



St. Matthew's Bloxam C of E (VC) Primary School

Active acceptance and inclusion of all pupils empowers and equips them to 'let their light shine'. (SIAMS 2023)



The school has a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Leaders and staff have created a safe environment, where pupils can thrive (Ofsted 2023)

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All members of staff have worked together to make my child feel safe, secure and heard at school. The school offered a range of support to my family during difficult times. The school have given my child the opportunity to explore different religions and make his own choice concerning beliefs he would like to hold. As a family we are not religious but my son has chosen to follow Christianity and this is supported both through the school and at home.

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of our pupils, staff, governors and friends of the school, may I wish you a very warm welcome to St. Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School.

We are a caring, inclusive and welcoming school where all members of the community are given opportunities and experiences to 'Let Their Light Shine'.

At St. Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School we believe that everyone has the right to feel safe. When children and adults feel safe, they are happy and secure and in a good place to learn.

Everyone at St. Matthew's Bloxam is treated differently, because in responding to children and adults differently we are giving them equal opportunities to thrive.

Our curriculum has been designed to provide children with a breadth of opportunities to develop and build on key skills and concepts, enriched by visits and experiences, keeping our Christian values at the heart of all we do.

We provide opportunities for our community to develop spiritually, enabling everyone to flourish in their learning and wider aspects of their lives.

It is hard to put into words how SMB feels and gives meaning to all you read, although this prospectus is a good start for your journey into the heart of our school. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed, when you will feel the ethos which underpins all that we are.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Anita Timson
Headteacher

Our Vision and Aims

Let Your Light Shine

Our aims:

- ❖ For forgiveness and reconciliation in safe surroundings
- ❖ To seek experiences to spark the confidence to nurture and show delight
 - ❖ To illuminate hopes, dreams and aspirations
- ❖ To build humanity through relationships inspired by the glow of others
 - ❖ To value everyone through thoughts and actions

"In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven" Matthew Chapter 5 Verse 16

St. Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

Our Location

- ❖ St. Matthew's Bloxam is situated on an attractive and spacious site, conveniently close to the centre of Rugby.



- ❖ Our school is reached via either Webb Ellis Road or Bloxam Gardens.
- ❖ We do not have parking spaces for parents on site (unless you have a Disability Badge) so please be respectful to neighbours when parking on the roads.
- ❖ Being an ECO school we like to encourage families who live nearby to walk or to car share.
- ❖ We also have bike racks in school, so that children can cycle to school or come on their scooters. Please ensure that they wear a helmet, high visibility clothing in the winter and label their bike/scooter.

Our Grounds and Building

- ❖ We are extremely lucky to have extensive and impressive grounds surrounded by greenery.
- ❖ At the back of our school we have a large field that is used for a range of sports but also has a wildlife area, a pond, a "Forest School" areas, a spiritual garden for reflection, an orchard and an allotment.
- ❖ We have a large playground with seating, playground markings and two sets of play equipment plus a shelter.
- ❖ We also make use of our wildlife area at the front of the school for outdoor learning.
- ❖ The internal spaces are equally as impressive boasting large spacious classrooms, a computer suite with computers and iPads, a large hall with a stage used for sport, dance, assemblies and performances, a library, a beautiful dining room with a conservatory opening out onto the grounds, a practical area for art, design and technology, science and cooking and numerous group working areas.



Play equipment and part of our extensive field



Our wonderful Forest School resource

Friendly environment. Great
teachers. Sense of community
within school

Admissions

We encourage all parents to visit the school with their child/children in preparation for applying for a place. Please ring the school office to arrange an appointment. The school's current planned admission number is 30 which determines the number admitted each year.

The admissions authority for St. Matthew's Bloxam is Warwickshire Local Authority. The criteria for admissions are outlined on the Warwickshire County Council website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk. Admissions applications can be made online at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions. For further information you can ring the School Admissions Department on 01926 742037 or 742047.

If the number of applications for entry exceeds the number of places available, Warwickshire's Admissions Policy gives priority in the following order:

1. Children in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority (under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989)
2. Children living in the school's priority area who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission.
3. Other children living in the school's priority area.
4. Children living outside the school's priority area who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission.
5. Other children living outside the school's priority area.

In each category, decisions are based on the distance between home and school, by straight line measurement, with priority going to those living nearest the school. Please read this carefully because we are often oversubscribed and the criteria is strictly applied by the Local Authority.

Please note that a place for your child in our Nursery will not guarantee a place in Reception.

If your child joins the school in the Nursery/Reception intake, we offer a home visit for smooth transition.

What Should Children Wear In School?

We believe that children should wear uniform in school. We would like children to have pride in being part of St. Matthew's Bloxam and in maintaining a well-dressed, clean and smart appearance. The uniform has been designed so that most of it is easily obtainable from chain stores at reasonable prices. Our items with the school logo can be purchased from: **Webb Ellis Ltd, 5 & 6 St Matthew's Street, Rugby**

or online (delivered to school) from <https://www.schoolshopsales.com/stmatthewsbloxam>.

Spare washed and packaged pre-loved uniform can also be ordered from the school [website](#).

If your child is unable to wear an item of the uniform temporarily, please let us know by letter.

As you can imagine, it is extremely difficult to locate and replace lost uniform. **Please ensure that every item of your child's clothing (including PE kit) is clearly labelled with permanent ink or name strips.**

UNIFORM FOR WHOLE SCHOOL

- Navy sweatshirt with/without school logo
- Jade green polo shirt with/without logo
- Blue cardigan with/without logo Grey trousers (boys/girls)
- Grey shorts for the summer (boys)
- Grey skirt or pinafore dress
- Blue checked summer dress
- Sensible black shoes (not sling backs, high heels or trainers)
- Black/white/grey socks or tights
- Sensible boots in Winter

PE KIT

- White t-shirt with/without school logo
- Blue sweatshirt/hoodie/cardigan with/without logo
- Navy or black shorts
- Black/white/grey socks
- Trainers or plimsolls (not with black soles)
- Navy/black or grey legging/jogging bottoms in cold weather for outdoor PE

SWIMMING

- One piece costume for girls (not bikinis)
- Trunks for boys (not long, baggy shorts)
- Towel
- Swimming hat advisable for long hair
- Waterproof bag for carrying swimming kit

Available from <https://www.schoolshopsales.com/stmatthewsbloxam>

Blue school book bag with logo - £5.95

Jewellery and make up are not permitted in school. We do permit single ear studs and watches.

