

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

**"Let Your
Light Shine"**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 2nd May 2025 Issue 29

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ART DAY

Across the school we celebrated World Art Day on Thursday (it falls on 15th April when we were not at school). Each class did their own activities to try and encourage the children to enjoy being creative in different ways. In years 3 and 4, we took inspiration from Art Attack and created some artwork using the ground as our canvas. One group used whatever they could find around school to recreate portraits of their chosen teachers (see if you can guess who!) and worked really hard as a team to communicate their ideas. We discussed how art is not just about drawing and painting and that being creative in other ways can create different pieces of art. The children really enjoyed the day and hopefully it will inspire them to think of different ways they can create and show their personalities through their work.

Richard Mabey
Year 3 Class Teacher (Art, D.T. and Sustainability Lead)



Diary Dates

Monday 5th May

**School Closed - May
Bank Holiday**

Tuesday 6th May

After School Games Club

**Years 1-6 - 3:20pm-
4:20pm**

Thursday 8th May

Year 4 trip to Blackwell

Year 2 police visit

**After School Dance Club
Year 1-6 3:15pm -
4:15pm**

Friday 9th May

**Year 5 class assembly
9am—parents/carers
welcome**



ROTARY YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to congratulate a couple of our pupils who entered their work into the Rotary Young Writers competition.

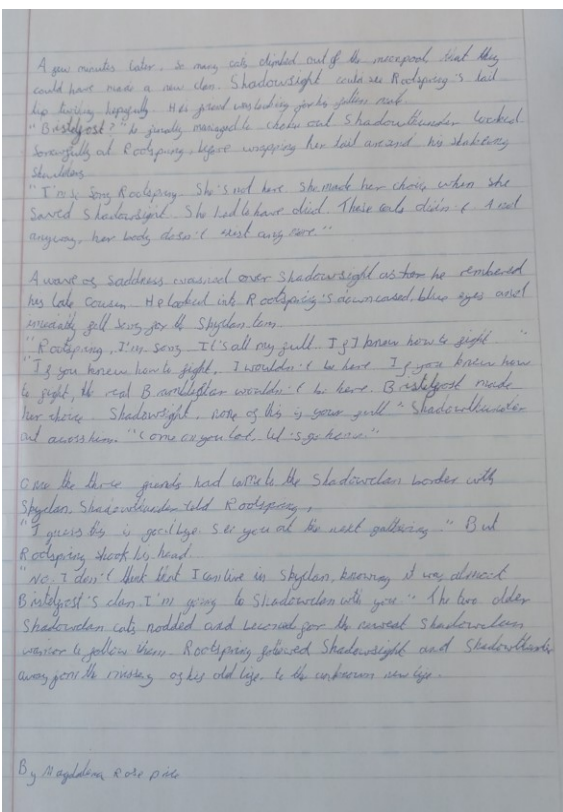
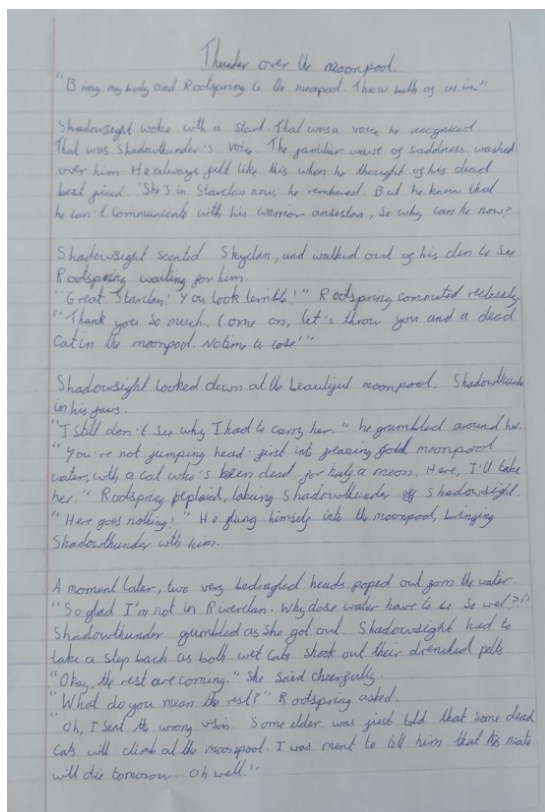
The theme this year was 'Wonderful Water'.

Magdalena in year 6 has achieved first place with her entry whilst Ella in year 5 has achieved second place.

We are all so proud of these two pupils! You can read their entries below.

Lauren Blackaby

Year 6 Class Teacher & KS2 Phase Lead



Wonderful water

By Ella-May Simkin aged 9.

The wonderful water that we have is so good we use it every day.

We use it to keep us clean it is so sparkly it makes our teeth gleam.

When we drink it, it makes our insides clean.

