

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

**"Let Your
Light Shine"**

NEWSLETTER

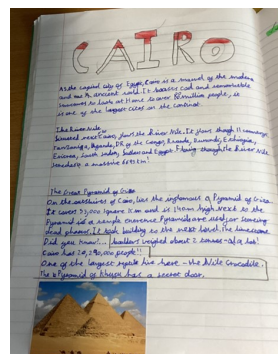
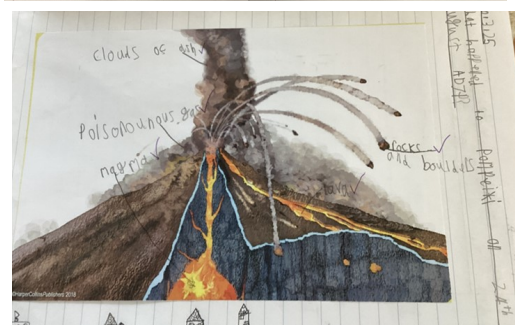
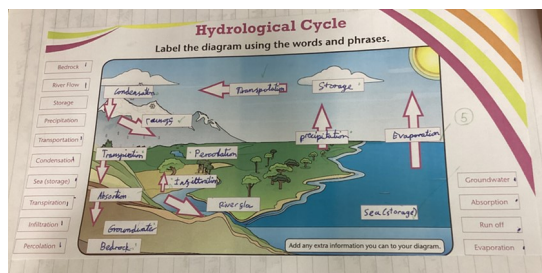
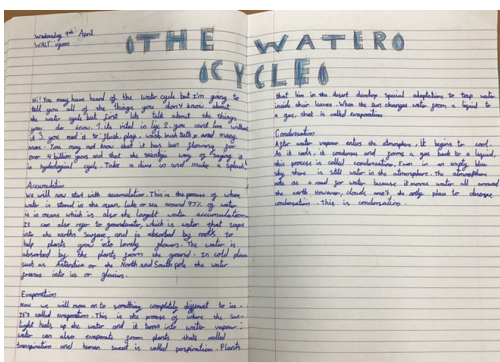
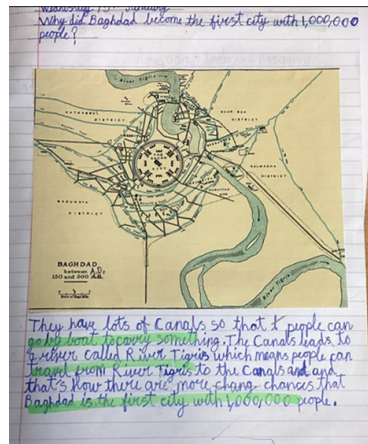
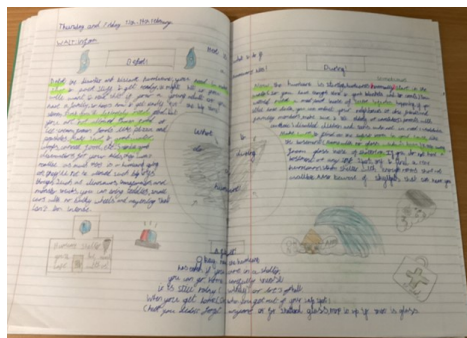
Friday 23rd May 2025 Issue 32

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Geography

At St Matthew's Bloxam, through our Geography curriculum, we allow children to explore the world around them and understand geographical features and events that have shaped the world in which we live. We do this through enquiry questions which allow children to explore and use the skills of a geographer to understand these features. By using the skills of a geographer, it also allows children to understand people and places in our own community and around the world.



Diary Dates

Friday 23rd May
School closes for Half
Term

Monday 2nd June

School closed for
Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 3rd June

School reopens for
Summer Term 2

PaFoS Coffee Morning
9am – Everyone welcome

After School Games Club

Years 1-6

3:20pm-4:20pm

Thursday 5th June

Whole School
Sustainability Day

After School Dance Club
Year 1-6

3:15pm - 4:15pm

Friday 6th June

Year 4 celebration
assembly 9am—parents/
carers welcome

Years 5 & 6 Police
Workshops

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

This week's Family Information Service Newsletter - Tuesday 20th May 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-8829109?
e=04fcebfe0](https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/family-information-service-newsletter-1219204-96fqcdqqps-8829109?e=04fcebfe0)

SUSTAINABILITY DAY

Hopefully, some of you have already noticed a few small changes around our outside areas at school. We are trying to make the environment more inviting to the local wildlife and part of this involves creating more areas with different varieties of plants. As part of Sustainability Day on Thursday 5th June – the first Thursday back after half term – we are asking for some donations. If you are sorting your garden out for the summer this half term we don't want you to throw anything away that we could use. Half bags of compost (these will be very important if we get a lot of donations but can also help our allotment area), unwanted pots (that could be used to permanently house plants) and, most importantly, any plants. These could be part of a plant that has become too big, unwanted plants as you replace with new ones, leftovers that you couldn't find space for or even wildflowers you might see as a weed. We already have plenty of seeds that we will continue to use each year so we don't require any more. Please don't buy just to donate but we would really appreciate all donations to help improve our outdoor spaces even further.