We can have times when head lice can be a problem. If your child has long hair, we advise that it be tied back.



Brilliant and
extremely supportive
school to both my
children and myself
as a parent

Curriculum Intent

At St. Matthew's Bloxam C. of E. Primary School, we offer a rich and vibrant curriculum which is ambitious for all learners. Through our Christian Faith, we want to illuminate hopes, dreams and aspirations and to seek experiences to enrich lives and show love and respect within our school family through our mission statement - Let Your Light Shine.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven."
Matthew Chapter 5, Verse 16.

Our Curriculum has been designed to develop the essential knowledge, skills and understanding which are the building blocks for later life and we offer stimulating and awe-inspiring learning experiences with Christian values at its heart. We aim to equip our pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life to become confident, self-motivated pupils, eager for lifelong learning.

The aims of our school curriculum are:

- to illuminate hopes, dreams and raise aspirations
- to foster the children's understanding of belonging and encouraging curiosity and a passion to learn,
- to promote a "have a go" attitude towards learning, so that all children enjoy coming to school and embrace new challenges and possibilities; pushing their own boundaries,
- to enable children to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills; being determined to succeed and becoming independent thinkers and questioners and acquiring a solid basis for lifelong learning,
- to promote Values based Education based on Christian values and British values, so children take responsibility for themselves and their actions, are respectful and develop resilience and to value everyone,
- to fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.



Our curriculum map can be found [here](#)

Teaching is focused on ensuring that pupils can remember and apply what they learn... Pupils have positive attitudes in lessons. They enjoy the activities that teachers plan for them, work well with each other, and do not disrupt each other's learning. (Ofsted 2023)

Outdoor Learning Curriculum

"Can include a wide range of activities from nature exploration and adventure challenges to lessons in parks or on school grounds, and it aims to enhance personal growth, well-being, and environmental awareness through hands-on, real-world experiences". *National definition.*

- We have fully developed our Outdoor Learning area on our site.
- Every year group has Outdoor Learning sessions in each school year
- New for 2025 – orienteering markers in the grounds for KS1 and KS2

Possible activities may include:

- Hunting for minibeasts and/pond dipping
- Natural crafts – making necklaces from elder crown or dreamcatchers from willow, collages from natural material, weaving with long grasses
- Mud sculptures
- Shelter building and knot tying
- Tree climbing
- Using tools for a purpose – such as peeling bark from sticks to make toasting forks
- Cross curricular activities based on the programme 'cross curricular orienteering'.
- After an outdoor Learning session, please do expect your child to come home muddy, dirty, but beaming!



Leaders and staff have high expectations. They want pupils to fulfil their potential. They provide pupils with a wide range of learning experiences. This approach helps pupils to make good progress and to develop their talents and interests. (Ofsted 2023)

FOUNDATION STAGE

Our Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Foundation Stage is from birth to the end of the Reception year. We follow the statutory framework from the DFE.

A copy of the DFE guide to the EYFS for parents is available to download from www.foundationyears.org.uk

The areas of learning and development are:

Area of Learning and Development	Early Learning Goal
Prime Areas	
Communication and Language	Listening, Attention and Understanding Speaking
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Self-Regulation Managing Self Building Relationships
Physical Development	Gross Motor Skills Fine Motor Skills
Specific Areas	
Literacy	Comprehension Word Reading Writing
Mathematics	Number Numerical Patterns
Understanding the World	Past and Present People, Culture and Communities The Natural World
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials Being Imaginative and Expressive

Children's progress will be at different rates and individual levels of achievement will vary. All children will, however, have access to a curriculum that enables them to make maximum progress. It is expected that most children will have achieved the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Reception Year.



School Visits

All children and their parents or carers will be offered the opportunity to come and visit Nursery or Reception before they start. This allows children to become familiar with the environment and the adults who will be working with them. It also allows parents and carers to ask any questions or discuss any concerns they may have prior to their child starting school or Nursery.

The learning Environment

Nursery and Reception are lucky to have access to large, well-resourced classrooms and a shared outdoor area. Nursery and Reception work closely together and often join together to take part in learning activities. This is a great support for the Nursery children when they transition to Reception. Learning is a mix of adult led and child - initiated activities and is tailored to meet the needs and interests of the children. All children make great progress in the Early Years and enjoy learning.

Session Times

Nursery – Morning session; 8.45am – 11.45am. Afternoon session; 12.15pm-3.15pm
Reception – 8.50am – 3.15pm. We open the doors at 8.40 in the morning and 3.15 in the afternoon to allow time for parents to speak to us if they wish.

Early Years Fund

In order to provide enhanced learning activities for the children, we ask for a voluntary contribution of £5 per half term. This allows us to buy extra resources and equipment such as playdough ingredients, cooking ingredients, food to taste to celebrate festivals, extra jigsaw puzzles and games.

In Reception, staff focus on the development of children's language, communication and social skills. Children learn key elements of early literacy and numeracy. (Ofsted 2023)



Reception visiting the chicks – Autumn term 2025



From the start of Reception, staff make sure that all children have the teaching support they need to learn to read well. Staff teach a well-established phonics scheme. (Ofsted 2023)

This is the best school with amazing teachers and the staff. My child never wants to skip school, whatever , the reason, and thus, has 100% attendance :) I would recommend this school to every child.

A DAY AT ST. MATTHEW'S BLOXAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are a really exciting school with every day bringing a wide variety of new learning opportunities.



Arrival

Reception

- Children should wait with an adult at the classroom door to be welcomed by the teacher/support staff.
- Please arrive for 8.40am ready for doors to open/registration at 8.50am.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

- Doors open at 8.40am for children to go in directly to their classroom.
- Registration will take place at 8.50am.

