



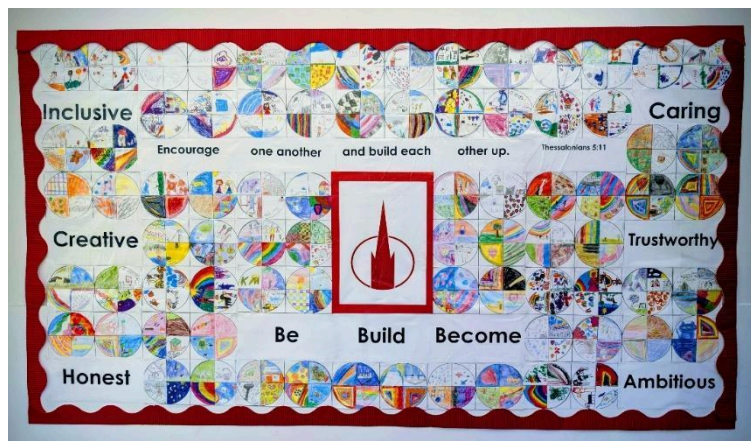
## Bloxham CE Primary School

### September 2025 Newsletter

Dear Families

September has been a wonderfully busy and positive start to the new school year at Bloxham CE Primary. Pupils have returned with great energy, enthusiasm, and smiles, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities and truly are encouraging and building each other up.

This year, we are taking a whole-school focus on our school values, with each term highlighting one in particular. For this first term, our theme is **Inclusion – be diverse, equitable and inclusive**. As part of our start-of-year celebrations, every pupil has been invited to create a unique piece of artwork. These individual contributions have been brought together into a striking whole-school project. Each piece is different, reflecting the unique identity and creativity of every child, while the finished display celebrates the strength and beauty of our diversity. It is a powerful reminder that every pupil brings something special to our school family, and that together we are stronger, richer, and more vibrant.



Looking ahead, our first values day celebrating inclusion, diversity and equality will be held on **Thursday 17th October** to coincide with our **Open Classrooms** event. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to see how our school values are brought to life in learning and daily life.

September also saw our **SIAMS inspection** take place. We expect to receive our report in the next 2–3 weeks. The inspector commented on the wealth of evidence showing how our Christian vision impacts every aspect of school life – so much so that she admitted she wasn't sure how she was going to condense it all into one report! We look forward to sharing the outcome with you as soon as it is available.

**Encourage one another and build each other up.**

As part of our upcoming **Remembrance artwork project**, we are asking every child to bring in two items:

- The base of an empty, clear **2-litre plastic bottle** (prepared as shown in the image), please only send in the base.



- A **stone/pebble/small rock** of around **10cm** in size to make it easier for pupils to decorate.

Following our display of poppies last year on the Courtington Lane green, this year the school will be supported by the Parish Council in the creation of a Remembrance trail. The bottles will be repurposed to create a special display around the village, giving pupils the chance to reflect on **recycling and sustainability** as well as remembrance. The stones will also form part of the artwork and allow every child to make their own creative contribution.

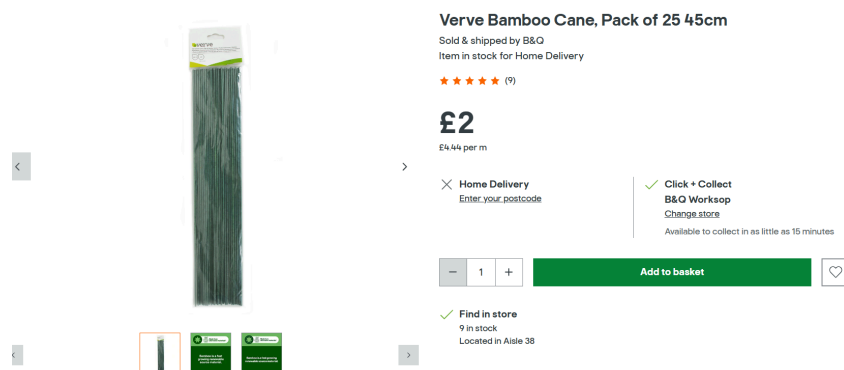
We would be very grateful for your support in helping to prepare these items at home and sending them in with your child. Work will begin on our Remembrance projects next week, with the art projects commencing from 6 October. Please send your child's resources in a sealed plastic bag labelled with their name and class. Thank you.

