

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

"Let Your
Light Shine"

NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th October 2025 Issue 8

Telephone/Fax: 01788 542610

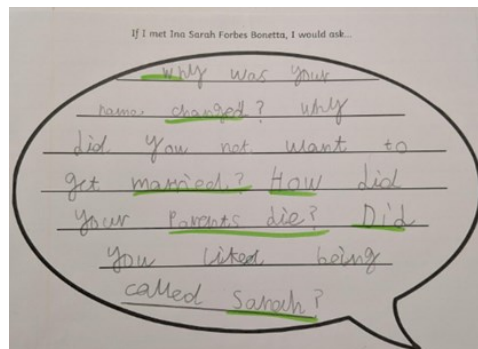
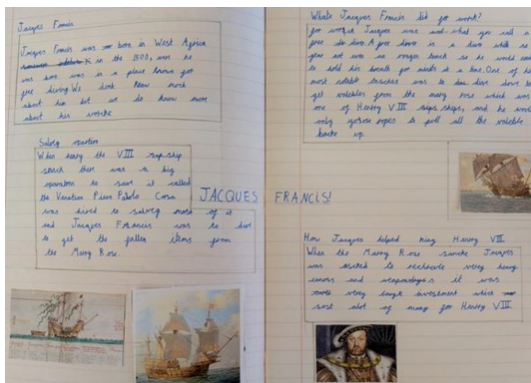
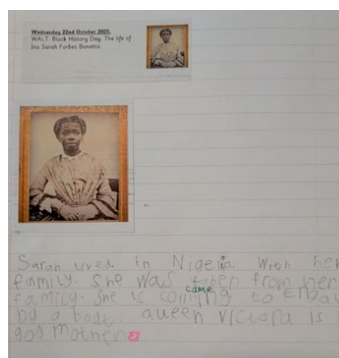
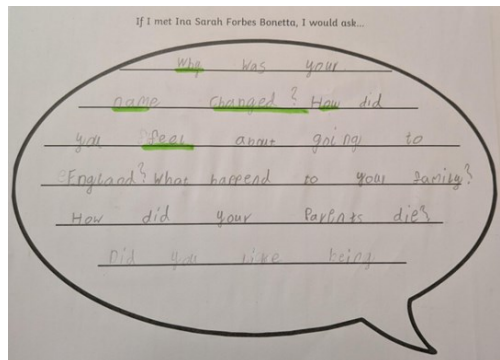
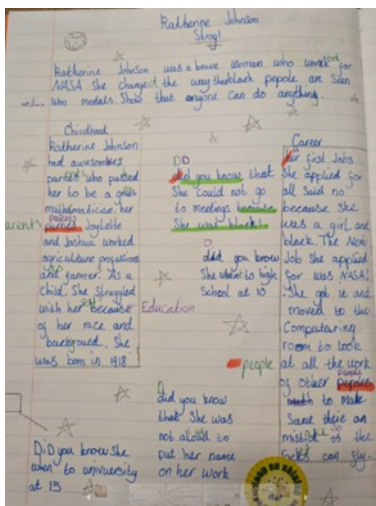
e-mail: admin3213@welearn365.com

Website: www.st-matthewsbloxam.co.uk



Black History Month

This week we have been celebrating Black History Month. Every year Black History month is celebrated in October and the theme for this year is 'Standing Firm in the Power and Pride'. Each class found out about a Black person from history and how they influenced the time that they lived as well as the impact they have had on society and the world. From Garrett Augustus Morgan (invented the three position traffic lights), Sarah Forbes Bonetta (worked alongside Queen Victoria) to Jacques Francis (diver for King Henry VIII). The whole school has enjoyed finding out more about how Black people have shaped the world that we live in today.



Diary Dates

Monday 3rd
November

School reopens for
Autumn 2 Term

Year 5 Swimming

Tuesday 4th
November

Year 6 visit to Rugby
School -9am

After school Cricket
Club
3:20pm -4:20pm

Thursday 6th
November

After School Football
Club

3:20pm - 4.20pm



YEAR 6 JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

This week, year 6 have had a great experience with Warwickshire Police where they have had an insight into the role of the police. They have been put through the same training regime that a police officer would go through. This included baton training and first aid training. They also took part in the bleep test (running between two points within a time) not only once, but insisted on having two attempts at it!

They have been through drill training and will be finishing with the passing out parade in front of their parents, on Friday. At the start of the week the class took part in an investigation to find out who has stolen food and drink from a local shop. This involved collecting evidence and then arresting and interviewing a suspect. We think the best part of the week was being introduced to Vesta, one of the wellbeing dogs used by Warwickshire police. Her visit really brightened up the week!

