

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

**"Let Your
Light Shine"**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th November 2025 Issue 9

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Year 1

I wanted to take a moment to share just how proud Mrs Whitell and Mrs Jones are of the wonderful start your children have made to Year 1. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn have truly been remarkable, and it has been delightful to witness their progress over the past few weeks!

English

The Bee Who Spoke. This enchanting story has sparked much enthusiasm and creativity among the children, and I am delighted to report that they have produced some truly fantastic pieces of writing inspired by the text. It is heartening to see their enthusiasm and creativity come alive through their writing.

Maths

The children in Year 1 have been learning about place value. Specifically, we are focusing on numbers from 0 to 10, teaching the children to recognise that numbers are made up of ones and tens, laying the groundwork for their future mathematics learning. They have also enjoyed learning addition and subtraction within 10. The children have been learning about part-whole models and number bonds to 10. Also, they have been learning about fact families and written number sentences.

Science

We have been learning about seasonal changes. The children have gone on an autumn walk and spotted signs of autumn. They also learned what happens in each season.

Geography

The children learned about cold and hot places around the world. We were able to name at four countries in the United Kingdom.

Wider curriculum

In art, we have been learning about Anna Lorimer, Artist & Gallerist in Rugby. The children have been inspired by her artwork and created their own painting using watercolours. The children are learning to sign in on the computer, and they are enjoying the lessons in computing.

From mastering new phonics sounds to exploring numbers in exciting ways, the children have been embracing all aspects of their learning. It is heartening to see their confidence grow as they engage with various activities and collaborate with their peers. Each day brings new achievements, and we are thrilled by their enthusiasm!

Mrs Whitell



Diary Dates

Monday 10th November

Year 5 Swimming

Tuesday 11th November

**After school Cricket Club
3:20pm – 4:20pm**

**Wednesday 12th
November**

**Year 3 & 4 Scooter
Workshops**

Thursday 13th November

**After School Football Club
3:20pm – 4.20pm**

Friday 14th November

**Non-Uniform for Children
in Need in exchange for a
monetary donation**



YEAR 6



On Tuesday, year 6 were given the opportunity to have a guided tour around Rugby school by Dr Fowle (one of the history teachers at Rugby School) to learn more about the life of Rupert Brooke (one of the famous war poets from WW1) and his connections to the town of Rugby. It was a great experience and year 6 enjoyed going into the places that Rupert Brooke would have known and exploring a range of sources to find out more about his life. We even had the opportunity to go into the house where Rupert Brooke lived with his family, you can still find his desk and his bed as part of the furniture! We finished the tour in the remembrance chapel where the names of Rugby students who have fought in the wars and sadly lost their lives are named on the walls. Many thanks to Dr Fowle for the great experience.

Mrs Scott



WELL DONE!



Jorjia-Jayne, in Year 3 took part in a competition over the weekend in Liverpool for the OPIDF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Jorjia-Jayne finished in second place in her Primary Premier!

A huge WELL DONE from all of us at St Matthew's Bloxam on such an impressive achievement!



CHILDREN IN NEED



Friday 14th November is non-school uniform for Children in Need.

Please can you send in a monetary donation .

ATTENDANCE



Our whole school attendance target is **95.5%**

This week's whole school attendance is **95%**

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 4th November 2025

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-1219204-96fqcdqqps-8830931?e=04fcebfe0>

Book Santa's Grotto

Letters will be going out soon to book your spaces to see Santa at our Christmas Fayre on Monday 8th December.

Your child/children can get a chance to have a photo with Santa and receive a gift from him.

There will be limited spaces and time slots so make sure you hand in your forms and the correct money as fast as you can.





PAFOS



NON-UNIFORM

DONATION DAY

On Friday 28th November your child/children can come to school in Non-Uniform in exchange for an item for our Christmas Tombola.

PaFoS would be grateful for any unopened bottles (drinks), christmas treats (biscuits, chocolates) random tombola items or unwanted new gifts.

Please note, any alcohol must be handed to a member of staff or handed to the office by an adult.



Thank you!



It's (nearly) Christmas!

PaFoS, St. Matthew Bloxam's PTA is in need of raffle donations for our Christmas Fayre.

If you have a business, or are employed by a company that is able to donate a raffle prize, voucher or gift, we would be extremely grateful.

