



Bloxham CE Primary School

December 2025 Newsletter

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to pause, reflect, and offer my heartfelt thanks to our whole school community. Throughout 2025, our newsletters have showcased just how much our pupils, staff and families have achieved together. From ambitious curriculum developments and memorable trips to community celebrations and enrichment opportunities, it has been a year full of growth, joy and purpose. The common thread across every month has been our vision to **"Encourage one another and build each other up"** — and the children have done just that.

Often in schools we reflect on the academic year, but for a change, let's reflect on the calendar year and celebrate the successes of 2025. What a year it has been at Bloxham CE Primary!

Across the year, every class has embraced rich learning experiences, creative projects, memorable trips and opportunities to shine. From January's exciting new curriculum journeys — including *Bright Lights*, *Big City*, *Rocks, Relics and Rumbles*, *Long Ago* and *Frozen Kingdoms* — to the spring and summer terms filled with Science Week, creative arts, poetry, outdoor learning and whole-school events, our children have shown curiosity, ambition and a real love of learning.

Early in the year, pupils enjoyed inspiring visitors such as Paralympian Harry Baker and hands-on experiences including Junior Citizen for Year 6, RNLI workshops for Year 2, Symphony Hall for Year 3, and residential for Years 4, 5 and 6.

As spring arrived, the school garden, allotment and environmental projects flourished, with children planting, caring for living things and learning how to make a positive impact on their world.

Summer brought achievements in sport, creativity and the arts, including Kingham Lodge exhibitions and superb sporting successes across a range of festivals.

This autumn, our learning has continued to be rich and purposeful. Children have explored themes of inclusion and caring through diverse stories, Values Days, Black History Week, creative pledges, and environmental responsibility. Year 6 classes and Year 5 Pupil Parliament representatives took part in Learn with the Lords, a House of Lords Q&A with Baroness Scott, where they asked thoughtful questions and showed genuine appreciation for the opportunity, deepening their understanding of democracy and the role of the House of Lords within Parliament.

Further afield our educational visits across the school have brought learning vividly to life, with Year 3's exploration of prehistoric life in their Stone Age immersion day and Year 5's visit to Compton Verney where they had the opportunity to handle Shang Dynasty artefacts.

Encourage one another and build each other up.

Our residential programme has also continued to be a real highlight of the year: Year 4 at Whitemoor Lakes, Year 5 at Whitemoor Lakes earlier in the spring, and Year 6 completing their memorable week at Kilvrough. These experiences play a significant part in developing our pupils' independence, teamwork and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of how they represented the school.

Across 2025, our pupils have lived out our school vision and our iCATCH values with pride. Their achievements, big and small, have shaped a year we can all feel incredibly proud of. This term our collective worship theme has been caring, explored through stories from a range of religions and worldviews. The children have reflected on caring for our environment, caring for each other, and caring for animals, and have considered the part they can each play in making the world kinder and more hopeful.

December has, as ever, brought a wonderful sense of joy to school, rounding off the year in true festive spirit. Every class has thrown themselves into creating decorations for the tree and decorating their classroom doors for Christmas – our third year of this joyful, creative display of teamwork and imagination that has filled our corridors with sparkle and excitement. We were delighted that Mr Coles agreed to take on the tricky role of judge. He awarded third place to KS1 CA, second place to 3DS, and congratulations to 6GH as the overall winners - well done to everyone!



Be . Build . Become

Other festive events have included the Santa Fun Run for Katharine House Hospice, FoBPS Present Wrap, Non-Uniform Day, Movies & Munchies, Christmas Dinner Day and our EYFS and KS1 Performances and of course we look forward to Friday's traditional KS2 Carol Service, to round off our term. A huge thank you to our school staff for the energy they put into these events to ensure they are memorable for children and families alike.

This Christmas we also say a warm but heartfelt farewell to Diane Seaman, our long-serving cleaner, who retires after many years of dedicated service. Diane has helped keep our school clean, safe and welcoming, and we offer her our sincere thanks and very best wishes for a happy, healthy and well-earned retirement.

