



Bloxham CE Primary School

November 2025 Newsletter

Dear Families,

We began a busy November with our Poppy Trail, which saw the pupils' poems and artwork displayed around the village as part of our Remembrance reflections. This was closely followed by our Fireworks Night, which was a fantastic community event. A huge thank you to FoBPS, our dedicated staff team, and all parents and carers who helped, attended, or supported in any way.

November has also seen us take some quality time to think about Anti-Bullying, beginning with a colourful celebration of individuality on Odd Socks Day and concluding with Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and supported the event. Together we raised £655 from the bake sale and non-uniform for Children in Need. This special day also coincided with our second Values Day, focused on our theme of Caring.

The breakdown for the School Houses is as follows:

Archimedes: £225 Brunel: £181 Keller: £135 Kahlo: £114

Our pupils have, as ever, been busy sharing their learning, too. Year 6 led a brilliant class assembly where they showcased their topic work to parents and Keystage 2 including some fantastic artwork, and highlights from their trip to Holdenby House. This month Year 3 and Year 5 have also enjoyed enriching educational visits. Year 5 explored artefacts from the Shang Dynasty during their wonderful trip to Compton Verney whilst Year 3 travelled back to the Stone Age and had a marvellous day bringing their learning to life.

In Collective Worship, our Monday worships continue to link closely to our school value themes. This half term we have been thinking specifically about caring for the environment, including appointing class monitors to help take responsibility for our school grounds and ensure that any discarded property finds its way back to the right place or owner.

As we look ahead to December and to sharing a joyful festive season together, please keep an eye on your emails for full details of upcoming events. These include: 11th Christmas Jumper/Lunch during the day & Movies and Munchies after school, 12th Santa Fun Run in support of Katharine House Hospice, 16th Nativity Performances - enjoy the retelling of the Christmas Story with our youngest pupils, 19th December Carol Service, and Early close at 1.15pm.

Thank you, and best wishes for a joyful December

Sarah Marshall

Encourage one another and build each other up.

A Huge Thank You to Wyatts Nursery & Farm Shop

We are delighted to share that our beautiful school Christmas tree has been generously donated this year by Wyatts Nursery and Farm Shop. We are incredibly grateful for their kindness and for choosing to partner with our school and wider community.



Wyatts is a much-loved local business with two wonderful sites — Wyatts Garden Centre & Farm Shop in Great Rollright and Bloxham Nursery on Ells Lane. Both offer an excellent range of seasonal plants, Christmas trees, wreaths, gifts, local produce and festive treats.



If you're looking for Christmas trees, decorations, gifts, or simply a cosy place to stop for coffee and cake, why don't you pop in, or treat yourself and join them this weekend for their festive tasting weekend.

Supporting local businesses helps keep our community thriving.

A heartfelt *thank you* once again to Wyatts for their thoughtful donation and for helping make Christmas at Bloxham CE Primary feel extra special this year.

Swimming – Statutory Curriculum Requirement

We are increasingly finding that some pupils are arriving without swimming kits or indicating that they do not wish to take part in their class swimming lessons. We would like to remind families that swimming and water safety are a compulsory part of the National Curriculum for PE in primary schools. This statutory requirement cannot be withdrawn from, except in cases of medical need supported by a doctor's note.

Swimming is a vital life skill. In the UK, around 400 accidental drownings occur each year, and national data shows that many incidents involve children and young people who were unable to swim confidently or understand water safety. Ensuring every child receives swimming instruction is one of the most important ways we can keep them safe beyond school.

If a child forgets or does not bring their kit, they will still walk with their class to the pool and will be expected to watch the lesson and record the key learning points. This ensures continuity of learning and maintains the importance of this statutory curriculum area.

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We thank parents and carers for supporting us in keeping pupils safe and meeting national expectations.

PE KIT from January

After the Christmas break we will be returning to our policy of pupils arriving dressed for PE on PE days - please check with class teachers if you are uncertain on which days your child's class has PE. This will enable the children to enjoy the maximum learning time improving their skills. Please note that the school PE kit must be worn for these sessions and footwear should be designed for sport and not fashion.

For PE all children need:

- Plain black tracksuit bottoms/shorts/skorts/leggings (weather dependent)
- School red and black PE T-shirt
- Trainers
- Plain black or red fleece/zip-up jacket
- Year 5 and 6 need mouth guards and shin pads for certain activities

The only logo to be displayed is the school logo, other branded items are both unsuitable for PE or school generally.



