

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

**"Let Your
Light Shine"**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th May 2025 Issue 30

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THE LIGHTHOUSE

The children in The Lighthouse have been working very hard. The Lighthouse is a Resource Provision Base within the School that meets the needs of children who are unable to access a fulltime curriculum in a mainstream class owing to their complex needs, namely Cognition and Learning and Communication and Interaction difficulties. The children learn through stories, rhymes, play and 1:1 work. Some of the children also access activities and learning with the main school.

Last term the children were learning about growth and plants. Alongside reading the story of Jasper and the beanstalk the children set up a bean experiment and watched beans grow. They kept diary about all the changes that they saw. They then took the beans home to continue growing.

This term our learning is based around the story of The Hungry Caterpillar and growth and change. This week all the children were involved in making fruit pizzas. They chopped their fruit and squashed the strawberries to make the sauce. They were very yummy! We are looking forward to our caterpillars arriving so we can watch them grow and change in to butterflies.



Diary Dates

Monday 12th May

Year 6 SATs start

Year 3 Swimming

Tuesday 13th May

After School Games Club

Years 1-6

3:20pm-4:20pm

Wednesday 14th May

After School Cricket Club

Year 3- 6

3:20pm-4:20pm

Thursday 15th May

After School Dance Club

Year 1-6

3:15pm - 4:15pm

Friday 16th May

**Reception celebration
assembly 9am—parents/
carers welcome**

**Whole school Non -uniform
for PaFoS**



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

This week's Family Information Service Newsletter - Tuesday 6th 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-8828973?e=04fcebfe0>

Free Transition Webinars from Parentkind

Parentkind's expert-led sessions cover a wide range of topics designed to help parents in supporting their child's learning, navigate school life and strengthen the parent-child relationship. This spring term, Parentkind's free webinars will explore key subjects, including:

- Preparing for primary
- Preparing for secondary
- Helping your child succeed in reception

Each interactive webinar gives parents the chance to ask questions and connect with other parents who are on a similar journey. Best of all, they're completely free! Whether it's balancing work and family or simply looking for fresh ideas, these sessions are an invaluable resource.

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/your-pta-expert/parent-webinars>



ATTENDANCE



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

This week's whole school attendance is **95.9%**

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/>

YEAR 6 SATs

Year 6 will be completing their KS2 SATs week commencing Monday 12.05.25.

During this week to alleviate stress and give the Year 6 children chance to relax before the tests we will be opening school from 8am on the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th May (Monday – Thursday). Year 6 children are welcome to come in at any time from then and we be offering a range of toast and cereals (up until 8.30am) to ensure the children are as prepared as possible.



BUILDING BLOX

As there are only just over 2 weeks left of this half term, it is already time to start taking requests for Building Blox sessions for Summer 2!

Please submit your requests using the Microsoft Form link below.

This link will close next Wednesday at 3pm. If there is an issue with your request, we will contact you via email.

Invoices will be sent out during the last week of this half term and these must be paid in full prior to 2nd June (please note this is a teacher training day and children are not in school).

If you have any outstanding invoices, unfortunately we will not be able to accept any bookings from you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ON FRIDAY 18TH JULY, BUILDING BLOX WILL BE CLOSING EARLY AND CAN ONLY OFFER SESSIONS UNTIL 4.15pm.

<https://forms.office.com/e/R6qmkhwiel>



BREAKTIME SNACKS



A polite reminder that Monday-Thursday only healthy snacks should be provided for break time.

Please send in healthy snacks including fruit bars, (not chocolate/marshmallows ones) or a plain biscuit such as rich tea or digestive, cereal bars or fruit.

Friday is treat day

The school break bar will only be serving healthy snacks Monday-Thursday.

Biscuits will be available to buy on a Friday.



FRIDAY 16TH MAY

PaFoS

Non-Uniform Day

Children can wear non-uniform in exchange for a donation for the summer fayre.

We welcome any bottled items (i.e. drinks juice/pop/alcohol or bath shampoo/bodywash, etc)

Any alcohol must be handed to a member of staff.

Please remember SMB is a nut free school.