Thank-you to Jo and Rebecca from Warwickshire police for their time this week. It truly has been a great experience for our year 6's.



YEAR 6 PARENTS/CARERS

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE

The application process is now open to submit your application for their secondary school place.

The deadline to apply for a secondary school place is **31st October 2025**

If you miss this deadline, you are much less likely to get offered a place at a preferred school because you will be allocated a place after everyone who applied on time.

This deadline applies to all families, even if your child is sitting the 11+ exam. You still need to submit an application for your chosen secondary schools.

Please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-secondary-school-place> for more guidance on how to submit your application by the **31st October deadline**.



ATTENDANCE

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

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 21st October 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-8830763?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/family-information-service-newsletter-1219204-96fqcdqqps-8830763?e=[UNIQID])

PENNY WARS

**Thank you so much to everyone who
contributed to this terms class wars!**

**We would not be able to help raise funds for
the school without all your help, and I know
the kids yet again enjoyed it.**

**Over the last 6 weeks we have managed to
raised just under **£185!****

With year **5 remaining champions**

**They received their celebratory cupcakes
with the rest of the classes received biscuits
and a thank you**



Please join us for St Matthews Bloxam's

PAFOS MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD



6:30 PM

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

Refreshments will be provided!

We will be discussing the upcoming christmas fayre
and looking for new ideas

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

PLEASE CONTACT PTA CO-CHAIR LAURA AT SECRETARY-PAFOS@LIVE.CO.UK

We are excited to see you there!

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.



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



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



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.

ST OSWALD'S SUPERHERO LIGHT PARTY!

Games! Crafts! Food! Fun!

31st October

5.30 - 7 PM

Open to all Yr1 - Yr6 children



Scan to Sign Up!

Wear bright clothes - glow-in-the-dark face paints and costume supplies will be provided

St Oswald's Church - Lawford Rd, Rugby, CV21 2HR

Sign-up by 27th October



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Digital Detox

Taking a digital detox is important to give our minds and bodies a break from screens and technology. Too much screen time can lead to tired eyes, difficulty sleeping, and feeling stressed or distracted. Stepping away from devices helps us to recharge, focus better, improve our mood, and spend more quality time with family and friends. It also encourages healthier habits like playing outside, reading, and being creative, all of which support overall wellbeing!

Our tips for taking a digital detox:

1. **Set yourself clear limits for screen time** - Set specific time limits for screen time, such as an hour after school or 30 minutes of games or social media. Try setting limits on your device, or a visual reminder.
2. **Create Scree-Free Zones** - When you are eating meals with your family or friends, leave your phone or devices in a different room. This allows you to talk and enjoy your food without distractions and improves your quality of connections with others.
3. **Avoid screens at night** - Try to avoid using devices in your bedroom, most importantly for at least 30 minutes before bed. Keeping your bedroom a peaceful space can help you to fall asleep more easily.
4. **Do fun activities without screens** - Try drawing, playing a game with your family, playing a musical instrument or reading instead of your usual device. Spend time outdoors if you can!
5. **Take small breaks from screens** - After playing video games or watching TV for a while, get up and move around. Try to take short breaks where you move between rooms, stretch or walk around.
6. **Turn off notifications** - This can reduce the number of distractions and help you focus on what is important to you. You might even discover a new activity you enjoy!
7. **Find mindful alternatives** - Try meditating or doing breathing exercises to reduce feelings of stress, rather than screen use.

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.