We have planned to supplement the art work with pupils' poetry, created as part of this coming Thursday's National Poetry Day.



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As part of the display, we would also be grateful for any donations of green garden canes.



Alongside these exciting developments, we would also like to remind families of our **morning protocols and site safety measures** to help keep the start of the day calm and secure:

- **Entry and Exit:** Entry is via both gates. Morning exit is **only** via the firetrack between the main school and the Foundation Unit.
- **Lining Up:** At **8:40am**, the whistle/handbell will sound and pupils should form orderly lines. At this point, we kindly ask parents to step back from the lines and begin to leave the playground. We know it can feel hard to walk away if your child is having a wobbly start, but experience shows that children settle much more quickly when routines are consistent and there are no prolonged goodbyes.
- **Before School:** No ball games are to be played before school.
- **Parents Leaving the Playground:** Please do not cross through the class lines when exiting, it is important that the children move swiftly and safely to class.
- **Speaking with Teachers:** Once the whistle has blown, class teachers need to focus on settling pupils. If you need to pass on a message, please email the office or provide a handwritten note to your child's teacher. We ask parents to be respectful of this to avoid the need for staff to have to close conversations.
- **Staff Presence:** Senior leaders and nurture staff are on the gates or in the playground each day from 8:30am to welcome children and support families.
- **Parking and Car Park Safety:** Parent parking in the school car park is not generally permitted. To support the safety of both main school and preschool pupils, no vehicles (other than the school bus) may move, enter, or exit between **8:30 and 9:00am**. The car park gates will be closed during this time, and we kindly ask parents not to open them. We also ask parents not to park in the entrance and exit ways, this blocks access for emergency vehicles and limits vision splays.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe, calm and positive start to every day.

**Sarah Marshall**

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## PE kits

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



## Healthy Snacks & Water

Please remember that we are a **nut-free school** – no nuts or nut products should be brought in. Drinks should be **water only** (no squash, juice, or fizzy drinks). Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe and healthy.

## Parking in residential areas

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](mailto: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](mailto:attendance@bloxham-pri.oxon.sch.uk). We would be grateful if you could include your child's symptoms in any message that you leave.



## Golden Super – Here-0s

### Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during September was 94.48%. A massive well done to class **FAD** for achieving the highest attendance for a class in September - each student will receive 10 KBVs! Congratulations to Foundation Stage for the highest attendance in September for a year group at 97.15%

Our September SuperHere0s are:

Foundation/Keys Stage1: Charlotte, Rupert, Taya

Key stage 2: Hendrix, Arabella, Teddy

### School Website

We encourage you to regularly visit our school website, particularly the **School Calendar**, for important dates throughout the school year, as well as the **Class** and **Curriculum** pages.

Please also explore the **Community News** section, which highlights events and activities happening in the local area.

Additionally, our school website features a secure, password-protected **Parent Portal** within the *Parents and Carers* section. This dedicated space provides access to key curriculum information and phonics videos.



### Teacher News

We're excited to share some lovely news from our school community! Miss Avis, one of our wonderful KS1 teachers, has tied the knot with our former colleague Mr. Barton — they are now officially Mr. and Mrs. Barton! Please join us in sending them lots of love and best wishes for their happily ever after.

### STEM Assembly Opportunity

We would love to invite any parents who work in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics to come and run an assembly for our pupils. This would be a wonderful opportunity to showcase your profession and inspire the children by making them aware of the wide range of job opportunities available in different STEM fields. If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with the school office—we would be delighted to hear from you!

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## Foundation Stage

Foundation have had a fantastic first few weeks of school.

Through our learning focus of 'Let's Explore' we have had the opportunity to visit lots of areas of our school, get to know our new friends and adults and begin learning new routines.

We have been on nature walks, planned our journeys to school and found our houses on Google Earth. We've loved new activities such as PE and taking our learning outside to explore our senses in nature as the seasons change.

We have started our Reading and Writing journey and made a strong start learning sounds in our daily phonics lessons.

Towards the end of this half term, we will learn more about Harvest time and link this to some lovely art and cooking activities.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new environment and have loved getting to know them all. Well done everybody!