Safeguarding Update – November

As we move further into the colder and darker months, we'd like to share a few safeguarding reminders to help keep all children safe and well.

Please support your child in arriving on time each day. A calm and prompt start helps them feel settled and ready to learn.

Please also ensure your child is collected on time and knows who is picking them up. If your child walks home, talk to them about staying visible and walking with friends where possible. If there are any changes to who is collecting your child, please let the school office know as soon as possible. Children should only be collected by authorised adults, and clear communication helps us keep everyone safe.

Please continue to be vigilant around busy roads, car parks, and darker areas near the school site.

If you ever have a safeguarding concern or need advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school's safeguarding team.

Communication Update - Parent Hub

From the start of next term, we will be using **Parent Hub** — our new platform for sharing school news and information with families. Parent Hub is a free app designed to help you stay connected and up to date with everything happening in school.

What will Parent Hub replace?

Initially, Parent Hub will replace **email bulletins and text messages**. This will allow us to communicate more efficiently and keep everything in one place.

What about newsletters, Threads, and Facebook?

- Our newsletters will continue as usual for now.
- **Threads and Facebook** will remain our community platforms, where we will continue to share celebrations, updates, and highlights from across the school.

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Further information, including how to download the app and connect to your child's class, will follow on a separate email but in the meantime, you are welcome to download and get acquainted with the app using the links below and the handle **@BloxhamPrimary**



<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/parent-hub/id1048152859?mt=8>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.parenthub&hl=en_GB

School Website

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

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, knowledge organisers, Nativity songs and Phonics videos.

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

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.

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 November was 93.9%. A massive well done to class **4ZA** for achieving the highest attendance for a class in November - each student will receive 10 KBVs! Congratulations to Year 4 for the highest attendance in November for a year group at 95.8%

Our November SuperHere0s are:

Foundation/Keys Stage 1: Myla, Tyler, Harper, Matilda

Key stage 2: Max, Isla, Beatrix, Finn

Foundation Stage

Foundation have had a fantastic few weeks learning all about Marvellous Machines, technology and vehicles from the past and present day. We have compared similarities and differences, discussed what we use in our own homes and have loved guessing what some fantastic old machines were used for!

We have begun to look at robots and have enjoyed reading a range of stories linked to them such as Nobot the Robot, Harry and the Robots and The Robot and the Bluebird. We have designed, discussed and created our own models and robots using a range of resources.

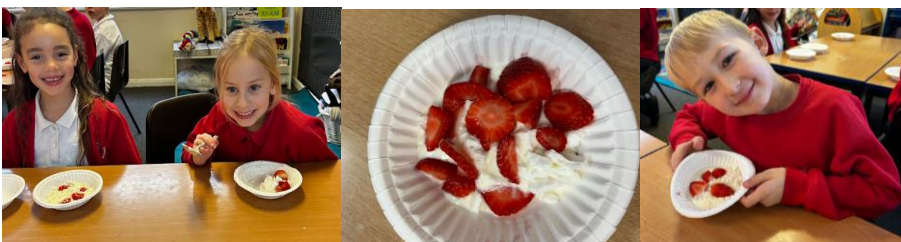
In PE, we have continued to develop our dance skills, we have been moving creatively and collaboratively to music and in pattern.

We have also had a wonderful Forest School Day with Hanna, our Forest School teacher. We all got to use a saw, explore the forest area and develop fundamental turn taking and communication skills in the most beautiful setting, we are already looking forward to our next session.



Key Stage 1

KS1 have been exploring the world of recipes this week, learning what they are, why we use them, and how they help us follow clear, step-by-step instructions. To put their learning into action, everyone followed a recipe to make their very own Eton Mess. It was a wonderful hands-on way to see just how useful recipes can be.



Our incredible Year 2 *mathmagicians* have been busy taking on a very important role this week... becoming teachers! Stepping confidently into Mrs Barton's seat, the children worked together to spot and explain any "marvellous misconceptions" in our maths learning. They took great pride in teaching the class how to use the column method to subtract a one-digit number from a two-digit number, carefully guiding their classmates and showing brilliant mathematical reasoning. We were so impressed with their teamwork and confidence!

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Year 3

What a busy November for Year 3, starting with our trip to Earth Trust near Didcot, where we took part in Stone Age related activities for our History topic. The children handled artefacts, practised starting a fire and doing cave paintings on the floor. We also went on a walk up 'the clumps' and built dens in the woods, trying to make them secure and waterproof. Thank you to all the parents who gave up their time to come and support us on this trip. We all had an amazing but exhausting time!



