

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

"Let Your
Light Shine"

NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th October 2025 Issue 6

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Year 3 – Autumn Highlights

What a fantastic start to the term! The children have been full of enthusiasm and curiosity as we've explored lots of exciting topics across our subjects.

Maths – Place Value

In Maths, we've been learning about place value, partitioning numbers into hundreds, tens and ones using base ten blocks and place value charts. We've compared, ordered and played games to build and understand numbers — showing great focus and teamwork!

English – *The Hodgeheg*

In English, we've loved reading *The Hodgeheg* by Dick King-Smith. We sequenced the story, wrote diary entries from Max's point of view, and created our own endings — from Max inventing a hedgehog crossing to becoming a local hero!

Science – Rocks, Fossils and Chicks

In Science, we became archaeologists and palaeontologists, exploring different rocks and making our own fossils using modelling clay. We also enjoyed caring for the chicks, watching them grow and even giving them a cuddle!

History – Our School's Past

In History, we explored the history of our school, looking for clues around the building to discover how it has changed. We found old sinks, door signs and marks on the floors that hinted at its fascinating past.

Forest School Fun!

Our favourite part of the week has been Forest School! We've built dens, climbed trees, collected apples, played hide and seek, swung on the swings and dug holes. We even spotted a baby pigeon, a fox and a buzzard! We're so proud of how hard everyone has worked and how much fun we've had learning together. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

Well done, Year 3!

Mrs Hancock



Diary Dates

Monday 13th October

Year 6 Swimming

Tuesday 14th October

Choir & Worship Group at
Knox Court for Harvest
Festival

Thursday 16th October

Football After School Club

3:20pm – 4.20pm

Friday 17th October

Year 1 Celebration
assembly 9am—parents/
carers welcome

Just a reminder that we
are still collecting for
Rugby Food Bank this
week



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 **31 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 **97.3%**



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 7th 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-1219204-96fqcdqpps-8830622?e=04fcebfe0>



PAFOS



NON-UNIFORM

DONATION DAY

On Friday 24th October your child/children can come to school in Non-Uniform in exchange for a £1 or a donation for our Christmas Fayre.

PaFoS would be grateful for any unopened bottled items (pop, wine, shampoo, shower gel, etc) 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!



PaFoS PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE

PaFoS Sale of pre-loved school uniform

Thursday 23rd October from 3pm!

PaFoS will be selling pre-loved logo and plain Jumpers, Cardigans, Trousers, Skirts, Shorts, Pinafore and Summer Dresses in sizes 4 to 15 years

All items just £1 each



All proceeds go towards providing additional activities and equipment to enhance and enrich the children's learning experiences and opportunities.

PAFOS ARE HOSTING

AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR & TABLE

TOP SALE

11th October 2025

WITH FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

12:00 - 3:00PM

If you would like a table please
get intouch with Laura or email
secretary-pafos@live.co.uk



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Your School PTA Needs You



ootiBOO! 2025

The monster craft competition for schools and families



Get ready for some frightfully fun creativity!

ootiBOO! is our annual monstrous craft competition, open to children and grown-ups of any age. Whether you're at school or at home, it's your chance to let imaginations run wild and bring your very own monster to life.

Prizes

There are over £400 worth of prizes to be won, including:

- Farshore and HarperCollins Book bundles
- Dubs kid's sneakers
- GoGift Global Gift Cards
- The Natural Crayon Company dinosaur set
- Ninyonga London bespoke jewellery



How to Enter

1. Create a monster-themed craft. Use any medium you like: paper, fabric, clay, recycled materials, paint, collage... the scarier (or sillier!) the better.
2. Snap a photo or video of your creation.
3. Upload your entry via the competition page on our website play.ootiboo.com/projects/ootiboo

Free to enter

Open to everyone, everywhere; no matter your age or ability.

Perfect for classrooms, after-school clubs and family fun at home.



ootiboo.com



@ootiboo



Mental Health in Schools Team

Tips For Wellness



Laughter

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people" – Victor Borge

Laughter is like a natural boost for your brain and body—it helps you feel happier, less stressed, and more relaxed. When you laugh, your body releases chemicals that make you feel good and even help you connect with friends. Laughter also helps to boost your immune system, helps you think more clearly and be more creative too. So, having fun and sharing a laugh is a great way to take care of your mental wellbeing!

Our tips for laughter:

1. **Keep note of your favourite memories** — write down some of your favourite memories that have made you laugh the most and keep them in a jar. You can then pull one out and read them in the future. It can feel difficult to start laughing if you are feeling low, but a good place to begin is to remember what has made you laugh in the past.
2. **Spend time with friends who make you laugh** — hanging out with funny, positive people lifts your mood.
3. **Watch or listen to funny shows, cartoons, or jokes** — find things that make you smile or giggle.
4. **Don't be afraid to be silly** — make funny faces, play games, or be playful to invite laughter.
5. **Share jokes** or funny stories with family or friends to spread the laughter around.
6. **Look for humour in everyday situations** — try to find something to smile about, even on tough days.

Laughter is contagious...by laughing more, you will not only boost your own wellbeing but also the wellbeing of those around you!