## Key Stage 1

We are so proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes and into a whole new way of learning this term. They have amazed us with how quickly they've picked up routines, knowing exactly where to be and when, and they now need almost no reminders!

To make things fun (and easy to remember), we've named our English and Maths tutor groups after animals: Leopards and Zebras in Year 1, and Lions and Tigers in Year 2. A quick animal call, and the children are straight to the right place, it's working brilliantly.

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The children have really thrown themselves into their new Phonics groups and we're already seeing lots of progress. In English, we've all been enjoying the beautiful story *Stardust* by Jeanne Willis. Year 2 have been busy crafting their own creative narratives, while Year 1 are working towards a very special project: a book for our school library titled *We Are Year 1 and We Are Made of Stardust*. We can't wait to share it with you.

In Maths, Year 1 have been revisiting their number knowledge within ten and have started to use the symbols for greater than, less than, and equal to. Year 2 have been securing their understanding of numbers to 100, and they've been wonderful at supporting Year 1 children outside of Maths lessons, helping to grow their confidence and celebrate success together.

Our History learning has introduced us to some incredible people from the past, including Rosa Parks, Neil Armstrong, Vincent van Gogh, and Emmeline Pankhurst. The children impressed us with how much knowledge they already had. Thank you for all the conversations happening at home.

In PSHE, we've been focusing on celebrating who we are, as individuals and as part of our community. The children have shared so much about themselves and each other, building a real sense of belonging.

Art lessons have been a riot of colour. We've explored how artists use colour differently, experimented with potato printing to mix primary and secondary colours, and used watercolours to create our own versions of Kandinsky's *Circles*. In Music, Mrs Barton has led us into the world of rhythm and timbre with the drums — a real favourite! Outdoor PE has been full of energy, with carousel stations for ball skills (with Mrs Gunning), rope-skipping (with Mr A), and a mini PT bootcamp (with Mrs Barton — sorry if you've had some tired children afterwards!). Thankfully, balance has come in the form of Yoga sessions, which the children have absolutely loved as a calm end to their busy days.

Our Science topic has been all about Human Survival. The children have learned about the jobs of our major body parts, what it takes to stay healthy and full of energy, and the stages of the human life cycle.

And of course, we've squeezed in plenty of stories and storytelling just for the joy of it. The children's enthusiasm for spontaneous singing is infectious — they're regularly asking when the next singing assembly will be!

We would like to kindly remind you that children need to bring their reading pouches into school every day, but especially on Fridays when we visit the library to change books, swap their Phonics readers and take home their new spellings to practise at home. Thank you for supporting this important routine.

Finally, a gentle note about morning drop-off. We know it can be hard, but we ask that parents begin to work towards leaving children in the line in the mornings. When adults gather too closely, it becomes tricky for us to see all the children clearly. The children are already settling in so well, and with a little time and consistency we know they'll take to this just as brilliantly as they have everything else.

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It's been a truly wonderful start to the year, and we can't wait to see all the progress, creativity, and joy that the rest of the term will bring. Thank you, as always, for your support at home.

Warm regards,  
The KS1 Team

### **Year 3**

Year 3 have been transported back in time to the Stone Age for their *Through the Ages* topic. In English they are completing a letter written by the *Stone age boy* to his parents describing what life is like for a child during this time in history when the first people inhabited the Earth. They have been fully immersed in all things Neolithic, Paleolithic and Mesolithic; acting out different jobs and activities a Stone age person would have. In History, we have been drawing and labelling the weapons and tools that were commonly used to survive and thrive all those thousands of years ago.

In art, we have been designing and sketching our own Bell Beaker pots with interesting and intricate patterns. These will be developed into a 3-D clay version next week.

In science, our overall topic is animal nutrition and the skeletal system. We have been looking at a healthy and balanced diet and the different food groups and enjoyed as a whole class working out which category each food belonged to.

We have been really impressed with how positive and enthusiastic the children have been and their willingness to try their best.

### **Year 4**

Year 4 have truly embraced the text '*Beowulf*' by Michael Morpurgo. They have developed their understanding of a battle scene between the hero and adversary through drama leading to the generation of rich language and descriptive sentences. Miss Aina and Miss Staples are thoroughly enjoying reading their dramatic action scenes. We are so pleased with how committed the children have been to the piece and their efforts to include the features they have learned about and experimented with in the build up to their independent writing.