Our school thrives because of our strong community, the strong relationships between children, staff and families, and the shared belief that every child can *Be, Build and Become* their very best.

I wish every family a peaceful, hopeful and relaxing Christmas break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

**A reminder that school finishes at 1:15pm, Friday 19th December.
The school bus will also collect and drop off early to match the earlier finish time.**

With warmest wishes,
Sarah Marshall

Safeguarding Reminder

As we approach Christmas, a time often filled with family, warmth, and celebration, it is important to remember that for some children this can also be a period of anxiety or difficulty. While it feels deeply sad to acknowledge, Christmas is not joyful for every child. For a small number, it can be a time they fear — particularly when the adults they should be able to trust may not always act in ways that keep them safe.

Situations such as increased alcohol consumption, changes to normal routines, busy gatherings, or contact with extended family and friends can sometimes place additional pressures on children. For some, these circumstances can heighten vulnerability, reduce supervision, or create opportunities for unsafe behaviour by adults who misuse their position or fail to recognise the impact of their actions.

As a school, we hold the welfare of every child at the heart of all that we do. We know our families share this commitment, and we offer the following guidance with the utmost care and sensitivity:

Please be mindful of signs that your child may be finding things difficult, such as:

- becoming unusually withdrawn or anxious
- changes in eating or sleeping
- reluctance to be around particular people or attend certain events
- sudden shifts in mood or behaviour
- expressing worries that seem out of character

Be . Build . Become

These signs do not always indicate harm, but they are important opportunities to pause, listen, and gently check in.

We also recognise that **this time of year can raise uncomfortable memories or emotions for adults** too. If Christmas brings up difficult feelings, past experiences, or a sense of strain, please remember that support is available for you as well. Reaching out for help is a sign of strength, not weakness, and there are services ready to listen, without judgement.

Support available locally and nationally:

- **Oxfordshire MASH:** 0345 050 7666
- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000
- **Childline:** 0800 1111
- **Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline:** 0800 731 0055
- **Banbury Foodbank & Community Support Services** 01295 661304
- **Samaritans:** 116 123

Changes to First Aid notifications

We are changing our procedures for notifying families of first aid injuries and head bumps. All notifications will now be sent as emails via Arbor. Head bump notifications will be sent as soon as the injury is logged, and a phone call will only be made if we feel your child is deteriorating and would benefit from leaving school early. All general first aid notifications will be sent at the close of the day via email.



Attendance

Overall attendance across the whole school during December was 93.5% A massive well done to class 5CJ at 96.7% for achieving the highest attendance for a class in December - each student will receive 10 KBVs! Congratulations to Foundation Stage for the highest attendance in December for a year group at 96.3%

Our December SuperHere0s are:

Foundation/Keys Stage 1: Ezra, Polly, Betsy

Key stage 2: Theo, Harry, Orla

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.

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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.



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.

Initially, Parent Hub will replace email bulletins and text messages. This will allow us to communicate more efficiently and keep everything in one place. Messages specific to individual children (for example, celebration assemblies and first aid notifications) will continue to be sent via email for the time being.

All parents should now have now been sent an email with further information on how to download and access this. Please notify the School Office if you are having difficulties.

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.

<https://www.facebook.com/bloxhamprimaryschool>

<https://www.threads.com/@bloxhamprimaryschool>



Santa Float - message from FoBPS

This Sunday (21st) we need your help! 🏃

The fantastic Banbury Cross Round Table Santa Float will be in Bloxham and we have been allocated the job of fundraising.

We need as many people as possible running ahead of the float collecting donations from the kind people of Bloxham. The Primary School will be allocated 60% of donations from our route, with 40% being allocated to great local causes.

We can't do this without your help. Grab your best trainers and meet us on the corner of Chipperfield Park Road at 6pm on Sunday evening!