

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

**"Let Your
Light Shine"**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th March 2025 Issue 23

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WORLD BOOK DAY

Wow, what a wonderful World Book Day! I don't think the smile has left my face today, along with a number of other staff and children! I would like to first of all say a huge thank you to all the parents who joined us for our reading morning. There was such a calm atmosphere as well as such a buzz about reading! Classes then did some tasks linked to books, including book scavenger hunts, football vs books quizzes, live lessons with Joseph Coelho (a well-known poet and picture-book author) and mystery games involving random settings and characters. In the afternoon, we gathered for our sponsored run and every single pupil did themselves proud and we have raised a fantastic amount already towards play equipment and books for school, so thank you for your support also! Please keep your sponsors coming in! We ended the day with most classes having a book swap, where children from different year groups paired up to read together. There was such a calm atmosphere again and all children were so engaged in the books they were reading!

Miss Blackaby



Diary Dates

Monday 10th March

Year 4 Swimming

Tuesday 11th March

After School Game Club

Years 1-6

3.20pm-4.20pm

Wednesday 12th March

Class Group & Leavers photos

Thursday 13th March

After School Dance Club

Year 1-6

3.15pm-4.15pm

After School Science Club
Years 1-2



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 4th March 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-8828272?e=04fcebfe0>



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/>

SCHOOL PHOTOS

We have the photographer coming in on Wednesday 12th March 2025, to take class group and leaver's photos.

Can children please wear full school uniform, no PE kits.

Thank you

For parents and carers that are supporting children with anxiety, The Charlie Waller Trust have produced a helpful resource.

This free downloadable booklet looks at anxiety and its impact while offering practical ideas for the child and parents to deal with this common but distressing experience

<https://www.charliewaller.org/resources/supporting-a-child-with-anxiety>



**A BIG thank you to
everyone who bought
refreshments during
the reading morning
and any books from
our afterschool sale
yesterday
We raised over £100!**



Celebrating **FABULOUS FEMALES**

**Celebrating ALL the amazing
women in our lives.**

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

Mug of treats £5

**Mini gift £3.50 (child
chooses)**

Deadline 14th March

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

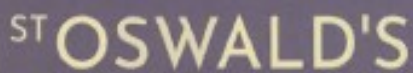
Crisps



Crafts Video Trail Games Café

Saturday 12th April 2.30pm - 4.30pm

£3 per family on the door



smso.org.uk



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Nutrition

Nutrition refers to the nutrients in food and how our body uses them to stay strong and healthy. There are lots of positive benefits for our **physical health**, nutrition is also really important for our **mental health**!

Our brain works hard taking care of our thoughts, movements, breathing, heartbeat and senses (even when we are sleeping!), so we must fuel our brain with nutritious foods to help us function. This can help us to think clearly, increase our energy levels and support concentration. What we eat also affects our mood too!

Our tips:

- 1. Get involved in the cooking**– Can you help your parent/carer to prepare dinner? This can be a fun way to spend time with others and learn a new skill.
- 2. Make it fun**- There are lots of different ways different foods can be prepared. You could try experimenting putting different food together to see what you like and don't like.
- 3. Try something new**- When was the last time you tried a new food? It can be exciting to find out what food we like and don't like. Also, our tastes can change as we grow and develop. See if you can set yourself a challenge to try a new food this week.
- 4. Keep Hydrated**- Dehydration could lead to headaches, difficulty focusing and may impact sleep. Try to ensure you are regularly drinking water, it can be useful to bring a bottle of water to school every day to remind you to stay hydrated!

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.



JUNIOR BAKE OFF



JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

**... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES
9-15 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING
SERIES!**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH**

[APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](https://applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)





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.

FREE ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP

FOR PARENTS OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Get practical hints and tips to support your children and keep them safe online, and learn how to keep up to date in the ever changing online world.



Wed 19th
MARCH

7pm-8pm



Speaker

KAT HOWARD

Head of Education & Wellbeing (UK)
Smoothwall



Register for the Zoom link and parent flyer here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/x2JJKwLx8y>

Kat has been working in and with schools for over 20 years to develop their understanding of online safety. She is passionate about the importance of online safety in schools and the wider community.

For more information on online safety, visit <https://warwickshire.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>

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.



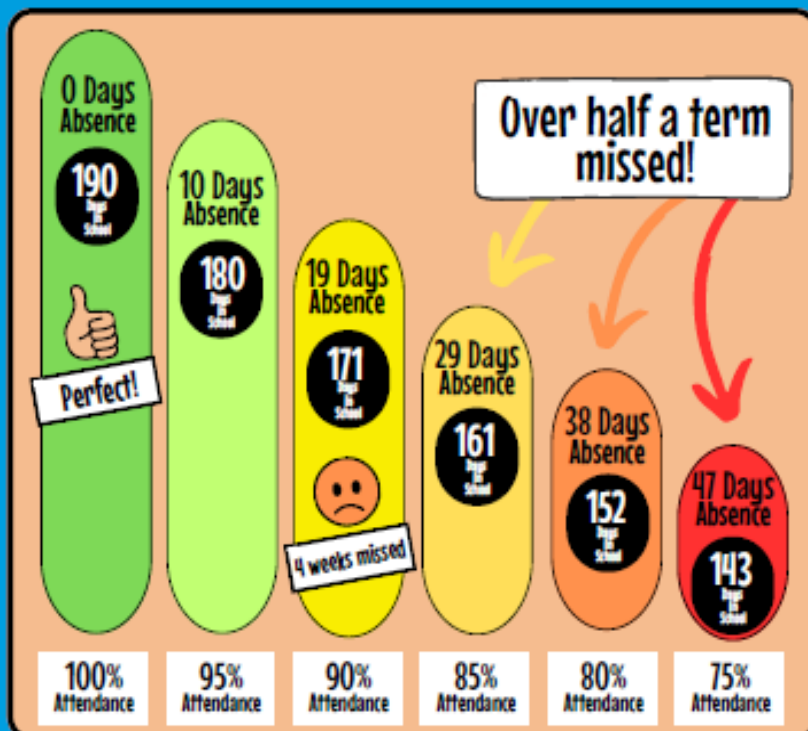
Building Confidence

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.