Thank you for your support. PaFoS



PAFOS - short for “Parents and Friends of the School” - is a registered charity, staffed entirely by volunteers, who typically meet up 2-3 times each term (during school hours) to discuss any needs that have arisen within the school.

We organise fund-raising and social events, such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs and School Discos, to help with costs for school resources, such as computer equipment, waterproofs for forest schools, trips etc.

We desperately need more members in order to keep running. No special skills or experience is required, just plenty of enthusiasm, ideas and a sense of fun!

If interested in joining us please leave your details with the school office and one of us will get in touch with you.

We look forward to hearing from you!



PAFOS WILL BE HOSTING A FREE COFFEE MORNING COMING SOON!!



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 and ideas for our upcoming
summer fayre



Mental Health in Schools Team

Tips For Wellness



Empathy

Empathy means *feeling with* someone, not just *feeling sorry for* them. It is one of the best ways to be a kind friend and a good person. Empathy is not just noticing that someone is happy, sad, or hurt—you're trying to understand their feelings **from their point of view** and responding with kindness.

Examples of when you could be empathetic:

A friend is nervous before a test.

You might say: *"I get nervous too. We've got this!"*

Someone is sitting alone at lunch.

You might think: *"I would feel sad if I were alone."*

So, you could invite them to sit with you.

Our tips for empathy:

1. **Pay attention** to how people look and sound. Are they happy, sad, or upset? Look for clues in their body language to find out how they might be feeling.
2. Read a book or watch a TV show. Pick a character in the book or show and imagine how that character might feel. Do you think all the characters feel the same? **Put yourself in their shoes!**
3. **Empathy drawing** – if you like to get creative, you could try drawing a picture of how someone else might feel in a certain situation (e.g., "a child who has lost their favourite toy", "a child who is starting a new school").
4. **Be kind with actions** - even little things help - like sharing, listening, or giving a hug.
5. **Include everyone** - invite others to play, join in, or sit with you. Notice if someone is standing alone, sitting on a bench, or watching others play.
6. **Kindness cards** – consider making cards or notes for family, friends or classmates who might need a boost!

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.

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.



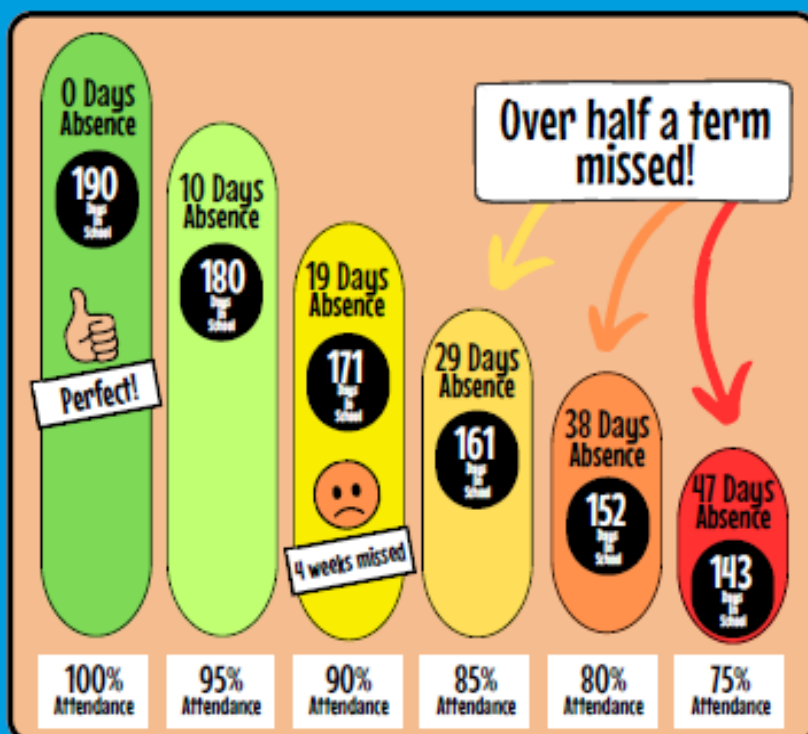
Building Confidence

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.