Departure

We expect all Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 children to be collected by a named adult (not older siblings in Key Stage 2)

Reception and Key Stage 1 finish at 3.15pm and Key Stage 2 at 3.20pm.

We ask parents/carers to meet their children on the playground on time. Please let us know if someone different will be collecting your child so that we can ensure your child/children's safety.

During the morning

- Between 8.50am and 9.00am children across school have a short morning activity to consolidate learning in English or maths.
- Collective Worship takes places at 9.00-9.20am every morning.
- At least once a term, parents will be invited into class to share their learning or to the class/celebration assembly held on a Friday morning at 9.00am



Break times

- KS1 and KS2 10.30 – 10.50 a.m.
- Children in KS1 are provided with a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables daily.
- All children can buy healthy snacks and drinks from our tuck shop, prices ranging from 30p -65p.
- We are a "Healthy School" and therefore, children should not bring sweets, crisps or biscuits for snack except on Fridays which is a 'treat Day'.

Pupils get on well with each other and respect adults. They behave well around the school and in lessons. Ofsted 2023

Lunchtime

- Reception is at 12.00-1.05
- Key Stage 1 is at 12.00-1.05
- Key Stage 2 is at 12.00-1.05
- All children have their lunch in our large, bright dining hall/conservatory unless the weather is good and then children can take their packed lunches out for a picnic.
- Children from all classes enjoy eating together from a choice of either their own packed lunch or a choice of hot meal from our school canteen.
- Payment for school lunches should be made at the beginning of each week or on a termly basis. Cost of a hot meal per day is £2.90. If requiring a packed lunch for a trip the cost is £2.90. Any changes to cost/menu and you will be notified through the weekly newsletter/email.
- Reception and KS1 children are entitled to free school meals.
- Our extensive grounds allow children to set up games on the large field, relax and reflect in the spiritual garden, climb the play equipment or use other equipment available to them.
- Children have access to our wide range of activities (sometimes set up and run by groups of children) e.g. table tennis, tennis, hockey, sand, water, football, large games, play equipment.
- Lunchtime clubs are run by staff and include; choir, worship group, library, computing, Times Tables Rock Stars, chess.



Afternoon

- During the afternoon children will be learning all about their 'theme' (history or geography based) or other areas of the curriculum such as science, computing, music, Spanish.
- Children are enthusiastic about their theme learning as they are selected to engage their imagination.
- Many opportunities for home learning are linked to the theme of the term.



Year 6 enjoying the new orienteering course installed in 2025

Before and After School Care

- Our before and after-school care is called **Building Blox** and is suitable for children aged 4 and above.
- The club is open every morning from 7.45am to 8.50am and every night from 3.15 – 6.00 pm.
- The cost in the morning is £6 from 7.45am and £4.50 from 8.00am. In the afternoon the costs are: (extra short stay) £4 until 3.45pm, (short stay) £6 until 4.15pm and (long stay) £11 until 6pm with a 10% discount for siblings for the long stay
- The adults in the club ensure that children are offered a variety of activities to meet their individual needs: relaxing with a book, supporting with homework, using the computers, cooking, games.
- Each child is provided with a snack and a drink to tide them over.
- We were pleased that our last Ofsted inspection rated Building Blox as "good" provision. Feedback from parents and children is extremely positive.

All bookings and cancellations are made directly with the club coordinator, Mrs Hartwell, on 07920535399/waller.l@welearn365.com



Building Blox (after-school club)

Lunchtime and After School Activities

We are proud of the wide range of activities that are offered to our children, believing that they help to raise self esteem and widen experiences.

Some previous and current clubs held in or out of school include:

- Football, Choir, Basketball, Cricket, Choir, Gardening, Cooking, Multi Sports, Games, Eco Club, Reading Club, Art Club, Worship Group, Science, Chess, Games.
- Clubs are offered to children throughout school from Reception to Year 6 at different times of the year.
- We are always open to any ideas from children on clubs they would like to have in school.



Trips, visits and theme days provide memorable learning experiences. Lunchtime and after-school clubs offering activities like sports, cooking, art or music are well attended. (Ofsted 2023)

HOME LEARNING

Why do we set home learning?

- To provide opportunities for pupils to work independently and celebrate their skills.
- To take responsibility for organising themselves.
- To check that pupils have understood class work.
- To consolidate and practise skill, especially basic skills.
- To prepare or extend work covered in school.
- To help raise standards of achievement.
- To promote a love of learning through a range of project work choices.



How can you help your child and support the school?

- We value parents and carers support in seeing that home learning is completed and done to the best of your child's ability.
- All children are different: some like to relax for a while when they get home; some need to eat; some like to get their task out of the way straight away. You can arrange a suitable time to suit you and your child/children.
- Allow time for children to pursue other interests and hobbies.
- Encourage and praise effort and routine.
- Consider where your child works best in your home.
- Speak to the class teacher if your child is finding anything particularly difficult.
- Attend any parent/carers sessions about learning.

Leaders make sure that the school maintains strong links with the diverse community it serves. They organise workshops for parents where they can learn alongside their children. Parents appreciate how leaders and staff make them feel welcome. They value the inclusive ethos of the school. (Ofsted 2023)

Leaders are mindful of the diverse intake of pupils...regardless of background, all pupils have the opportunity to 'shine'. (SIAMS 2023)

Assessment

- Assessment is an integral part of the learning process, and its purpose at our school is to support your children and their teacher in evaluating the impact of the learning experiences provided.
- It provides a means of collecting information regarding a child's progress and pin pointing areas that may need further consolidation.
- A variety of assessment procedures are used allowing teachers to fine tune teaching and delivery of the curriculum to match individual needs and the needs of the class.
- All our pupils are assessed on a daily basis in a continuous informal way so that teachers can give instant feedback on what children are doing well and what their next steps for learning are.
- In addition to this, there are more formal and statutory testing procedures that take place throughout the time your child is with us.
- When your child leaves our school, we send this information to their next school.
- At the end of each academic year teacher assessments are reported to parents in the form of the School Report. We hold parents' /carers' evenings to inform you of progress and targets during the autumn term and spring term.

