Bloxham CE Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter

This term, our whole-school value has been "be trustworthy", and it has been a real pleasure to see this lived out in such genuine ways across the school. From classrooms to the playground, pupils have been showing honesty, kindness and responsibility, building strong relationships and supporting one another to succeed. It is these everyday moments that make Bloxham such a special place, and we are incredibly proud of the way your children look after each other and take pride in their school.

At the start of the term, we were delighted to receive feedback following our visit from the Department for Education in Term 3. It was a really positive way to begin the term and lovely to see so many of the things that make Bloxham special recognised. In particular, the strong sense of care and inclusivity across the school was highlighted, alongside the positive learning environment where children feel safe, supported and ready to learn. The strength of our early reading and phonics provision, the quality of mathematics teaching and the thoughtful way teaching supports all learners were also noted. This feedback reflects the hard work of our staff and, most importantly, the positive attitudes, enthusiasm and engagement we see from your children every day.

It was once again lovely to open our doors to families for our Open Classrooms. We hope you enjoyed spending time in school, seeing your child's work first-hand and celebrating their successes, they were certainly excited to welcome you. Opportunities like this are incredibly important to us, as working in partnership with families plays a vital role in ensuring every child continues to thrive.

This term the pupils have also taken part in important learning around keeping themselves safe through our NSPCC assemblies, organised by Mrs Thomas. These sessions have supported pupils in developing their understanding of safeguarding in an age-appropriate and empowering way, helping them to recognise how to stay safe and who to speak to if they have any worries.

Another event this term has been our celebration of Shakespeare. Alongside learning about William Shakespeare, his local relevance and his plays more broadly, pupils spent a week exploring *The Tempest* in particular. It was wonderful to see the confidence, creativity and enthusiasm with which children approached this learning, bringing the story to life through discussion, drama and performance. We are already looking forward to focusing on another play next year, continuing to inspire pupils' confidence, creativity and love of Shakespeare.

Outside of the classroom and fortunately on one of the sunny days last week, our field was filled with the sounds of excited 4- and 5-year-olds as we proudly hosted our Foundation Stage

Multi-Skills Festival. Organised by Mr Sorrell, who was keen to provide a special opportunity for our youngest pupils, it was fantastic to welcome children from local schools including Deddington, Dr Radcliffe and Sibford. The event was a great success, full of energy and enjoyment, and we were so pleased to receive positive feedback from visiting schools. Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils supported the event brilliantly, acting as wonderful ambassadors—showing kindness, leadership and maturity throughout.

Our Governors' Meeting this term also provided a wonderful opportunity for members of our Pupil Parliament to meet with governors. They spoke confidently about what it is like to be a pupil at Bloxham and asked thoughtful questions about the governors' role within the school. We were incredibly proud of how articulate and reflective they were. Thank you to the families who were able to support, and to Mrs Baldwin for organising and leading our Pupil Parliament sessions. Governors were also able to see this term's art work awards as selected by class teachers.





Across all of this, what continues to stand out is the way pupils are growing in confidence, independence and pride in their learning. There is a real sense that children feel happy, safe and valued—and that they enjoy being part of our school community.

As always, I would like to thank our staff for their care and dedication, and our families for the support you provide every day. Together, we are creating a school where every child can flourish, living out our vision: "*Encourage one another and build each other up*".

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term ahead. The term will begin with our Year 6 residential, closely followed by the Year 4 Whitemoor Lakes residential. There will be opportunities in assemblies following both visits for pupils to share and celebrate their experiences with the wider school community.

