensure pupils who need additional support receive it—this includes significant success in securing EHCPs, and using whole-class teaching strategies that benefit everyone, not just those with identified needs. Inclusion at Bloxham means that every child can access learning, thrive socially, and be seen for who they are.

We've also taken action in response to parental feedback about educational visits. You asked for more trips, and not just local ones. We've listened—and responded by building high-quality experiences directly into our curriculum planning. Years 3–5 visited Kingham Lodge, a rich arts-focused experience in a stunning setting. Years 1 and 2 will soon explore Warwick Castle, bringing their history work to life. And Foundation children recently visited Cotswold Wildlife Park, sparking curiosity about animals and habitats. These aren't just exciting days out—they are carefully chosen to enhance classroom learning and provide lasting memories. Feedback from trip venues regularly praises our pupils for their exemplary behaviour—something that reflects our school culture and the values we live by. Most recently the feedback received from Whitemoor Lakes, set our pupils out from the crowd in terms of their manners, engagement and support for each other.

Listening to our pupils is just as important as listening to parents. This term, we have conducted a whole-school pupil voice audit, giving children the chance to share their lived experiences of

Encourage one another and build each other up.

school life. Their feedback will directly shape how we plan, teach and support moving forward. After all, they are at the heart of everything we do. Supporting their wellbeing is a daily priority: we carry out twice-daily feelings check-ins in every class, creating space for children to reflect, name their emotions, and receive support when they need it. It's one of the many ways we ensure children feel seen, heard and safe at school.

And for families, our efforts to improve communication and inclusion continue: from Open Classrooms to class assemblies, three progress reports per year, residential and celebration assemblies, and music concerts—these are all ways we're strengthening the connection between home and school.

Thank you to our Year One staff for running the phonics session on Wednesday. The slides from this event will be posted on our website in the Parent Portal.

Finally as we embark upon the half term break I'm also delighted to share two important staffing updates which will take effect upon our return. Mr Mathew Singleton will be supporting me as Acting Deputy Headteacher for the next 12 months. His leadership, expertise and deep understanding of our school community will be a huge asset as we continue to build on our momentum. I'm equally pleased to announce that Miss Emma Cruse has been successfully appointed as our Nurture Lead. Her passion and commitment to supporting emotional wellbeing and inclusive practice make her the ideal person to help drive this vital area of our work forward.

None of this progress is by chance. It's the result of a team who go the extra mile every day, families who are engaged and supportive, and children who are inspired to be their best selves.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. We're proud of what we've built together—and even more excited for what lies ahead.

Have a wonderful half term break, we look forward to seeing the children back in school Monday 2 June.

Sarah Marshall

PE kits

A reminder that from September, house colour t shirts for PE will no longer be part of our PE Kit and all pupils will be expected to wear the red and black logo t shirts, available from Cross Embroidery.

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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:

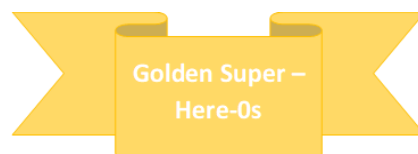
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-highways-team#no-back>

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 May was 93.94%. A massive well done to class **3W** for achieving the highest attendance for a class in May - each student will receive 10 KBVs! Congratulations to Year 6 for the highest attendance in May for a year group at 95.4%

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Our May Super-Here0s are:

Foundation/Keys Stage1: Myla, Rosie, Everley

Key stage 2: Sophia, Nancy-Rae, Lydia

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 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 wild and wonderful term it's been in Foundation Stage!

Our **Animal Safari** topic has taken us on a globe-trotting adventure through jungles, savannahs, and woodlands, while our companion project, **Creep, Wriggle and Crawl**, got us up close with all things tiny and wriggly! From bug hunts to worm digging, the children have shown great curiosity and care in their discoveries.

A real highlight was our trip to **Cotswold Wildlife Park** – the children were a credit to you all! They loved spotting the animals we've been learning about, especially the giraffes, lions, and penguins. Their questions and observations showed just how much they've absorbed this term.

We've also started **practising for Sports Day** – Mr Sorrell was very impressed with how well the children listened and moved between activities with such focus and enthusiasm. We're all looking forward to seeing their teamwork and smiles on the big day.

Phonics Reminder

Don't forget – our **Phonics videos** for each group are available on the **Parent Portal** section of the school website. These are a great way to support your child's learning at home.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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Year 1

This term, our Year 1 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed developing their keyboard skills during computing lessons. They have successfully learned how to log in independently using their secure passwords: a fantastic achievement! In addition, they have been practising typing their names on the laptops, showing great focus and determination. It's wonderful to see their confidence with technology growing each week!

Year 2

Year 2 this term has been full of creativity and exploration!

In writing we have been exploring the story of Paddington Bear having tea with the Queen and the children have been developing their creative language culminating in writing a narrative of the event.

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We have been immersing ourselves in our science topic of animal survival, and what each animal needs in order to thrive. The children really enjoyed going on a minibeast hunt around the school to explore microhabitats and collect data about the different animals that can be found within them.

Through music and computing the children have been learning about rhythm and improvisation. They have really enjoyed experimenting with making music on a computer and have been creating songs to represent different animals.

We have also started exploring the lives and houses of previous kings and queens, thinking like a historian by looking for clues within an artefact or text and using these to develop our thinking. We are looking forward to continuing this topic after half term!



Year 3

This month year 3 have been immersing themselves in nonsense poetry, focussing on the limericks of Edward Lear and the Revolting rhymes of Roald Dahl. The children had the opportunity to read their poetry to other children and Teachers in different year groups and really enjoyed performing them.

