

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

"Let Your
Light Shine"

NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th February 2026 Issue 21

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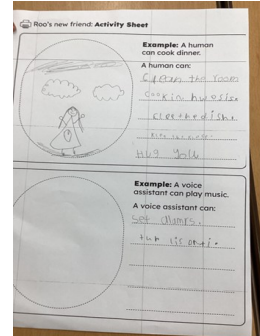
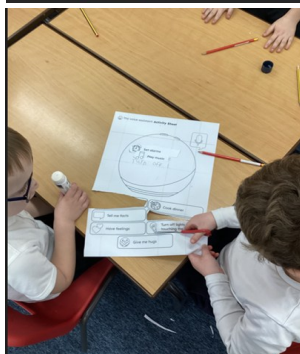
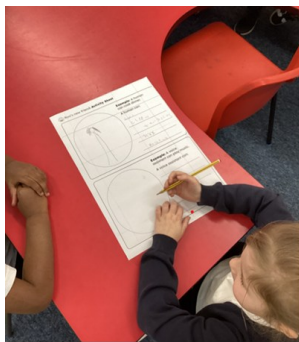
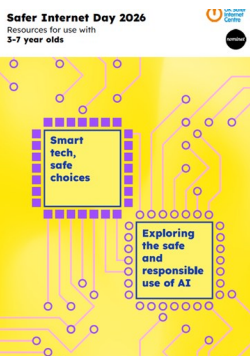
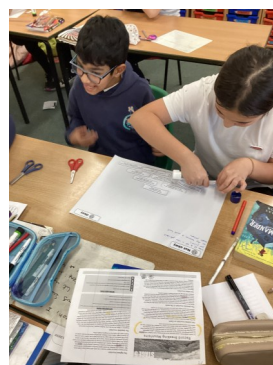


SAFER INTERNET DAY

This week, our school proudly took part in Safer Internet Day, which promotes the safe and positive use of digital technology for children.

Throughout the day, the children took part in engaging activities and discussions focused on AI (Artificial Intelligence) use and how to stay safe, responsible and kind in the digital world. We discussed the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable. At our school, we are committed to supporting our children to become responsible citizens. Let's continue working together to make the internet a safe and positive place for everyone!

Mrs Francis



Diary Dates

Friday 13th February

School Closes for Half Term

Monday 23rd February

School Re-opens for
Spring Term 2

Year 4 Swimming

Thursday 26th February

After School KS2 Multi-
Sports Club

3:20pm-4:20pm

Friday 27th February

Year 4 celebration
assembly 9am—parents/
carers welcome

Please see our School
Website for school diary
dates

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2023, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or extortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 390 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 17 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to step back and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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The National College

CAR PARKING

We are asking all parents and carers to take extra care when parking near the school. Recently, there have been several near miss incidents involving children, parents, carers and vehicles, and we want to ensure everyone arrives and leaves safely.

Please avoid stopping on yellow lines, blocking driveways, or pulling up in unsafe spots, even for a short time. A few extra minutes spent finding a safe place to park can make a huge difference to the safety of our pupils and the wider community.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe.



ATTENDANCE



Our whole school attendance target is **95%**

This week's whole school attendance is **94.9%**

This is below the target set by Warwickshire Attendance Service

School starts at **8.50am**, arriving after this time may affect your child's attendance mark.

Can we ask that if your child is not well enough to attend school that we have a **specific reason** and **not 'unwell'** as we need to state a reason in the attendance records.

Please can medical appointments be made for after school.

We also require proof of appointments that are made during school time.

Please follow the attached links for useful information

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>
<https://www.pharmacy2u.co.uk/>

This week's Family Information Service Newsletter - Tuesday 10th February 2026

The Family Information Service (FIS) provides free, impartial advice on a variety of services and useful information. They produce a weekly newsletter. Please use link below to access the newsletter.