Sarah Marshall
Headteacher

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Safeguarding Reminder

- **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 have changed 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 March was 95.1% A massive well done to class **3HK at 98.1%** for achieving the highest attendance for a class in March - each student will receive 10 KBVs! Congratulations to Year 3 for the highest attendance in March for a year group at 97.2%

Our March SuperHere0s are:

Foundation/Keys Stage1: Greyson, Alba, Ralph, Phoebe

Key stage 2: Nancy-Rae, Rosie, Florence, Emma

Items being brought into school

We kindly remind families that fidgets should only be brought into school where there is a recognised need and this has been agreed in advance with the class teacher. Please note that other toys or teddies should not be brought into school, and children should not bring money in to buy or sell items with others. Children in KS2 are welcome to bring a healthy snack, such as fruit, for break time. Finally, we appreciate your continued support in ensuring reading folders are brought into school every day, as regular reading makes a real difference to children's progress. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Be . Build . Become

Year Group News

Foundation

Although a short term, Term 4 has been a jam packed term of learning in Foundation. Through our topic of Ready, Steady, Grow, we have learnt about the world around us, how plants grow, where our food comes from and what life is like on a farm. It has allowed us to be creative, curious and practical in our learning.

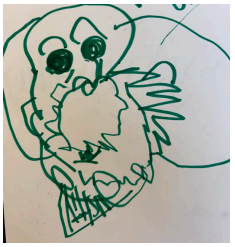
We often find that this time of year our Foundation children gain such confidence both personally and academically. It has been lovely to see the children using their Phonics and Maths skills more independently in the classroom and applying learnt skills in a variety of situations such as making shopping lists, writing cards, doubling and halving practically and using counting skills during play.



We had a fantastic trip to the Warriner Farm where we learnt so much about Spring time and new life. We loved visiting the lambing barn and learning about how to care for animals from Farmer Marie. The trip inspired some fantastic writing in class where the children collectively wrote a 'Farm Facts' book, publishing all they had learnt, beautiful observational artwork and some lovely sequencing of the trip using photographs and caption writing.

We have enjoyed taking part in the whole school celebration of Shakespeare week. We have learnt interesting facts about William, drawn portraits and enjoyed stories.



Our Foundation children thoroughly enjoyed hosting 3 other schools for our first multi-skills event on the 19th March. The sun was shining all morning and our FS class enjoyed a variety of activities working with children from other schools. A very big thank you to Mr Sorrell for organising such a fun event for us.

Key Stage 1

It has been a joyful and busy term in Key Stage 1, with the children showing fantastic enthusiasm, curiosity and pride in their learning.

In English, our writing has been inspired by the natural world. Year 1 have created beautiful acrostic poems based on *The Lost Words*, carefully choosing descriptive vocabulary to bring nature to life. Year 2 have written imaginative information texts inspired by *What Do You See*

When You Look At a Tree? combining creativity with factual language to share their ideas. We have also explored *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, bringing the story to life through discussion, drama and art during Shakespeare Week.

Alongside this, the children have absolutely loved sharing stories together as a class, particularly enjoying books by Roald Dahl. It has been wonderful to see how this has inspired many of them to create their own imaginative ideas and stories — there has been a real buzz around writing this term.

In Science, we have been learning about plants and plant survival. The children have explored how seeds germinate, investigated where plants grow best and discovered what plants need to stay healthy. They have enjoyed carrying out simple investigations and are becoming increasingly confident in explaining their ideas using scientific vocabulary.

Our Geography learning has continued to focus on coastlines, where the children have explored features such as cliffs and beaches and learned about coastal erosion. Practical activities, including recreating erosion using sand and water, helped to make this learning memorable and engaging.

In Art, the children studied flowers in detail, exploring shape, colour and pattern before creating their own pieces using a range of techniques. They also produced expressive storm artwork inspired by *The Tempest*, experimenting with colour and texture to create dramatic effects.

In Maths, Year 1 have continued to develop their understanding of number, focusing on addition, subtraction and place value, while Year 2 have been working on multiplication and division. Across the key stage, there has been a strong focus on explaining reasoning and showing understanding using different representations.

In Computing, the children learned how to collect and present data using pictograms, while in PE they developed their teamwork and coordination through team-building activities and net and wall games.

In PSHE, our focus has been on being healthy, alongside the introduction of weekly Zones of Regulation circle time sessions. During these sessions, the children have learned practical strategies to help them regulate their emotions and return to the green zone. It has been lovely to see them beginning to use these strategies independently and to support one another with kindness and empathy.