Teaching and assessment practices are well developed in mathematics, English and science. (Ofsted 2023)

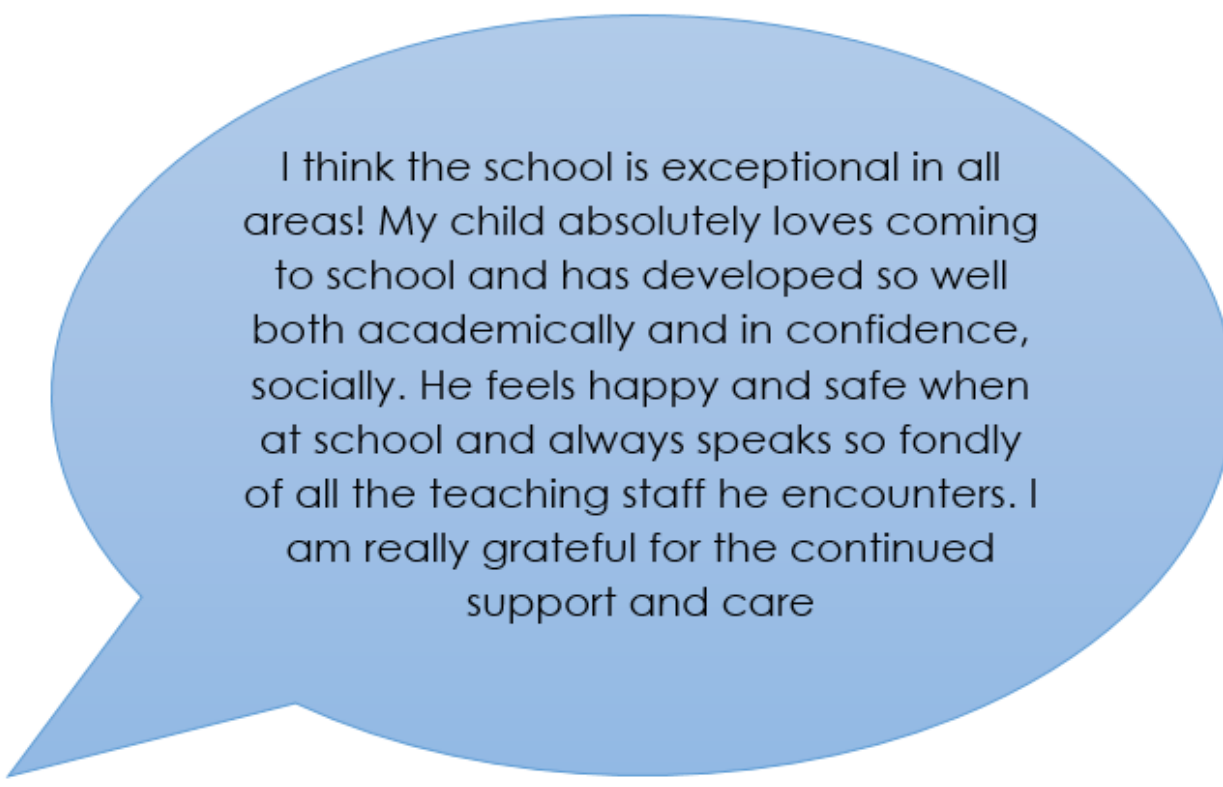
Statutory Assessment Arrangements

- At the end of Foundation Stage (Reception), teacher assessments take place and these are reported to the Local Authority.
- Year 1 children have a phonics screening check in the summer term.
- Year 4 children have a Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term
- At the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6), children sit their national SATs (formal external tests).

Leaders and staff make sure that the school meets the needs of all the pupils. The provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is effective... Staff adapt learning and other activities, as required, to ensure that pupils with SEND make effective progress and enjoy all aspects of school life. (Ofsted 2023)

How is my child getting on at school?

- We offer regular reporting opportunities through two parents/carers evening appointments.
- The parent/carer evenings will give you an insight of your child's attitudes to learning, attitudes towards others, how they are performing against age related expectations, a progress update
- You may make an appointment with your child's teacher at any time should you particularly concerned or wish to discuss a particular difficulty.
- Teachers are on the playground at pick up times.
- The detailed reporting on all subjects will be sent home annually in the Summer Term. Expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths are included in this report so that it is clear how your child is performing.
- We have a SENDCo, Learning Support Mentor and work with various external agencies, all happy to keep parents/carers up to date with the progress of their child.
- Support Plan meetings with the class teacher for children with SEND to review and set targets termly.
- Annual Review meetings with the SENDCo for children with an EHCP.
- Class open mornings – an opportunity to look at books and see the classroom displays with the children.



I think the school is exceptional in all areas! My child absolutely loves coming to school and has developed so well both academically and in confidence, socially. He feels happy and safe when at school and always speaks so fondly of all the teaching staff he encounters. I am really grateful for the continued support and care

Shine Principles to Help Children Learn

- At St Matthew's Bloxam 'Everyone has the right to be safe'.
- Our aim is to create and maintain a happy, positive, learning environment for all.
- We adopt a positive approach to the management of pupils' behaviour in that we actively encourage good behaviour and nurture the children's self-esteem.
- We recognise that good behaviour is a necessary condition for effective teaching, learning and for fostering good relationships.
- Sometimes some children do not always find it easy to conduct themselves well at all times.
- We have clear procedures in our Behaviour Policy to deal with such situations and regularly involve parents/carers in helping children to get back on track.
- We encourage and actively promote mutual respect and consideration for others and have high expectations of everyone.
- Setting our expectations high means that our children are exceptionally well behaved and safe when out on school visits.