The children have enjoyed exploring colour mixing and have begun to create a final piece which is being built up in layers with the final detail being added next week. They have also listened to a poem called '*The Ruin*' as part of their History learning related to *Invasion*, then responded to it through the painting of a water colour scene.

Our Year 4 cohort are already showing ambition and creativity in their learning. Just wonderful!

### **Year 5**

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed diving into *The Iron Man* during their English lessons this term. The children have shown incredible enthusiasm for the story, particularly when writing character descriptions using expanded noun phrases to bring the Iron Man and other characters to life.

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They've also impressed us with their creativity and attention to detail by writing their own versions of the final chapter — and what fantastic imaginations they have!

In Science, our focus has been on Forces, and the children have been just as engaged. They've explored the concept of gravitational force through hands-on experiments with water bottles and used force meters to investigate the mass and weight of different objects. It's been wonderful to see their curiosity and scientific thinking in action.

In RE, the children have embraced new learning about Islam whilst comparing the religion to Christianity. They have identified the meaning of a Prophet and learned the names of some who are mentioned in the Qu'ran.

We're so proud of the effort, excitement, and excellent work the children have shown across all subjects.

## **Year 6**

Year 6 has had a fantastic start to the new academic year! The children have embraced the challenges of their learning with enthusiasm and determination, already setting a strong example for the rest of the school in both their academic efforts and their behaviour around the school. They've also taken time to focus on mindfulness and wellbeing, as shown in this peaceful yoga session. With many more exciting challenges and opportunities ahead, we're confident that Year 6 will continue to rise to the occasion and make this year truly memorable.



In Science, Year 6 have been learning about evolution and inheritance. We explored how living things change over time and how characteristics are passed on, which helped us to write our own non-chronological reports about Charles Darwin and his incredible adventures aboard the HMS Beagle. Linking with our theme, in Art, we studied some fascinating creatures closely and produced some amazing observational sketches, capturing their delicate patterns and details. It's been a brilliant chance to combine Science, English, and Art — and to see how curiosity and creativity go hand in hand!

## **Geography After-school Club**

Our Year 6 Geography Club has been busy exploring the great outdoors and discovering more about the world right on our doorstep! We've been getting to know our surroundings; becoming real 'Hedgerow Heroes' by spotting different types of plants and hunting for bugs. We're

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especially excited about our upcoming sessions where we'll learn how drones can be used to survey fields — and we'll even get the chance to fly one ourselves! Later in the term, Bloxham School pupils will be planting 30 trees. Each tree will be named after one of the geography club members, so we'll always have a special connection to them as they grow alongside us.

## PE

It has been a busy and exciting start to the term in PE! In lessons, children have been enjoying a wide range of activities including yoga, rugby, ball skills, and football. Year 3 and Year 6 have also been attending swimming lessons and making great progress in the pool.



This week, some of our pupils took part in the Cross Country event at the Warriner school and did an amazing job – showing determination, resilience, and team spirit throughout. A special mention goes to our Year 3/4 Boys who finished in an incredible 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place, to Millie for coming 3rd in the Year 3/4 Girls' race, Sophia for coming 3rd in the Year 5/6 Girls' race and to Elliott in Year 5 who outpaced the pacer to win the Year 5/6 race – fantastic achievements, well done! Further results to follow.

We are also delighted to announce that each class has now chosen their Sports Representatives. These pupils will help promote sport and physical activity across the school and support with organising events.

It's wonderful to see everyone keeping active and embracing new challenges!

N.b. If your child is taking a part in a sport event that is during the school day this year (where we take the children to the event and bring them back to the school) we will not be asking for permission as it will be classed as part of their school day.

Sport Events that require parent collection or drop off will still require permission.

## Pupil Parliament



Elections for our new Pupil Parliament will be taking place on Monday 29th September. Pupils who are standing for election have been busy preparing their campaign posters, which are now on display around the school. It's great to see such creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment from our candidates as they share their ideas for making our school an even better place.

We look forward to finding out who will be elected to represent their classmates and help give pupils a strong voice in school life.

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