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.**

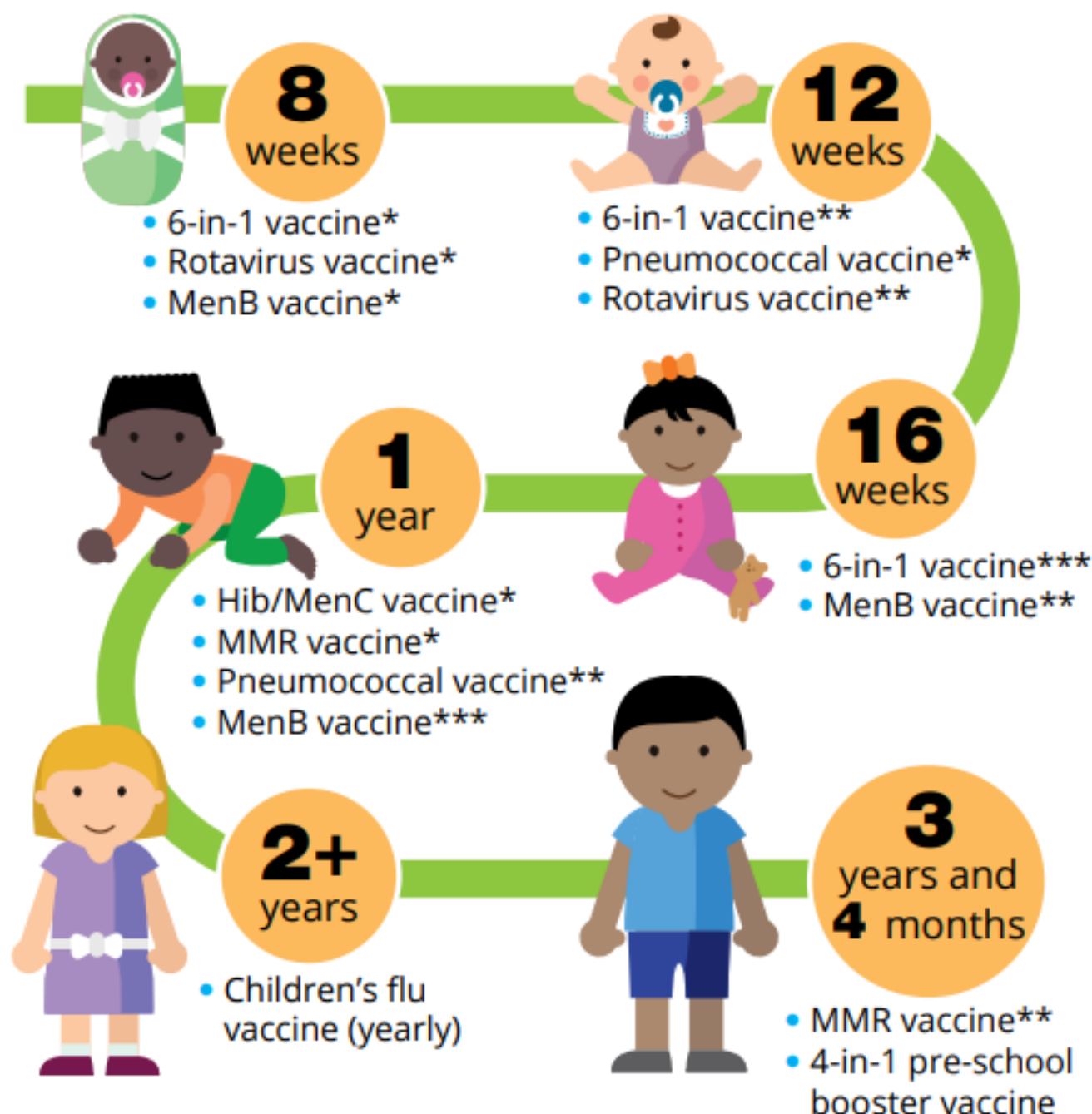


HM Government





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.



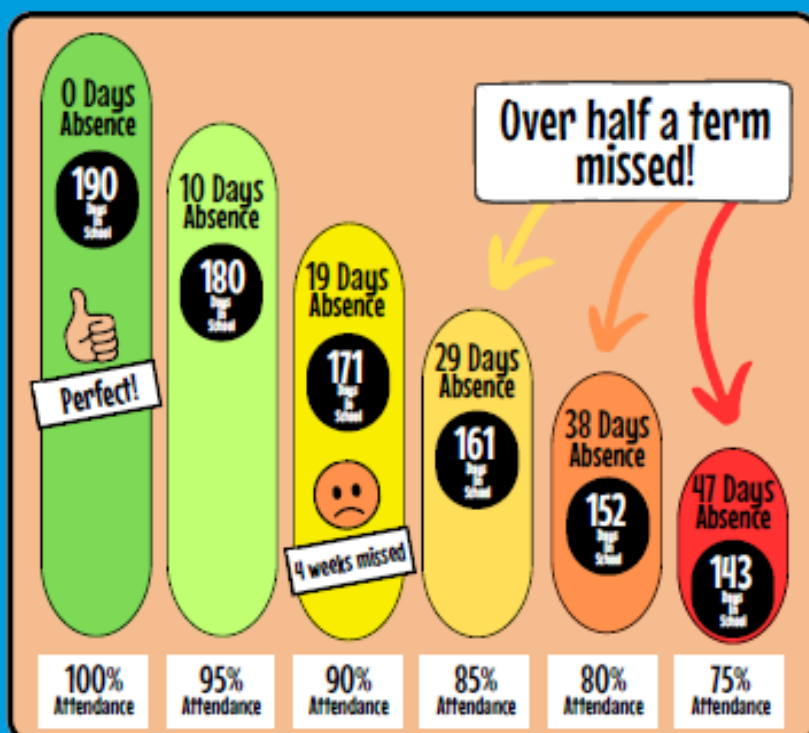
Building Confidence

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