Pupils are clear about what bullying is and why it is wrong. They know that staff would be quick to intervene if it happened. Pupils trust the staff and know who they can talk to if they have concerns. (Ofsted 2023)

Class and School Rewards

- Each class creates their own rules with the children at the beginning of the year, so that the children feel fully involved.
- Children receive house points and works as a school for rewards. The rewards are decided by the School Council.
- We also have class celebration assemblies where we celebrate whole class achievements and acknowledge the right attitudes and values.

Pupils have ample opportunities to develop their talents, interests and sense of responsibility. (Ofsted 2023)



How can you help in school?



PAFOS – Parents and Friends of St. Matthew's Bloxam

This is our PTA

PAFOS has charitable status which allows us to bid for grants/funding for projects for school. For example, they fund workshops and experiences in school such as African Drumming, an author visit, circus workshops, drama sessions etc.

They organise school discos, quiz nights for families, summer, Christmas and Easter fayres, second hand uniform sales, raffles and many other things. PAFOS organise many community events to fund raise for the school.

Any help you can give is much appreciated. Please leave your name at the school office.



SMB Noticeboard is our school Facebook page.

We use Facebook as a platform to communicate news and events as well as asking for parents/carers opinions through polls and surveys.

If you have a Facebook account, we recommend that you like our page to keep up to date with everything that's happening.

Home – School Agreement

We value the partnership between home and school and have drawn up a formal agreement that will be discussed with you when your child is admitted to the school.

We ask that you will give the school your wholehearted support, taking responsibility for supporting your child with home learning and ensuring that it is completed on time, pupil consultation appointments are kept, and any home circumstances likely to affect your child's behaviour or progress are reported to school. e.g. death of a family member or pet; house move; new sibling.

Our Learning Support Mentor (Mrs Jones) has a mobile phone number which can be requested if your child needs 'handling with care'.

Volunteering to support learning and making a difference

We are very grateful for any additional support and appreciate any regular time that you can give us. We always need help with listening to children read, practising their mathematical skills, or an extra pair of hands to help with a wide range of creative and practical activities. Our usual policy is not to place parent volunteers in the same class as their child/children, but sometimes this is unavoidable.

We often need extra support for offsite school visits, so the class teacher may contact you.

If you are able to help regularly, we are required to carry out a DBS/CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) check in line with Warwickshire's child protection procedures.

Please contact Mrs Francis if you are interested in volunteering in school.

Schoolreaders

improving literacy • increasing life chances



I have had so much support from the school and the teachers, I am honestly so grateful. I feel safe leaving my children there. Any problems have been dealt with swiftly and in the correct ways. It really is a lovely school with an excellent Headteacher and amazing staff. Thank you.

We are a Church of England School



Collective Worship

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of collective worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part of the assembly or its entirety. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon their life experiences and to seek out answers to ultimate questions as far as their intellectual and spiritual capacities will allow them.

Collective worship at our school endeavours to encourage the development of these areas in every child. In our celebration assemblies, we have an opportunity for the whole class to celebrate their social and academic achievements, and a time to foster the positive values held at the school, the local community and the wider world.

Parents/carers do have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. As a school, we encourage dialogue with parents/carers, so that any concern about any activity is discussed to avoid misunderstanding and confusion. We therefore hope that parents/carers will not feel that they have to withdraw their child from collective worship, as it breaks down the unity of the school.

International Cross of Nails School – ICONS

We are extremely proud to be an ICON school and to have established our close relationship with Coventry Cathedral.

- The Cross of Nails is a symbol associated with Coventry Cathedral; a simple cross of **3 nails** was made from nails of the roof found in the ruins of the old cathedral. This now stands on the altar of the new Cathedral and has become an international symbol of peace and reconciliation.
- As a school we do a lot of work on reconciliation, peace-making and conflict resolution, hoping that these skills and understandings will be part of our children's lives in school and beyond school.

The school's status as a member of the ICONS is a significant part of its spiritual life. Older pupils have been trained as ambassadors, leading their peers in developing their own spirituality. (SIAMS 2023)

The Christian vision of St Matthew's Bloxam is an ever-present strand running through every aspect of the school

'Let your light shine' is at the core of daily life, through the learning opportunities and beyond. This vision was consciously chosen as it encompasses everyone, reflecting the diversity of the school's intake. Leaders involved all members of the community in its development, creating a genuine sense of ownership. 'Shine' is used as an acrostic for the school's wider values but also for its code of behaviour. This facilitates the use of consistent language whilst making the vision practical and relevant. Together they are woven through all the school's policies. This makes them a genuine part of everyday life. Pupils, parents, staff and governors are all able to articulate this vision and its importance. Staff see it as guidance which keeps a real peace through the school. Governors lead a robust programme of monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of the vision. Monitoring activities include regular dialogue with staff, pupils and parents. This ensures governors are actively involved in the life of the school. They witness and can affirm with confidence the impact of the vision.

(SIAMS 2023)

Click on this link to view the SIAMS report (June 2023)

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stmatthewsbloxam/UploadedDocument/6fa7bde2-496e-40dc-867f-44de52ee0ed3/siams-report-st-matthews-bloxam-church-of-england-primary-school-130883-300623.pdf>

On Fridays at 9.00am we like to share achievements and celebrate our learning. Please look out for when it is your child's class. We love parents/families to attend.



The Open the Book Team who deliver worship once a fortnight and are all members of St Oswald's Church congregation.

Worship is central to the life of the school. The whole school community comes together every morning. This is led by school staff, pupils and representatives from the local church. All worship is Christian in nature, but remains invitational and inclusive. Themes are centred around the school's values and follow a three-year plan. This allows all pupils to re-visit and embed the values. (SIAMS 2023)

90% attendance = one day missed per fortnight
85% attendance = one and a half days missed per fortnight
80% attendance = two days missed per fortnight

Attending School

- There are 190 school days each year.
- Full attendance leads to the best educational outcomes for children.
- Non-attendance and lateness is extremely disruptive for children, leaving gaps in their learning and leading to lack of confidence. We monitor and track pupil progress. Time and time again we see that children who do not attend regularly, also make very little progress in their learning.
- All absences are checked on a daily basis to ensure that children are safely in school.

It is essential that parents phone/text school on the first day of absence, before 9.30am, when your child is ill.