Thanks in advance,

Mr Mabey



ATTENDANCE

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

This week's whole school attendance is **90.5%**

This is below the target set by Warwickshire Admissions 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/>



A watercolor-style illustration of a white coffee cup filled with coffee and topped with brown powder, sitting on a matching saucer. To the left of the cup is a brown paper coffee filter. The background is a light beige with scattered brown coffee splatters and a few coffee beans.

PAFOS WILL BE HOSTING A FREE COFFEE MORNING

TUESDAY 3RD JUNE

← • ♥ • →

EVERYONE IS INVITED

Held in the dining hall at 9 o'clock
There will be refreshments and cake

We will be introducing ourselves, what we do as a PTA
and getting updates for our upcoming summer fayre



MEN BEHAVING 'DADLY'

celebrating all men
behaving 'Dadly'

Pre orders only, a letter
will be coming home with
your child today.

Deadline is FRIDAY 6th
JUNE

For £3.50 your child will
be able to choose a gift
to bring home on FRIDAY
13th JUNE

COME JOIN OUR

SUMMER FAYRE

MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025

FREE ENTRY
3:15 - 5:15PM

NEW GAMES | RAFFLE | SUMMO
HOTDOGS | REFRESHMENTS | CAKE
BOUNCY CASTLE | DEMONSTRATIONS

ST MATTHEWS BLOXAM

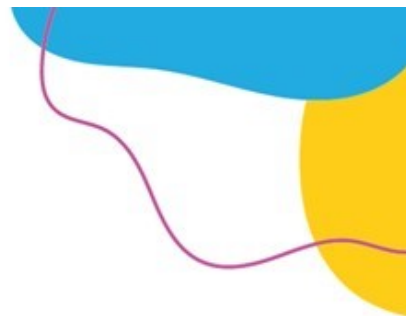
WEBB ELLIS ROAD, RUGBY

S E C R E T A R Y - P A F O S @ L I V E . C O . U K



Mental Health in Schools Team

Tips For Wellness



Listening

Listening is an important skill that helps us to feel connected to others and the world around us. When we listen, we can learn new things, solve problems and interact with people around us. This is great for our mental health as we are using our minds and connecting with people.



Try out these games to test your listening skills:

1 - Sound hunt!

Close your eyes and listen carefully to the sounds around you. See how many sounds you can identify in a minute.

This type of listening activity helps us to connect with the world around us, which can help us to feel calm.

2 – Weekend catch up

In pairs, partners should take it in turns to talk for 1 minute about their weekend. The children should then ask each other questions about their weekend, to see if the listener could remember what they did. Each partner can score points for each question they answered correctly.

3 – I went to the supermarket, and I bought a...

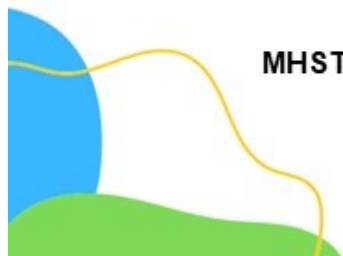
As a class, sit in a circle. The first person says, "I went to the supermarket, and I bought a..." and they choose an item, for example an apple. The next person has to repeat that sentence and choose their own item to add. For example, "I went to the supermarket, and I bought an apple and a book". Keep going around the circle adding items. If someone forgets an item, you move onto the next player. It gets harder as you go!

These two games encourage 'active listening', where you are taking in the information you are hearing. This is a useful skill to practice. You can also practice this at home, trying to remember what you have heard on a programme or video!

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.





Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Family Fun Day

- 🌿 Rugby Eco Hub
- 🌿 Wednesday 28th May
- 🌿 Drop in between 10am-1pm



Join us for a morning of activities for all ages!
Find out more about how you can reuse items
you might throw away, what happens in a
compost bin and take home a newspaper pot!



CONTACT US

rugby@gardenorganic.org.uk

02476 303517

Working in Partnership

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

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



WhatsApp

A Guide for Parents & Carers

Age Rating
13+

WhatsApp is a free messenger app. It uses the internet to send messages, images, documents, audio or video. The app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that all messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient.

Privacy



Show your child how to **adjust their privacy settings**, such as hiding their profile photo, last seen status and about info. Set them to either of the following:

My Contacts: available to contacts from their address book only
Nobody: not available to anyone

Talk to them about not sharing their personal details online.

Messaging



Encourage your child to think about these things before they message:

- Is it kind?
- Is it true?
- Would your parents/guardians approve?
- Would you say it to their face?
- Have you asked permission to post photos?
- Have you used your online manners?
- You don't have to join in!