In Science, we have continued to find out about the human skeletal system, learning why we have a skeleton and joints and how hard it would be without joints.

We have also been preparing our Year 3 Assembly for next week, reflecting on what we have learnt and how we will present this to our parents and practising to read in a clear voice in front of others.



Inclusion with Frank Wise



Our inclusion lessons in 3HK have been focussing on calendar events happening this term. We made firework drawings, played the drums, sang Christmas songs and had a game of pass the parcel. We look forward to welcoming them back in Term 3.

Year 4

What a Terrific Term Two! Once again, the children have immersed themselves in texts that provide the inspiration for writing. Not just one but two! The Gut Garden with its fictional features to add a twist to a traditional Non-Fiction Text inspired the children to write very well thought out chronological reports about the Digestive System. This allowed them to retrieve and apply their Science learning from Term 1. The Saga of Erik The Viking has been the class text for a few weeks. The children have enjoyed responding to this text using their Reciprocal Reading skills and this week, the writing cycle began with a drama activity and the creation of a sound scape with percussion instruments. Much excitement and a genuine emotional response to the storm the children were acting out was just wonderful to see! Miss Aina and Miss Staples cannot wait to see the writing the children produce.



The children also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the magical activities they were involved in for the 'Magical Maths' workshop. The children have worked hard to consolidate their understanding of how to apply strategies to problem solve and to find and compare area of shapes.





And finally...

The creativity of the Year 4 cohort is now displayed, showcasing emotive descriptive writing about The Sea Hag from Beowulf and the children's wonderful woven wall hangings.



Year 5

We had a very exciting trip to Compton Verney this month to support our learning about the Shang Dynasty. The children explored the Bronze Collection in the gallery, taking a close look at a range of fascinating artefacts from the period. A particular highlight was having the opportunity to handle genuine 3,000-year-old bronze objects — with great care, of course! The children wore gloves and followed careful instructions to ensure the ancient bronzes were protected. After lunch, the class took part in a hands-on workshop where they created their own *dings*, traditional Chinese cooking vessels used during the Shang Dynasty. It was a memorable experience that brought our History topic to life.



This month in English, the children have thoroughly enjoyed studying the picture book *The Arrival*. Through detailed exploration of the illustrations, they have used their inference skills to uncover the emotions and experiences of the characters. We have also focused on developing our grammar skills, learning how to use relative clauses effectively and incorporating them into our descriptive writing. In addition, the children have practised writing direct dialogue, carefully applying accurate speech marks and punctuation. Their enthusiasm and engagement with the text have been wonderful to see.

In Maths, we have been working hard to develop our fluency skills, and it has been wonderful to see the children becoming increasingly confident with their arithmetic — such an important foundation for all areas of maths. This month, we secured our understanding of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000, applying place value knowledge to solve problems accurately. We have now moved on to our Fractions unit, where the children are beginning to explore new concepts with enthusiasm and growing confidence.

In Science, we have started our new Earth and Space topic, which has been incredibly exciting for the whole class. The children have enjoyed learning a range of fascinating facts about the solar system and have even created their own mnemonics to help remember the order of the planets. One of the highlights was making a scale model of the solar system using fruits, which gave the children a brilliant visual understanding of the relative sizes of the planets and the vast distances between them. It has been a hands-on and memorable start to the unit, sparking lots of curiosity and discussion.



In RE, we have continued exploring our Islam topic, focusing on the importance of mosques within the Muslim community and the key role they play in worship and daily life. The children have also deepened their understanding of the Five Pillars, discussing why each pillar is significant and how they guide the beliefs and actions of Muslims. They have shown great respect and curiosity throughout our lessons, contributing thoughtful ideas and questions.

Year 6

Year 6 have had an exciting and enriching few weeks of learning! We were delighted to welcome volunteers from Bloxham Museum, who brought in a fascinating range of war artefacts to support our History topic. The children were captivated by the objects and thoroughly enjoyed hearing expert knowledge about our local wartime history.

As part of our STEM learning, we also took part in a brilliant workshop with Jaguar Land Rover focused on electric vehicles. The children learned how electric cars work, explored the engineering behind them, and even had the opportunity to design and build their own model. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that sparked lots of curiosity and creativity.



In Science, the children have been exploring how light travels, taking part in practical investigations that helped them observe and understand key scientific concepts.