In return we will advertise your business on our social media, and at the Fayre.

If you can help, please email secretary-pafos@live.co.uk

Thank you

BISCUITS

Drinks

**PaFoS
Tuck Shop
THURSDAYS
after school
in the
conservatory**

All items are priced

2 for 50p

50p

£1

Cash and card machine
available

Sweets

Crisps



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!**

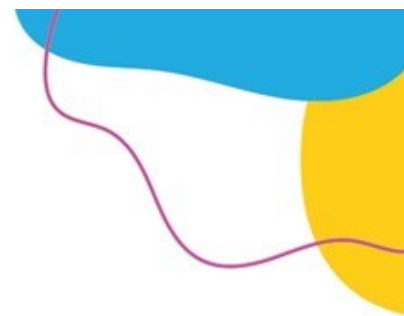


In aid of

myton
hospice



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Be Helpful

Being helpful means doing something kind for someone else — like sharing, listening, or offering a hand — even in small ways. When you help, your brain feels safe and happy. It teaches empathy, kindness, and gratitude — all great for mental health!

Why being helpful is good for you:

Boosts your mood: Helping others releases feel-good chemicals in your brain.

Builds Confidence: You'll feel proud and capable when you make a difference.

Creates Connection: Helping brings people together and reduces loneliness.

Reduces Stress: Focusing on others can calm your mind and improve wellbeing.

Our Top Tips For Being Helpful:

1. **Start Small** – You don't have to do something huge – even small acts of kindness matter! Holding a door, sharing a smile or helping with a chore all count.
2. **Listen First** – Sometimes the best way to help is to listen and being there for someone who needs to talk.
3. **Spread Positivity** – Compliments, encouragement, and gratitude go a long way. They make everyone feel good!
4. **Make it a habit** – Try to do one helpful thing every day. The more you practice kindness, the more natural it feels!
5. **Work as a team** – Helping doesn't mean doing everything alone. Teamwork makes helping fun and easier for everyone.
6. **Reflection time** – After helping someone, take a minute to think: How did it make you feel? How did it help the other person? What did you learn about kindness?

Examples of how to help others:

- Sit with someone who is alone at lunch time
- Give family or friends a kind note to brighten their day
- Help your neighbour to take their shopping in
- Offer to tidy the classroom or help your teacher hand out resources

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.





Chess in Schools and Communities is delighted to offer a series of **free online chess webinars**, running weekly from 18 November to 11 December. The sessions are aimed at children in Years 4–8, but **anyone is welcome to join**.

There are three levels of webinar to choose from: beginner, intermediate and advanced. To join the beginner webinar, children need only know the basic rules of chess. Parents can choose which level their child should attend. Each level will be repeated twice a week for ease of attendance. Alongside the webinars, children will have the opportunity to learn through [ChessKid](#), a safe platform designed for primary school children.

At the end of the webinar series, some participants will be invited to attend a series of ten online masterclasses starting in January 2026. Places will be awarded on the basis of attendance of webinars and completion of weekly homework tasks on ChessKid.

Parents who want their child to take part in the webinars should follow [this link](#) and complete the registration form. We would be very grateful if you could forward this information to anyone you think might be interested.

Thank for your help in encouraging children to take advantage of these free chess lessons.

Festive Fun

RUGBY
Art Gallery
& Museum

Geeky Greetings Cards

Saturday 15th November

10.00am - 11.00am - Ages 6+

11.30am - 12.30pm - Ages 10+

1.00pm - 2.00pm - Ages 14+

Create unique holiday cards with a geeky twist in these sessions with STEM goes Wild. Add electric circuits and UV effects for a festive glow.

Tickets are £10 per person - booking essential.

Macrame Santa and Angel Workshops (16+)

Saturday 29 November

10.00am - 11.00am - Santa

1.30pm - 3.30pm - Angel

Step by step instructions from Sally of 'Knot so Simple' to create what is needed to make a Santa or an Angel decoration. Each person will be given a kit with everything they need.

£25 per workshop - booking essential.

Festive Meet and Greet with Waffle the Wonder Dog!

Friday 2nd January 2026

5 minute time slots between 1.45 - 3.45

FREE but booking essential.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Relaxed Hour

Monday 22nd December

10.30 - 11.30

FREE session for neurodivergent children, where young visitors who would benefit from a more relaxed environment can enjoy and explore our space. With a festive craft.