If I stink I have a think about the power of a wonderful water shower.

The wonderful water feeds our planet and feeds our farmlands for us to eat the vegetables that grow.

When it rains and it's sunny beautiful rainbows appear for everyone to see how wonderful water can be.

This week's Family Information Service Newsletter - Tuesday 29th April 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-8828896?e=04fcebfe0>

Information about Year 4 trip to Blackwell

On Thursday 8th May year 4 are visiting Blackwell Adventure for a fun filled day.

Year 4 will be leaving school at 8:30am. Please ensure your child is at school by **8:20am**.

If they are late, unfortunately we will not be able to wait for them.

Year 4 will be arriving back at school at approximately **4:15pm**.

Please provide your child with the following:

A packed lunch - Please contact the office prior to this date if you want a lunch ordering

A snack for the end of the day

A water bottle

Appropriate clothing –old clothing which you do not mind getting wet

Old shoes

A towel and shower gel

Dry clothes to change into at the end of the day

Coat / onesie/ dressing gown

Bin bag –to put wet clothes in

Travel sickness medication if necessary

Sun cream / sunhat –if the weather is warm



ATTENDANCE

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

This week's whole school attendance is **96.1%**



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/>



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



Challenge

Throughout our lives we are going to experience different challenges, both big and small. There will be times where these challenges are exciting and maybe other times where challenges could feel scary and uncertain. These different challenges will push us to try new things, build our resilience and teach us new things about ourselves and the world around us.

When taking on challenges, we learn that we can work towards goals, overcome any obstacles and be resilient even when something is difficult. A **growth mindset** can help us take on new challenges, it builds our confidence to have a go at things, increases our self-esteem and encourages us to keep trying, even if something doesn't work out the first time!

Our top tips for challenging ourselves:

1. **Set yourself some goals** you would like to reach this time next year (long term goals). Perhaps these can be things you've always wanted to do but never tried before. Break your goals down into medium-term goals and short-term goals (goals you can set to work towards the long-term goal in a few weeks or months).
2. **Ask for help** when needed. Challenging ourselves is not about getting through difficult times alone...sometimes we need a helping hand and that is okay!
3. **Push yourself out of your comfort zone** this week. You might want to try a new food, learn a new hobby, start a conversation with a different friend, or put your hand up in a lesson at school. Can you think of a **SMART goal** you would like to challenge yourself with this week? Follow the QR code to learn more about SMART goals:



4. **Read books** with characters who overcome challenges. What strategies did the characters use to push through them? Follow the QR code to a list of books that help children face challenges:



#ThanksKids recognises the efforts and kindness of children and young people, and thanks them with personalised #NHSSStars certificates. If you know a child or young person that deserves recognition for going above and beyond, don't wait, nominate! thankskids@covwarkpt.nhs.uk.

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.



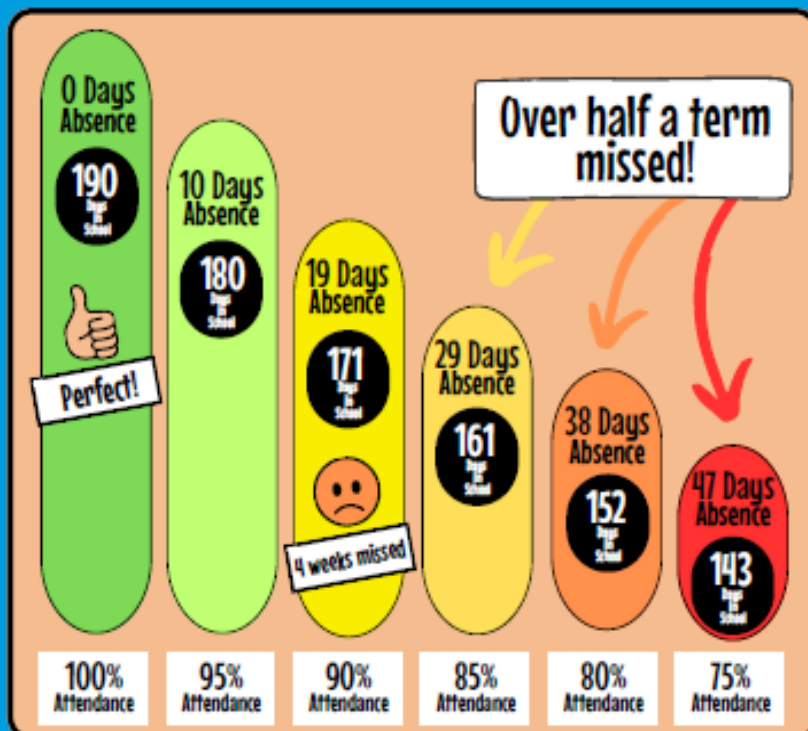
Building Confidence

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.