<https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/family-information-service-newsletter-1219204-96fqcdqgps-8831979?e=04fcebfe0>

The school has strong links with St Oswald's Church. Further details are available from www.smsso.org.uk



Celebrating **FABULOUS FEMALES**

**Celebrating ALL the amazing
women in our lives.**

**Pre orders only, a letter will be
coming home today (13th) for
mini gift sets £4 each
(child chooses)**

Deadline 27th February

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



 easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2 Sign up and search for us
- 3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Shop with 8,000+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON



TUI

JOHN
LEWIS



Viking

ASOS



Uber Eats

Did you know you can raise FREE donations for Parents and Friends of St Matthew's Bloxam School - Rugby EVERY time you shop online. Just use easyfundraising! Over 8,000 brands will donate, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Us-witch and many more! It costs you NOTHING!

Visit: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmatthewsbloxam/?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=wa-1

Please do take a look at the website/app and share with friends and family. The more supporters we have, the more we can provide to enhance the experience for all children at SMB.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Your School PTA Needs You



PaFos Tuck Shop

**EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
EVERYTHING PRICED 50P OR £1**

**YOU CAN FIND US IN THE
CONSERVATORY OR ON THE PLAYGROUND**

CASH OR CARD ACCEPTED

ARE YOU ON OUR

SMB Class WhatsApp



Keep up to date on class
information, important dates
and other school messages
to join speak to Laura or
email

secretary-pafos@live.co.uk



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Children's Mental
Health Week:
9th-15th Feb

Dimensions tool



Free online personalised self-care information & support for adults and children in Coventry & Warwickshire

Kindness

Kindness means being friendly, generous, and considerate to others. It's all about showing care and respect through our actions and our words.

Random Acts of Kindness Day is celebrated each year on **February 17th**, however you can practice random acts of kindness all year round!

Ideas for random acts of kindness

Here are some easy ideas to spread kindness:

- Give compliments – A genuine compliment can make someone's day brighter.
- Hold the door open for someone.
- Share a smile – Smiling at people can help to boost their mood.
- Send a thank you note – Write a note of appreciation to someone who has helped you.
- Be a good listener – Sometimes, all someone needs is someone to talk to.
- Help your teacher – Offer to hand out something to the class or do something to help them.
- Ask someone how their day is going – Asking someone about their day can make them feel cared for and happier.
- Pick up a piece of litter.
- Offer to help someone at home.

Why is being kind important?

Kindness is contagious! When you show kindness, it inspires others to do the same.

When you are kind to someone, it can help them to feel happy, it can brighten their day and boost their mood.

Kindness can help to make schools, homes and communities more welcoming and friendly. When people are kind, everyone feels more comfortable which can lead to better relationships and friendships.

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.



Jess is running the

LONDON MARATHON 2026



please donate if you can

for The Myton Hospices

JESS IS HOPING TO RAISE
£5000 IN MEMORY OF HER
MUM, LOUISE YOUNG, WHO
PASSED AWAY IN MARCH
2021, JUST 3 WEEKS AFTER
HER CANCER DIAGNOSIS.

**SHE WANTS TO RAISE THIS
MONEY FOR THE INCREDIBLE
CHARITY THAT SUPPORTED HER
AND HER FAMILY MOST,
THROUGH SUCH A DIFFICULT
TIME!**



In aid of

myton
hospice

**IF YOUR CHILD IS
FEELING UNDER
THE WEATHER,**

**IT CAN BE HARD
TO KNOW IF YOU
SHOULD SEND
THEM TO SCHOOL
OR NOT.**



**UNLESS THEY HAVE A
TEMPERATURE OF
38 DEGREES OR ABOVE,
THEY'RE USUALLY
GOOD TO GO.**



**SEARCH NHS SCHOOL
ILLNESS GUIDANCE.**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government



School Attendance

Every day counts...



Good attendance helps with...



Academic Achievement

Regular attendance helps children keep up with the curriculum and perform better academically.



Social Skills

Attending school regularly helps children develop friendships, social skills and learning how to interact with others.