A quick reminder:

Please ensure that your child brings their reading folder to school every day. These folders are used to send home spellings, library books and phonics reading books.

We have recently had a number of books returned damaged or not returned at all. We would be very grateful if you could:

- check at home for any school books and return them, and
- support your child in taking care of their reading materials.

Thank you for your continued support — it really does make a difference.

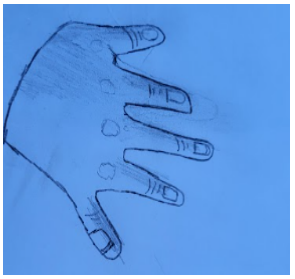
Year 3

The highlight of our month has been the trip to the Oxford Science Centre. The children had an amazing time exploring the many different activities in the Exploration Zone. They also completed a workshop called Tumble, Topple and Bump, where they had to create a marble run type activity using a range of small equipment. We finished off the afternoon with a show and talk about light.




In Art the children have been refining their sketching skills by sketching their hand or foot as accurately as they could. They used shading and lines to give their sketches a more realistic appearance.






For Shakespeare week we had an English and Geography lesson based on The Tempest; the children wrote in character as Prospero persuading others that he is the best to lead the Island

with no name and in Geography they designed their own island, choosing what resources they would need to survive.

5 of our boys went to the cross country finals and helped to achieve Gold for the school. We are incredibly proud of the effort they put in.

Year 4

Year 4 began the term with an adventurous trip to the Viking Village at Compton Verney, where pupils brought their previous learning about invasions to life through hands-on experiences. The visit allowed children to deepen their historical understanding and engage with learning beyond the classroom.



We celebrated World Book Day by sharing our enjoyment of reading through a range of book-focused activities. This enthusiasm continued with our class text, *The King of the Cloud Forests* by Michael Morpurgo, where pupils wrote diary entries from Ashley's perspective, developing empathy and descriptive writing skills. We concluded our English learning with an exciting Shakespeare Week focused on *The Tempest*, where children explored the story through art, drama and collaborative playscript writing using props and musical instruments.





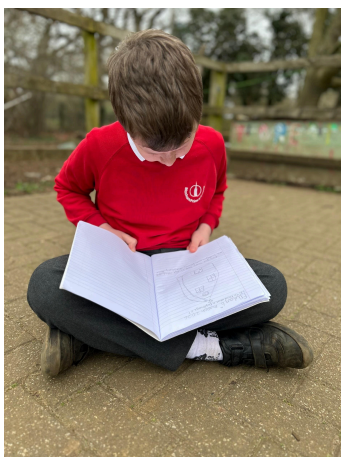
In Maths, pupils worked hard to develop their understanding of fractions, learning how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. A role-play pizza party supported this learning by helping children explore the concept of sharing equally in a fun and practical way.



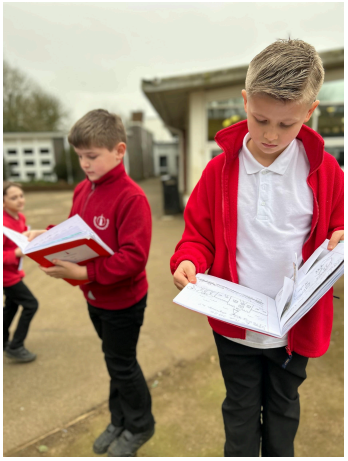
Our Science learning focused on classifying animals and plants. Pupils explored how classification keys work and applied their knowledge through an interactive "Guess Who?" activity, encouraging questioning and scientific thinking.



In RE, we explored the concept of spirituality through reflection and mindfulness. Pupils took part in a short "pilgrimage" around the playground, learning that moments of calm and reflection can support wellbeing and personal understanding.