- Please keep your child at home if he/she is unwell.
- If it is sickness or diarrhoea, allow 24 hours between the last attack and the time they return to school. Sometimes we advise 48 hours, but only if there is a serious outbreak.
- We cannot allow children to remain in school if they are suffering with anything contagious. We consult with Warwickshire Health Authority on this.
- If your child suffers from any food or substance intolerance/allergies, please ensure that this information is on your child's registration form.

Can I take my child out of school during term?

Leave of absence

The Government have issued new regulations in August 2024 ['Working together to improve school attendance'](#) and ['The school attendance regulations' 2024](#).

Head Teachers **Shall not** grant **any** leave of absence during term time **unless they consider** there to be **exceptional** circumstances relating to application.

Parents/carers do not have any entitlement to take their children on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must establish that there are exceptional circumstances and the head teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.

Head Teachers will determine how many school days a child may be absent from school if leave is granted.

Applications for leave of absence must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being unauthorized which may result in legal action against the parent/carer, by fixed penalty notice, if the child is absent from school during that period. If a fixed penalty notice is issued and is not paid within the timeframe set out in that notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of the Education Act 1996 and 2022

Each application for leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis, and on its own merits.

How do we safeguard your child?

'Under the Education Act 2002 (Section 175 for maintained schools) schools must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.'

Parents/carers should know that the law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the parent/carer and **discuss the need** to make a referral to Children's Social Care if that is considered necessary. **This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm or cause undue delay.** The school will seek advice from Children's Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later found to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead carries out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acts in the best interests of all children.'

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Anita Timson (Senior Lead) –Headteacher

Helen Francis – Deputy Headteacher

Claire Jones – Learning Support Mentor

Jo Byard – Office Manager

Lucy Hartwell – Building Blox Leader

Each Summer Term of every year, the school follows the **Protective Behaviours Curriculum** so that children understand how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse and know who to speak to. We place high importance on this so that children know how to speak out if they are suffering.

All members of staff receive regular, up-to-date training. They are confident to identify and report issues that may affect pupils. Leaders follow up issues referred to them effectively. They work well with external agencies and families to protect pupils who may be at risk. (Ofsted 2023)



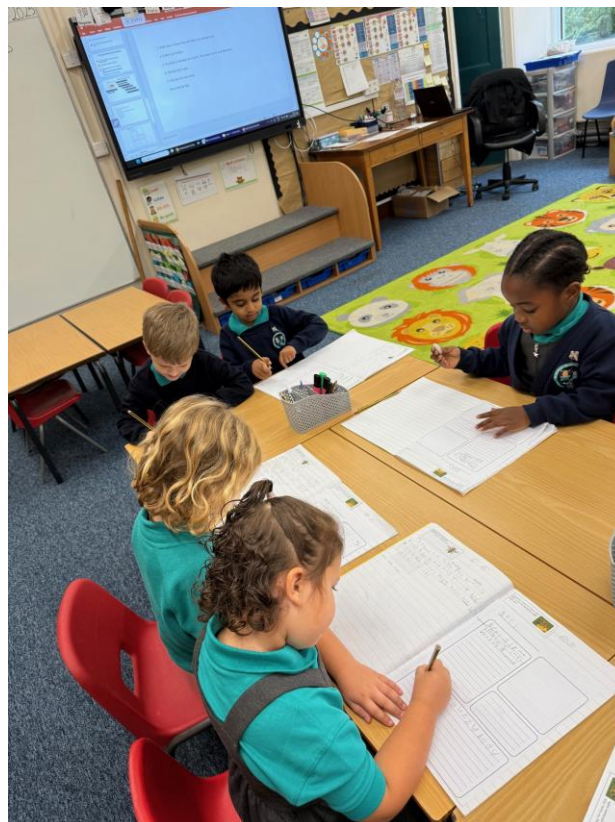
Background:

- Operation Encompass is an initiative which will enhance communication between the police and schools where a child is at risk from domestic abuse.
- The purpose of the information sharing is to ensure schools have more information to support safeguarding of children. By knowing that the child has had this experience the school is in a better position to understand and be supportive of the child's needs and possible behaviours.
- Operation Encompass will complement existing safeguarding procedures

For more information regarding Operation Encompass follow the links

https://headsup.warwickshire.gov.uk/assets/1/operation_encompass_initial_information_for_dissemination_to_schools_19-20.pdf

<https://www.operationencompass.org/>



Keeping your child healthy and safe

What if my child needs medication?

- All children will need medication from time to time.
- We are happy to administer **prescribed medicine** for which you will need to complete a form, giving details of the drug and number of doses.
- We take no responsibility for any adverse effects that might arise as a result of taking these medicines.
- We cannot administer any “over the counter” medicines such as cough medicines, antihistamines.
- All medication should be clearly labelled and brought by an adult to the office where the required paperwork is to be completed.

What if my child suffers from asthma?

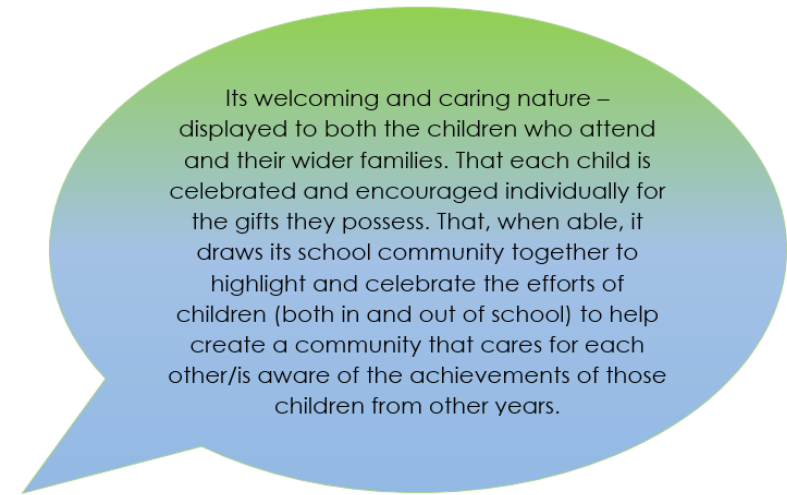
- If your child suffers from asthma, all inhalers and other related medication should be brought and kept in the classroom first aid bag.
- Staff are trained to supervise children needing inhalers.
- If your child is chronically asthmatic and needs to keep their inhaler with them, see Mrs Byard (office) to complete a separate form for your child to take responsibility. We would still need to keep an inhaler in school in case they lose it.
- Please ensure the medication we have is in date.