Get festive at our regular family and community sessions.

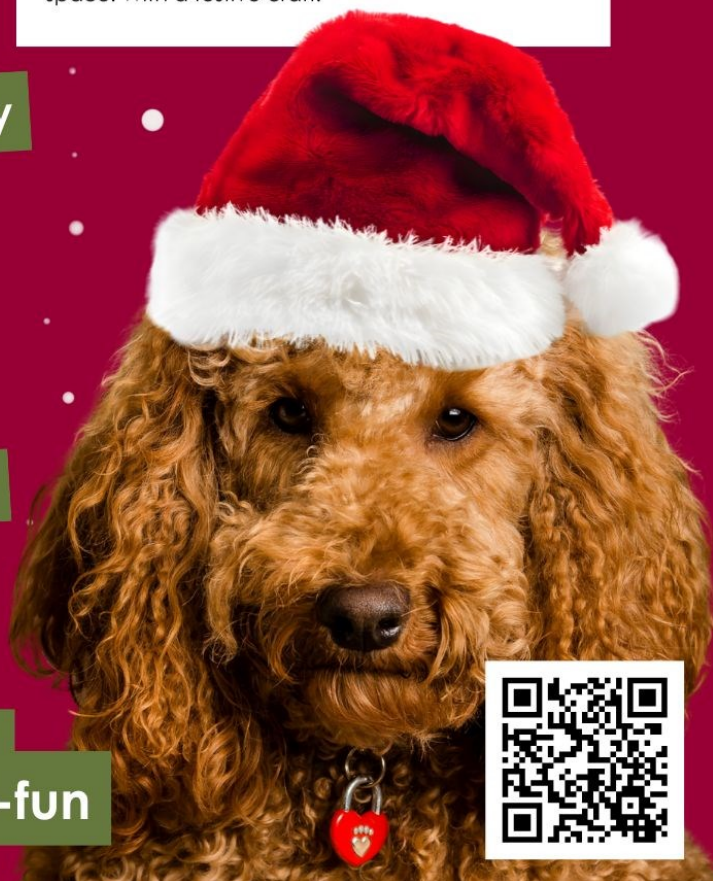
All of our activities over December will be filled with festive fun. Including Mini Explorers and Mini Makers for children aged 2-5, Express Art Group, and The Good Times Craft for adults with dementia and their carers.

... and enjoy our FREE festive hunt

Children will enjoy exploring the art gallery and museum searching out festive clues, with a chance to win a prize!