Routine & Responsibility

Good attendance teaches the importance of commitment, routine, and responsibility, which are all valuable life skills.



Focus & Engagement

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.



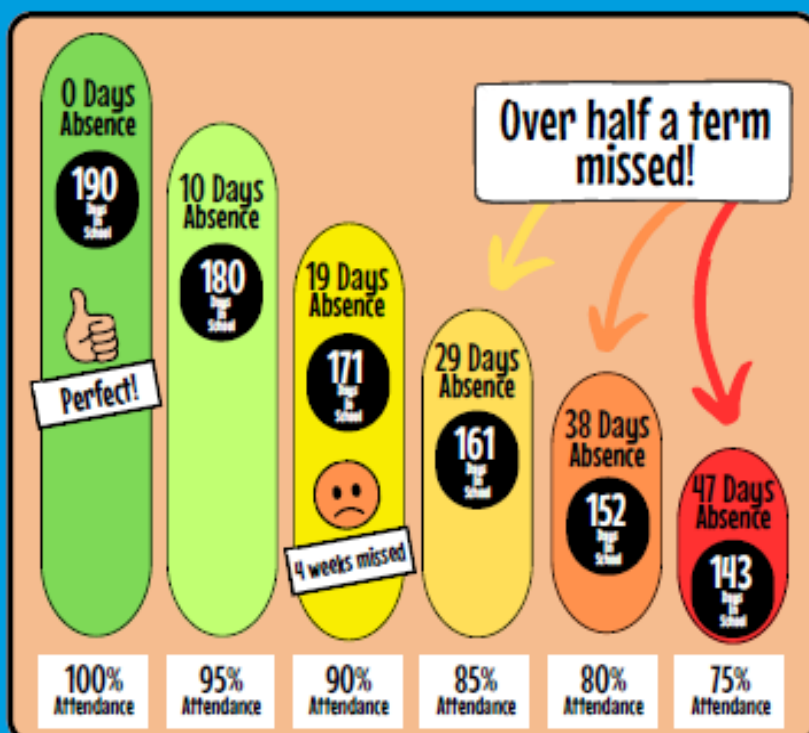
Building Confidence

Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.



Enhanced Learning Opportunities

School provides not just academic instruction, but also extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.



Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!

Did you know there are...

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

Silly School Education



Eat Well, move *More*



Swap sugary drinks for water or milk.



Check portion sizes and give children smaller plates.



Make exercise fun with active games.



Walk, cycle or scoot for short journeys.



Warwickshire
County Council

For help to stay healthy go to:
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/eatwellmovemore

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

13

is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.



X (formerly Twitter)