What if my child has a serious allergy?

- If your child suffers from an allergy and requires an epipen, you must notify the office.
- Staff in school are trained to use epipens in case of emergency.
- Your child's photo and details will be displayed in the office with clear instructions on how to deal with such emergencies.

What if my child has an accident at school?

- In the event of a minor injury, your child will be treated by a qualified first aider and you will receive a note or phone call giving details of the injury and the treatment.
- For more serious injuries, your child may need to be taken to hospital, whilst making every effort to contact you. It is vitally important that we have your correct telephone number and names of other contacts should we not be able to reach you.
- If we are unable to contact you, we shall assume parental responsibility, take your child to hospital for treatment, whilst still continuing to make contact with you.



Its welcoming and caring nature – displayed to both the children who attend and their wider families. That each child is celebrated and encouraged individually for the gifts they possess. That, when able, it draws its school community together to highlight and celebrate the efforts of children (both in and out of school) to help create a community that cares for each other/is aware of the achievements of those children from other years.

Catering for all Children's Needs

The special educational needs coordinator (SENDCo) works well with families and external agencies to identify pupils' needs with precision. (Ofsted 2023)

What can you do if you have concerns about your child?

Talk to your child's teacher about your concern. Together, we can plan the next step in helping your child to overcome their difficulties or use strategies to help them with their learning.

At St Matthew's Bloxam, we are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all of our pupils. We believe with a pro-active partnership working with parents/carers, children and professionals, all children can let their light shine to achieve to their full potential.

If any child in our school has a barrier to learning, we will make sure we offer the best opportunities for them to take part in every aspect of school life.

Barriers to learning include:

- Communication and Interaction (Speech and language difficulties or Autism Spectrum),
- General learning difficulties, both moderate and severe,
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties such as ADHD or attachment disorder,
- Problems with sight or hearing, or other physical disabilities,
- Alternatively, your child may have a less common disability, which causes a barrier to learning.

The term 'Special Educational Needs and Disability' (SEND) can sound quite upsetting and frightening to many parents, but it need not do! A pupil is said to have SEND where their learning difficulty or disability requires 'provision different from or additional to that normally available for pupils of the same age' (Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, DFE 2014). This is a very broad term and includes children with a wide range of additional needs; some are relatively simple and others that coincide with a disability and are therefore quite complex.

Working with More Able Children

All children have strengths and needs throughout their school careers. As a primary school, we match learning activities to your child's ability. This matching is called differentiation. Some children demonstrate exceptional skills at a very early age. The school aims to provide teaching and learning experiences that will challenge, stimulate and further extend their abilities.

Our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator is

Mrs Francis

01788 542610

Francis.h@Welearn365.com

What do you do if you have any concerns about school?

The first point of call should always be with the class teacher. Failing this, please make an appointment to see the phase leader. For Early Years (Nursery/Reception classes) concerns; Mrs Helen Francis. For Years 1 and 2 concerns; Miss Lois Cartledge. For Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 concerns; Miss Lauren Blackaby. If you still have concerns after following this route please contact school to meet with the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher.

We are usually able to resolve any concerns due to our strong relationships with families. However, in the event of the headteacher not being able to resolve the problem to your satisfaction, you are able to talk to the Chair of Governors by contacting the school.

If it is still not possible to agree on a solution to the problem, please read the complaints procedures on our school [website](#).

We hope that we will always be able to sort out difficulties and look forward to a long, happy and supportive home school partnership.

The School's Offsite Visits Charging Policy

We believe that children learn best when learning is meaningful and enriched by memorable experiences.

- Therefore, we arrange special visitors, exhibitions, shows, workshops to come to school and we also organise off site visits. These are supported by PaFoS.
- These do cost money, so we ask parents/carers to make a contribution.
- For some trips and residential visits, we operate a system so that the costs can be spread over a longer period of time.
- There are times when families may find it difficult to pay the whole amount. Please arrange to speak to the Headteacher if this is ever the case.
- Unfortunately, if there is a large number of families who cannot make contributions, visits may and have in the past, had to be cancelled.

A copy of the full Ofsted report can be found on our website

<https://primariesite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stmatthewsbloxam/UploadedDocument/809ce9ca-2ad0-4f7f-983e-5fcfc376ff89/ofsted-inspection-report-january-2023.pdf>

The School Governors

Chair Person	Hazel Maher
(Local Authority Governor)	English, PSHE and well-being Governor
	Member of Resources Committee
	Member of Pay Committee
	Headteacher's Performance Management
Vice Chair Person	Chris Burgess
(Parent Governor)	Health and Safety Governor
	Member of Resources Committee
	Headteacher's Performance Management
	RE, Music and Collective Worship Governor
Staff Governors	Anita Timson
	Headteacher – ex officio
	Helen Francis
	Deputy Headteacher
Parent Governors	Verity Alabaster
	SEND Governor
	Pupil Premium Governor
	Attendance Governor
	Art, DT Governor
Foundation Governors	Debbie Olnier
	Safeguarding Governor
	EYFS Governor
	Sue Sanders
	Maths Governor
Co-opted Governors	Lloyd McNally
	Chair of Resources Committee
	Geography, History and PE Governor
	Craig Harris
	Science and Computing Governor
Non Governors	Maria Page - Clerk to Governors

We are proud to have a committed Governing Body that provides support and challenge for the school. If you would be interested in becoming a Governor, there are members of the team who would be delighted to talk to you.