They excelled in their cricket taster session and worked really well in their chosen teams, cheering on batters and bowlers and encouraging each other.

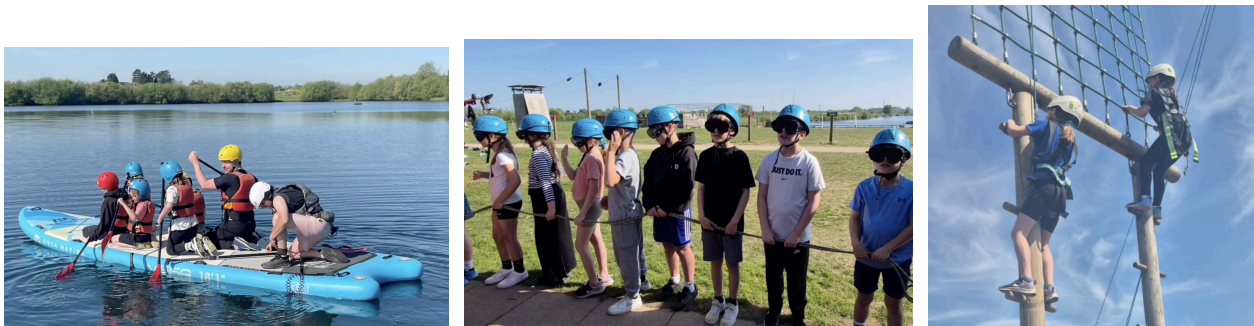
In science we have planted our own sunflowers and looked at functions of parts of a plant which marries up with our art lessons looking at beautiful botanicals. We based our painted flowers on the artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The children really enjoyed expressing themselves in the creativity of the stylised paintings. The trip to Kingham Sculpture Park also inspired us all on all things flora and fauna! We had a great day out.

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Year 4

Year 4 had an exciting time on their recent residential trip! The children embraced new challenges, built teamwork skills, and made lasting memories while enjoying outdoor adventures. From high rope activities and water sports to fun group activities, it was a fantastic opportunity for them to grow in confidence and independence. Well done to all our Year 4s for representing the school so brilliantly!



Year 5

This past month has been full of creativity, energy and discovery in Year 5!

The children have had great fun writing and performing their own Greek myths. From brave heroes to mythical beasts, their storytelling and acting have been truly impressive—we've seen some real stars in the making!

We were also incredibly proud to see the children's sculpture work displayed at Kingham Lodge. Their artistic talents shone brightly, and it was a special moment to have their work exhibited in such a beautiful setting.

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In addition, we've been getting active and beginning to practise for Sports Day. The children have shown fantastic resilience during our athletics sessions—especially while tackling the triple jump! We were all amazed to learn just how far the world record is!

Well done, Year 5, for another brilliant month!



Year 6

Unreservedly, we all praise and congratulate our Year 6 children for the manner in which they approached the SATs, displaying resilience and determination whilst also supporting each other. The aura of calm was reassuring and as each paper was completed, the children emerged looking happy and sounding positive about the experience.

In Science, we have been learning about the 'Circulatory System'. We have researched the role of the circulatory system and this week we have been exploring the function and components of blood. The children made a representative blood sample to explore the different components. The children are looking forward to continuing their learning next term!



In History, we have kick started our new topic 'Maafa' by researching and creating fact files about Africa. In English, We have started our new novel 'Freedom 1783 'by Catherine Johnson. This novel focuses on the life of a boy born into slavery and his journey to London. We have written

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inner monologues and described the settings and atmosphere. The children have approached this topic with curiosity and maturity.

Computing Club

This term, the children have continued to explore software to program the Micro:bit. We have also shared and extended our class learning of creating 3D models using 'Tinkercad'. Mr Harris, Computing Lead at Bloxham School, continues to be impressed by the behaviour, values and expertise shown by the children!

Collective Worship

Children continue to anticipate their daily Collective Worship and participate with greater confidence and impressive knowledge. We have relished our visits from the 'Open the Book' team and clearly the children have valued the chance to build on their learning in order to paint an individual picture of their view. We are extremely grateful to the team from our churches who work hard to perform to us every other week. In continuing to build links with the community, we are excited, on Friday, to build trails of copper (maybe silver too) coins to raise money for Christian Aid.



PE

It's been a busy and exciting month for PE at Bloxham! Children across the school have enjoyed a range of activities, this week classes took part in a Cricket taster session, where pupils had the chance to try out new skills and learn the basics of the game in a fun, engaging way. Our footballers have also been in action, representing the school brilliantly in recent football matches—showing great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. Earlier in the month, some of our Year 2 pupils took part in a Multiskills Festival, enjoying a morning of energetic challenges and team-based games designed to build confidence and coordination. Well done to everyone who took part!

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Kingham Art Trip

Cotswolds Arts through Schools funded a trip for year 3-5 to Kingham Lodge Sculpture park where the Year 5 'Blox Bug Hotel' created last term was on full display at the front gates. We saw bronze leopards, golden partridges, Pop art portraits, flying pig tables and giant wooden apples falling with the blossom off the trees! The children were amazing ambassadors for the school and fully engaged and excited to be there. A huge thankyou to Christopher Stockwell for allowing us to view his fantastic garden and all the sculptures from local schools.



Achievements outside of school

Bloxham football club under 6's Football team played against the Year 2s (Under 7s) and did incredibly well! They took part in three matches against the older teams, gaining valuable experience in preparation for next season.

The children worked brilliantly as a team, showing great determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout. We're so proud of their effort and enthusiasm – well done, Bloxham Football Club!

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