**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.**

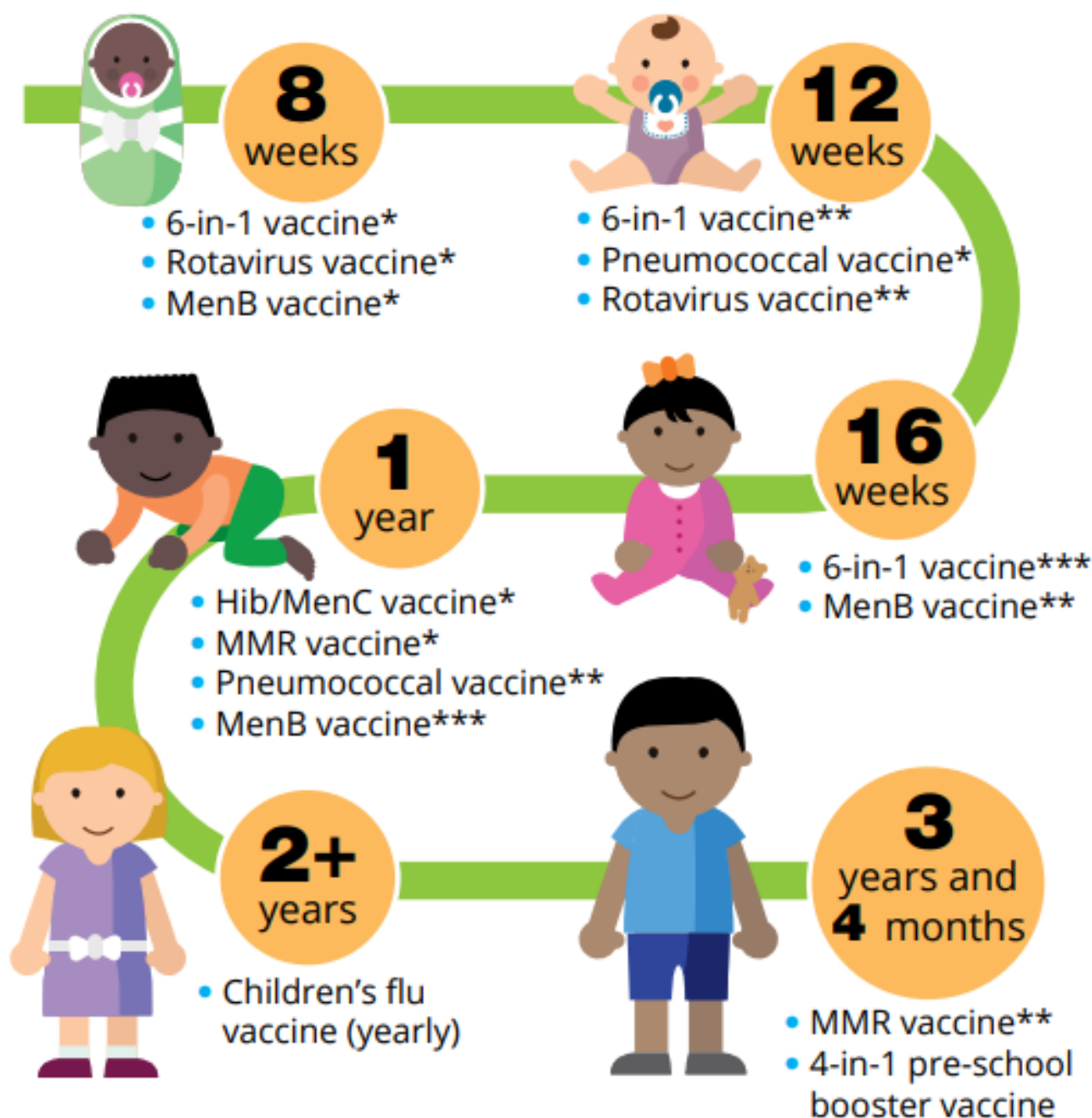


HM Government





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**

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.



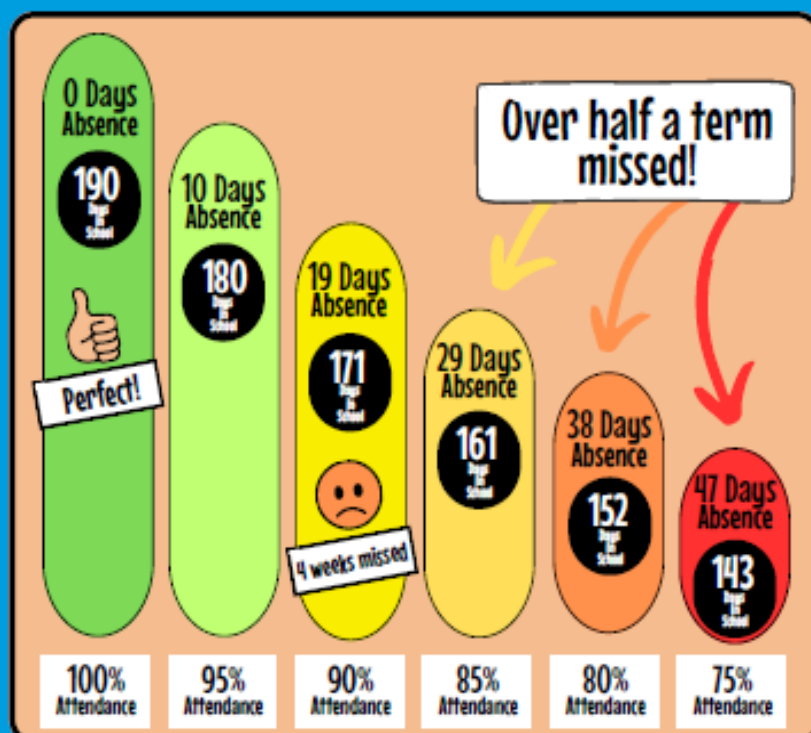
Building Confidence

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.

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



- 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