Results for 2025

KEY STAGE 2 STATUTORY TESTS

GD = Greater Depth (Higher standard)

*Moderated by LA

KEY STAGE 1 STATUTORY TESTS

	2023 (exc exempt)	2024 (exc exempt)	2025	2025 Nat	Ave SS School 2025	Ave SS 2025 Nat
Reading	53% (55%) GD 13%	62% (56%) GD 24% (22%)	59% GD 9%	75%	102	
Writing	69% (71%) GD 0%	76% (69%) GD 3% (3%)	66%* GD 3%	72%		
Maths	66% (68%) GD 10%	59% (53%) GD 14% (13%)	75% GD 25%	74%	103	
Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation	59% (61%) GD 13%	69% (63%) GD 21% (19%)	63% GD 13%	73%	101	
RWM combined	47% (48%) GD 0%	41% (36%) GD 7% (6%)	56% GD 3%	62% GD 8%		
Science	75%	86% (78%)	84%	82%		

GD = Greater Depth (Higher standard)

*Moderated by LA

PHONICS SCREENING

	2023	2024	2024	2024 Nat
Year 1	80%	79%*	72%*	80%
Year 2 retakes	0%	50%	0%*	89%

*Year 1 & 2 does not include the children in the Specialist Resource Provision

EYFS

	2023	2024	2025	2024 Nat
Reception	57%	67%*	65%*	67.7%

*Does not include the children in the Specialist Resource Provision

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS FOR 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025
Teacher Training Day – Monday 1st September*
Term Starts – Tuesday 2 nd September
Half Term – Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October
Term Starts – Monday 3 rd November
Term Ends – Friday 19 th December

Spring Term 2026
Teacher Training Day – Monday 5th January*
Term Starts – Tuesday 6 th January
Half Term – Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th February
Term starts – Monday 23 rd February
Term Ends – Friday 27 th March

Summer Term 2026
Teacher Training Day – Monday 13th April*
Term Starts – Tuesday 14 th April
Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May*
Teacher Training Day – Monday 22nd May*
Half Term – Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May
Term Starts – Monday 1 st June
Term Ends – Friday 17 th July
Teacher Training Day – Monday 20th July*

*Children do not attend school on these days

The School Staff 2025/26

Headteacher	Mrs Anita Timson
	Senior Lead for Child Protection (DSL lead)
	Assessment, Collective Worship/SIAMS,
	Designated Senior Mental Health Lead. Mental Health First Aider (Staff)
	Designated Teacher for children with (previously with) a social worker
Subject Responsibility	Modern Foreign Languages lead
Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Helen Francis – Reception teacher
Management Responsibility	EYFS Lead, SENDCo, Pupil Premium, Attendance, DSL , Designated Teacher for Children Looked After
Subject Responsibility	Curriculum lead, Computing lead, Caretaking Maths lead
Senior Teacher	Miss Emily Hughes – Year 4 teacher (Maternity Leave)
Management Responsibility	Line management of Mid-day supervisors
Subject Responsibility	Maths lead
Senior Teacher	Miss Lauren Blackaby – Year 5 teacher
Management Responsibility	KS2 lead
Subject Responsibility	English lead, RE lead
Senior Teacher	Miss Lois Cartledge – Year 2 teacher
Management Responsibility	KS1 lead
Subject Responsibility	PSHE lead, Phonics lead, ITT students lead
Teacher	Mrs Joanne Hancock – Year 3 teacher
Subject Responsibility	PE lead, Sports Premium
	Caretaking Line management of Mid-day supervisors
Teacher	Mrs Sammy Scott – Year 6 teacher
Subject Responsibility	History lead, Geography lead
Teacher	Mr Richard Mabey – Year 4 teacher
Subject Responsibility	Art lead, DT lead
Teacher	Mrs Sybil Adair-Whitell – Year 1 teacher
Subject Responsibility	Music lead, School Council
Teacher	Mrs Kayleigh Clarke – Reception teacher

The Lighthouse - Specialist Resource Provision Staff	
Teacher	Mrs Paula Darnbrough
Subject Responsibility	Science lead
Teaching Assistant Level 3	Miss Sophie Lawton
Teaching Assistant	Mrs Amy Richardson
Teaching Assistant	Mrs Sharon Joy
Teaching Assistant	Miss Shelley Gibson

The Nursery	
Lead	Mrs Sarah Wilson
Teaching Assistant	Mrs Julie Finch
Teaching Assistant	Miss Hailey Becker

Learning Support Mentor	Mrs Claire Jones
	DSL , Early Help Co-ordinator
	Mental Health First Aider (Learners)

Teaching Assistants	School Office Staff
Miss Zane Deiko	Mrs J Byard (Office Manager) DSL
Mrs Michelle Franklin	Midday Supervisors
Mrs Lucy Hartwell DSL	
Mrs Sarah Jones	Mrs L Patel (Senior Midday Supervisor)
Miss Sarah Longstaff	Mrs Sarah Jones
Mrs Geraldine Stock	Mrs Michelle Franklin
Mrs Tracy Turton – PPA Cover	Mrs Lucy Hartwell
Mrs Beth Watts – PPA Cover	Mrs Morin Montfort-Dayam
	Mr Pete Stacey
	Mrs Becky Haddock
	Miss Katie Wilson
	Miss Maki Tang
	Miss Zane Deiko
	Mrs Stock
	Mrs Longstaff
Building Blox (before and after school care)	Caretaking Team
Mrs Lucy Hartwell (BB lead) DSL	Mr James Taylor (Site Manager)
Ms Sharon Ryan	Miss Sarah Usher
Mrs Sarah Wilson	Mrs M Montfort-Dayam
Mr Pete Stacey	Mr P Stacey
Miss Sarah Longstaff	
Mrs Beth Watts	Catering Team (Educaterers)
Mrs Sarah Jones	Mrs Sarah Smith – Cook in charge
	Mrs Emma Douglas

Personal knowledge of and interest in each child. Good relationships among the children. Nice balance of Christian values and openness to those of other faiths and none.

A caring and nurturing school environment. Dedicated staff. A range of enjoyable activities for children.