Facebook



Instagram



Pinterest



Messenger



TikTok



Discord



Snapchat



Twitch



Yubo



Reddit



YouTube



BeReal



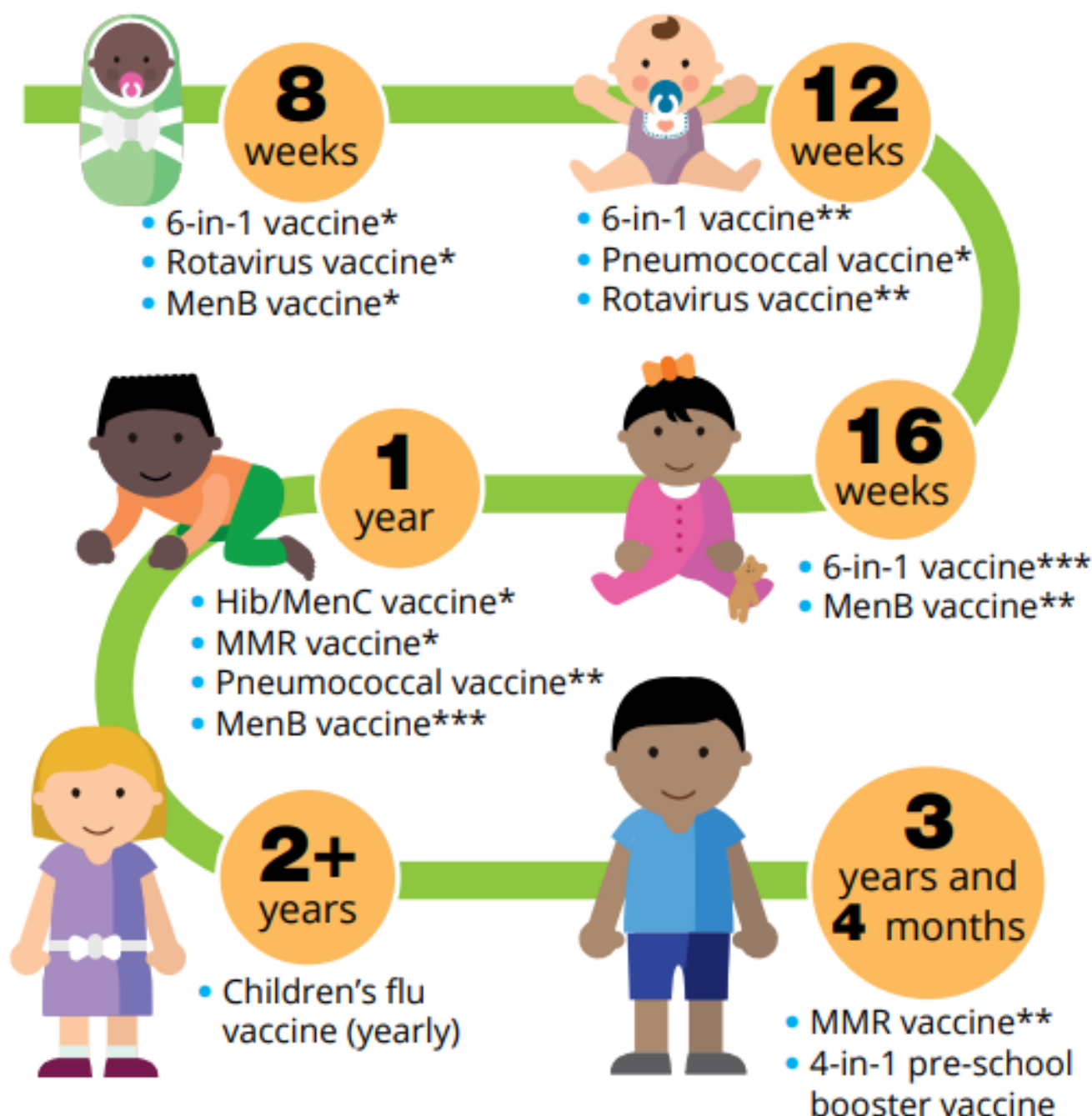
WhatsApp



Disclaimer: This resource/information is not intended to encourage social media use and we cannot accept any responsibility for pupils that sign up to social media sites after using this resource/information. Please note that age restrictions for social media platforms may vary depending on the laws and regulations in your location.



Your child's vaccine schedule



* first dose, **second dose, *** third dose

6-in-1 protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib and hepatitis B

4-in-1 protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio

Follow your child's vaccine schedule to protect them against illnesses

Stick this timeline up as a useful reminder



- Childhood illnesses like measles and whooping cough are rising
- These illnesses can make children very sick, leading to hospital stays or lifelong problems
- If your child is not vaccinated, they are not protected
- It's important that vaccines are given on time for the best protection. Some need booster doses later too
- Check your child's red book or speak to your GP practice to see if they have missed any
- You can still catch up on most missed vaccines
- All the childhood vaccinations are free. As children grow up, they will be offered more vaccine appointments, right up until they are teenagers. Some vaccines are offered at school
- Vaccinations offered by the NHS are thoroughly tested to assess how safe and effective they are. All medicines can cause side effects, but vaccines are among the very safest.
- Research from around the world shows that immunisation is the safest way to protect our children's health

Are your child's vaccines up to date?
Book now at their GP practice