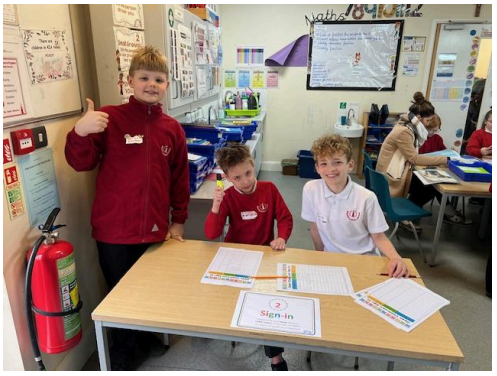
In French lessons, pupils learned how to talk about their families, including naming family members and describing how many siblings they have, building confidence in speaking and listening skills.

Tennis has been the focus in PE this term. Pupils developed racket control, coordination and teamwork, showing great perseverance while practising rallies and partner activities.

In Art, we studied the work of William Morris and explored pattern through printmaking using wooden blocks. Pupils also designed thoughtful Mother's Day cards, applying artistic techniques while reflecting on appreciation and kindness.

Our PSHE learning centred on the topic *Healthy Me*, where pupils discussed the difference between peer pressure and positive peer influence, supporting their social and emotional development.

We were also delighted to welcome parents into school for our Open Classroom event. The children were proud to share their learning and demonstrated confidence and responsibility while supporting the smooth running of the afternoon.



Y**ear 5**

In English this term, we have thoroughly enjoyed reading *The Nowhere Emporium*, immersing ourselves in its mysterious characters and breathtaking imagery. The rich and imaginative text has provided a fantastic foundation for our learning, allowing us to explore and apply key skills such as using relative clauses and developing descriptive language. We have also spent time analysing the characters in depth, thinking carefully about their personalities and motivations. This all led to an exciting outcome, where the children created their own narratives inspired by the story, showcasing their creativity and growing confidence as writers.

In Maths this term, we have focused on our unit of Measure, where the children developed their understanding of finding the area and perimeter of a range of shapes, including more complex compound shapes. They showed great perseverance when tackling these challenges. We then moved on to Graphs and Tables, with a particular focus on line graphs and timetables. The children learnt how to carefully read, interpret and extract information from data, building their confidence in applying these skills to real-life contexts.

In Science, we continued our learning on life cycles, moving on to explore the life cycle of flowering plants and their sexual reproduction. We discussed the differences between sexual and asexual reproduction, developing our scientific vocabulary and understanding. As part of our learning, we carried out an exciting experiment to investigate how long it takes for seeds to

germinate, observing changes over time and thinking carefully about what plants need to grow successfully. We also visited the Oxford Science Museum during Science Week. We had great fun in the Exploration zone, carrying out an investigation on how to make the best snow and visiting the Planetarium.






In French, our unit *Quel temps fait-il ?* has been a great success. The children have learnt how to describe different types of weather and confidently ask and answer questions about what the weather is like. They also revisited their prior learning of the days of the week, combining this knowledge to build simple conversations and sentences. It has been wonderful to see their confidence in speaking French continue to grow.

PE has been full of energy and enthusiasm this term. In dance, the children enjoyed choreographing their own routines, experimenting with a range of movements and dynamics to create engaging performances. They also had great fun learning some rock and roll dance moves, quickly realising the importance of coordination and timing! In tennis, the focus was on developing control and technique, with the children practising their swing and improving their ball control skills.




In Art, we spent a creative afternoon exploring *Nature's Art*. The children ventured outdoors to forage for interesting natural materials, carefully selecting objects that inspired them. They then used these items to create their own 2D or 3D pieces of artwork. This hands-on experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the children produced some incredibly imaginative and thoughtful creations.





In Geography, we continued our farming topic by looking at international farming. The children explored different climate zones around the world and considered how weather and climate play a crucial role in what can be grown in different regions. We also investigated why certain crops, such as citrus fruits, are grown in places like California, deepening our understanding of global agriculture.

In PSHE, we have been learning about the impact of different substances on our bodies, focusing on the effects of smoking and alcohol. The children engaged in thoughtful discussions, developing their understanding of how these substances can affect health and wellbeing, and why it is important to make informed and responsible choices.

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Year 6

It has been another busy and exciting term for Year 6, with plenty of achievements and engaging learning across the curriculum!