Contacts



Make your child understands that they should **only connect with friends, family, or trusted individuals**.

Teach them not to accept messages from **unknown contacts**.

Go over with your child how to **add, block and report** contacts.

Group Chats



If a child is added into a **Group Chat**, it may include people they don't know. This can put them at risk of being contacted by a stranger.

Go to **Settings -> Privacy -> Groups**. Select specific contacts that can add your child into groups.

Encourage your child to only join a group with people they **know and trust**.

Location



WhatsApp allows users to share their **location** with others.

If this feature is enabled, it could potentially let others **track** your child's location or discover their home address.

Speak to your child about keeping this feature **disabled**.

Check



Check in with your child regularly to **review their phone settings**.

Have an open dialogue about their WhatsApp usage and **how often** they are using the messaging app.

Encourage them to share what they're experiencing and periodically check that they are **staying safe and happy** online.



Encourage your child to come to you if **ANYTHING** online makes them feel uncomfortable, upset or worried.

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.

For further information, visit:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

TOP TIPS TO HELP PARENTS READ WITH THEIR CHILDREN

- Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves. (And don't worry if they keep returning to the same story, either!)
- If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions.
- Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages, too.
- Take a look at the pictures. You don't just have to read the words on the page. Maybe there's something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.
- Ask questions and talk about the book. Picture books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries, or to help them deal with their emotions. Give them space to talk, and ask how they feel about the situations in the story.
- Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to share a story – as long as you and your child are having fun. Don't be afraid to act out situations or use funny voices... your little ones will love it!

WAYS FOR PARENTS TO ENCOURAGE A LOVE OF READING

- Read yourself! It doesn't matter what it is – pick up a newspaper or magazine, take a look at a cookery book, read a computer manual, enjoy some poetry or dive into a romance or detective novel. And get your children to join in – if you're cooking, could they read the recipe? If you're watching TV, can they read out the listings?
- Give books as presents. And encourage your children and their friends to swap books with each other – it'll give them a chance to read new stories, and get them all talking about what they're reading.
- Visit the local library together. It's always fun choosing new books to read, and keep an eye out for special author events at the library or local bookshops – children love meeting their favourite authors. Jacqueline Wilson and Anthony Horowitz always have signing queues that are miles long!
- Encourage children to carry a book at all times. That way, they'll never be bored (this is something you can do, too!)
- Have a family bookshelf. If you can, have bookshelves in your children's bedrooms, too.
- Keep reading together. Just because your children are older, it doesn't mean you have to stop sharing stories – perhaps you could try the Harry Potter series or *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.
- Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over again. Let's be honest - we've all done it!

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.



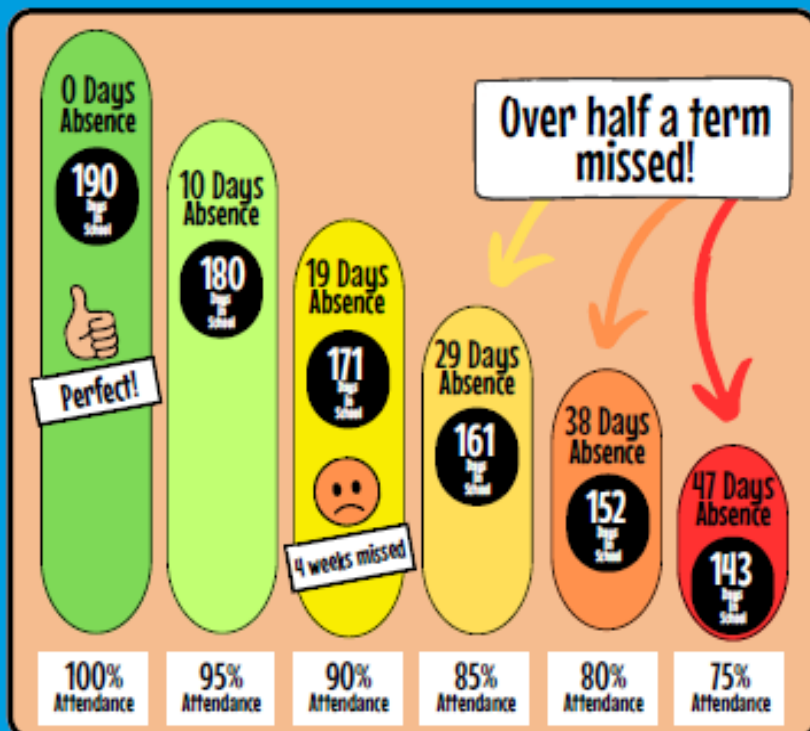
Building Confidence

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





**"THIS MORNING,
HE HAD A RUNNY
NOSE... BUT LOOK
AT HIM NOW!"**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government

Head to the NHS website to find out more.