In English, we have begun our new class text, *When The Sky Falls*, which links with our History topic. The children are already immersing themselves in the story, developing their skills in character inference and setting description as we delve deeper into the narrative.

Remembrance

Our House Captains represented the school with pride at the village Remembrance Service, laying a wreath on behalf of the whole school community. We were also delighted to see so

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many of our pupils taking part in the parade through their involvement in local groups such as Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and the Boys' Brigade.

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Poppy Appeal in school, and to Mr Charlton and Mrs Swan for attending the service with our pupils.



Our Bloxham Remembrance Trail

Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit our Bloxham Remembrance Trail, featuring pupils' poems and artwork on community notice boards around the village. We hope you enjoyed seeing the children's thoughtful work. If you captured any photos while the trail was in place, we'd be delighted to see them — please do send them to the school office.



Bloxham Values Caring Day and Children in Need

Last Friday, we celebrated our termly Values Day, with this term's focus on *Caring*. Linked to Children in Need, the day included a vibrant *Dress to Express* non-uniform theme and a hugely successful cake sale — run enthusiastically by our House Captains and Pupil Parliament — which raised **£655** for the charity. Children took part in classroom activities exploring kindness, empathy, and how small acts of caring can make a big difference. It was a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to come together and live out our value of Caring in meaningful ways. A huge thank you to all who brought in cakes and donated so generously — your support is truly appreciated!

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FoBPS - Friends of Bloxham Primary School

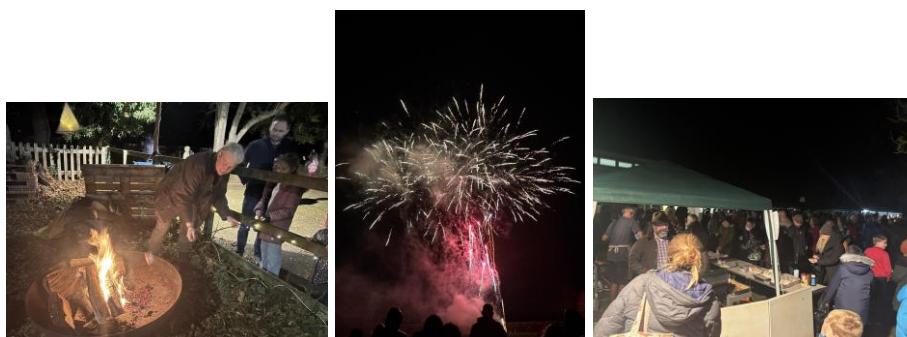
Thanks to all those families and school staff who supported and attended the fireworks night and also to those who generously gave up their time to volunteer, help to organise and run the successful event. The borrowed gazebos were very much appreciated and needed! Also thank you to Lyndsey Simmons for the donation of the burger and hotdog rolls once again.

We welcomed many of you through the gates, sold a lot of burgers and sausages from Wykham Farm Shop and from the overall event we made just over £2,000 profit! As soon as a project is confirmed we shall let you know what the money will be spent on.

To all those wondering, the bear has a new home with Anna in year 3 and his name is Benjamin. He is already VERY loved!

Our next event will be the Christmas Present Room. If you have any wrapping paper you may wish to donate, please drop this to the school office by Friday 5th December or contact us. Last year some people were interested in funding the Present Room. If you have a company, or are part of one, that may be able to offer this, please email us at fobps@mail.com

We always welcome new members! If anyone would like to get involved either by sharing ideas or volunteering at events, all help is gratefully received. You can contact us at fobps@mail.com



Forest After-school Club Update

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Autumn half term of growing wild in the woods!

One of the nicest times of year to be under the trees. We used palm drills on lots of conkers and threaded them for a conker tournament. We discovered that wild crabapples are edible and some of us even liked them! We made a cage for leaves which will now take a year or more to slowly turn into leaf mulch. We planted tree seeds and created a seed store of 4 different varieties. We will check in the spring to see what's sprouting and get them planted into pots and eventually the ground. We created a leafy hibernacula for the hedgehogs behind our pallet bug hotel. There's been lots of tree climbing this block. There has been some fabulous den building with creative ideas for the internal space and some got some leafy insulation to keep them warmer. We even managed to make a proper bushcraft leaf shelter. There's been an awful lot of mud pie making too with lots of seasonal nuts and berries.

Everyone picked up their fire skills so quickly this term and Snacks from the fire have included toasted garlic ciabatta, hot chocolate, pop corn, and apple pancakes.