In sport, the children have enjoyed successful hockey and rugby events and represented the school well in recent football matches. We are especially proud of our Year 6 Young Leaders, who did a wonderful job supporting a recent Foundation Stage event. They showed maturity, kindness, and leadership, helping the younger children to take part and enjoy the activities.

In Art, the children have been working hard on their models, focusing on important environmental issues. Their creativity and thoughtfulness have really shone through, with many pieces highlighting topics such as ocean plastic, climate change, and deforestation.

In Geography, we have rounded off our Frozen Kingdoms topic by researching the Titanic. The children were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions and showing great interest in the historical context behind this famous event.

In English, we have been exploring the mystery of 'The Watertower'. Inspired by the story, the children have written their own imaginative narratives as well as detailed police reports, showcasing their creativity and developing their writing skills.

PE News

Our year 3/4 boys represented the school in an incredible fashion at the County Cross Country Finals. They showed a tremendous amount of self-belief during the event, going toe-to-toe with the best Cross Country runners that Oxfordshire has to offer. Despite this they managed to come in 1st place as a team, making them County Champions for the U9 boys!

We are immensely proud of you boys - incredible work 🏃 🏆



Last week, we hosted a fantastic Multiskills event, welcoming over 100 Foundation Stage pupils from primary schools across the local area. The children took part in a range of fun, engaging activities designed to develop their fundamental movement skills, teamwork, and confidence. It was wonderful to see so many young learners enjoying being active, trying new challenges, and supporting one another.

A huge thank you to Mr Sorrell for organising such a successful event and to all the schools who joined us for a brilliant morning of sport and collaboration.











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News from Forest School

Spring has Sprung at After school club

This first block of 2026 has been a bit broken up being spread over 3 terms. As I type, we have two sessions left. We've experienced the cold days of winter and beautiful warm balmy days of sunshine.

Early on we started looking for signs of spring and realised there were tiny saplings popping up. Some children really enjoyed digging these up and potting them so they don't get trampled. We identified them as sycamore saplings.

We also dug up some of the spring bulbs which had shoots growing in places where they may get trampled and plan on planting them into our old broken wheelbarrow. As we dug, we talked about soil and worms and worm castings.

We've talked a lot about how to make sure we're being safe whilst exploring things like whips and tyre swings. We even discovered that the cracking sound of a whip is the very tip breaking the sound barrier meaning that it's travelling 350m per second - about 3x the length of the playing field!!!!

As all the lovely bright colours of spring came out we did the matchbox challenge and the winner managed to find 36 tiny objects to fit in their box. We also upcycled scrap paper and make lovely shapes with seasonal leaves and flowers for Mother's Day.

Bug hotels have been a big feature this term with lots of branches and other natural materials being used to create habitat for our small friends. And we've been delighted to discover the Vulcano-like mounds of earth created by tawny mining bees as they burrow into the ground around the fire pit.

From the fire we have enjoyed corn on the cob, chocolate brioche, hot chocolate and marshmallows. And one warm Wednesday we used wild violet flowers to make iced pink lemonade - yum!











Magical Maths is Back! ✨🔢

Professor Poopenshtinken and his friends return next term with their popular **Magical Maths** after-school club for KS1 pupils.

Packed with fun games, tricks, and challenges, the club is a great way to boost children's confidence and enjoyment in maths.

Starts Monday 20th April | 9 weeks | £74.00

To book a place or find out more:
🌐 www.magicalmathsclub.com | 📞 07960 411706

Achievements outside of school

Congratulations to Billy in Year 4, who achieved fantastic success at the *Follyfoot Healing with Horses* charity show.

Billy won 1st place in the Under 12s on both of his ponies, *Ruby* and *Danny* – an amazing achievement!

Well done, Billy! We are very proud of you.

Fundraising News

One of our Bloxham Primary School Mums is raising money for Cancer Research UK by running ten 5Ks throughout March for a cause close to their heart 💛

If you're able to support, any donation—big or small—would be hugely appreciated. Thank you for helping make a difference!

https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/emmas-giving-page-326819701