Scan the QR code to find out more or visit

www.ragm.co.uk/festive-fun





**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.



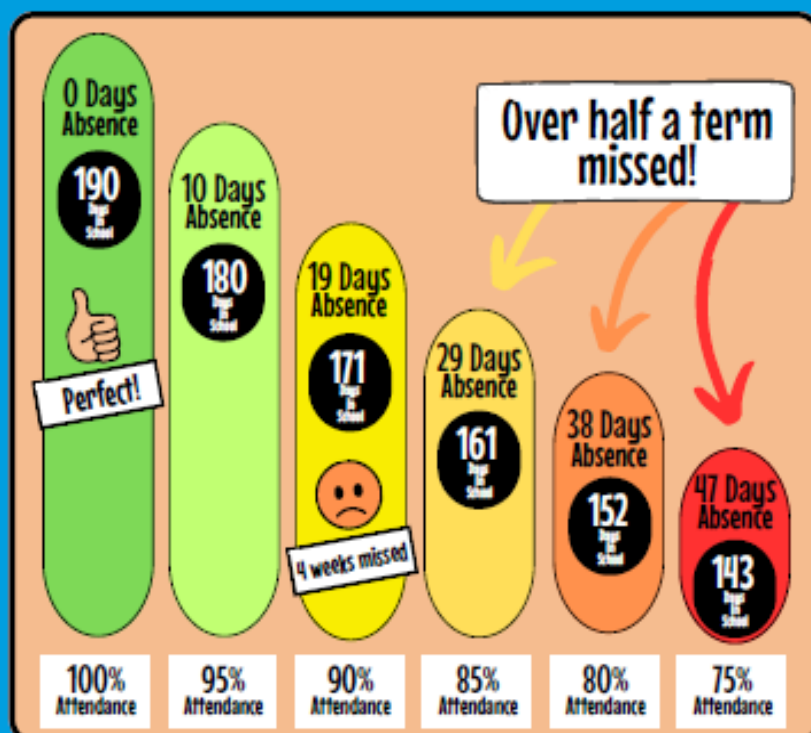
Building Confidence

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



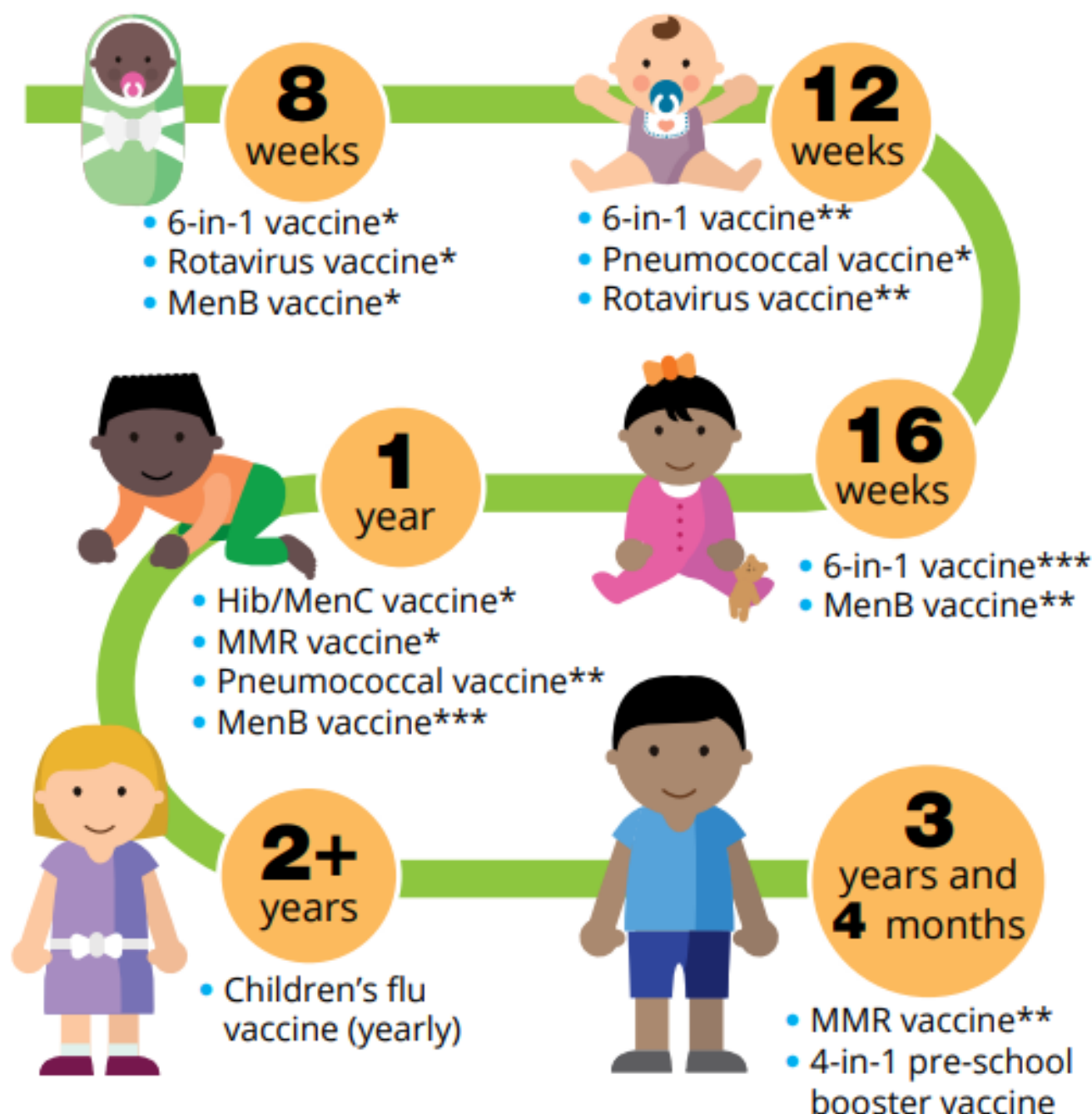
WhatsApp



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