

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

**"Let Your
Light Shine"**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 14th February 2025 Issue 21

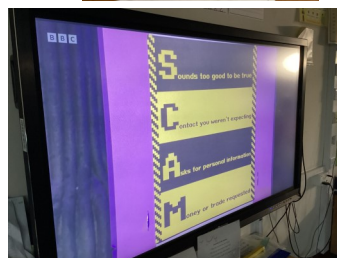
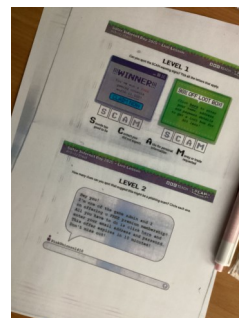
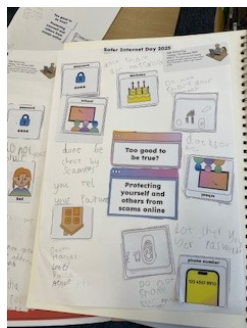
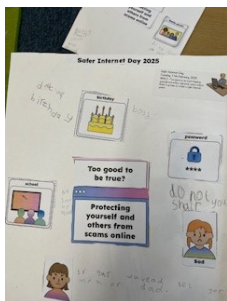
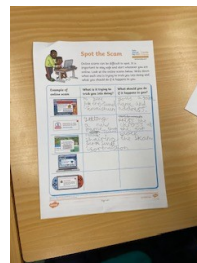
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SAFER INTERNET DAY

On Tuesday 11th February, it was Safer Internet Day and as part of the computing curriculum, we learn all about internet safety and how to keep ourselves safe online. On Safer Internet Day, some classes took part in the BBC Live Lesson for Safer Internet Day, diving into the important topic of online safety. The session was both engaging and informative, teaching the children how to protect themselves while navigating the digital world. All the class thought about how they access the internet, when they use the internet and learnt about various online scams and how to spot them, ensuring they become savvy internet users. It was fantastic to see everyone get involved and share their thoughts. We encourage parents and carers to continue the conversation at home to reinforce these vital lessons. Let's all work together to keep our children safe online!

Mrs Francis



Diary Dates

Friday 14th February

School closes for Half Term

Monday 24th February

School reopens for spring term 2

Year 4 Swimming

Reception & Year 6 height & weight checks

Tuesday 25th February

After School Game Club

Years 1-6

3.20pm-4.20pm

Thursday 27th February

After School Dance Club
Year 1-6

3.15pm-4.15pm

After School Science Club
Years 1-2

3.15pm-4.15pm

Friday 28th February

Year 6 celebration
assembly 9am—parents/
carers welcome



Exciting News About Miss Hughes' Pregnancy!

We are absolutely thrilled to share the wonderful news about Miss Hughes' pregnancy! A heartfelt congratulations to her as she embarks on this beautiful journey into motherhood.

Miss Hughes will be taking her last day with us, before maternity leave, on 6th June. We are very sad to see her go but incredibly supportive of her as she prepares for this new chapter.

Year 4 has been privileged to have her as a teacher, and she has made such a positive impact on all her pupils.

For the remainder of the summer term we are pleased to announce that Mrs Hancock will be stepping in to teach Year 4 on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Hancock is a highly respected and experienced teacher at SMB with experience of all age groups. Pupils can expect a seamless transition as she takes over the reins from Miss Hughes.

From Wednesday to Friday, Miss Patel, who has previously taught at SMB, will return to teach Year 4. Her vibrant teaching style will ensure that the children continue to thrive and enjoy their learning journey.

Additionally, it's worth noting that Mrs Hancock will be continuing her role in Reception alongside Mrs Francis from Wednesday to Friday, thus maintaining continuity for our younger pupils for the rest of their Reception year.

Once again, we extend our warmest congratulations to Miss Hughes and anticipate a bright future ahead for her. Our entire school community is buzzing with excitement, and we send our very best wishes as she prepares for the arrival of her little one! We will of course bring you further news as we receive it!



BLACKWELL RESIDENTIAL

A meeting was held on Wednesday 12.02.25 parents/carers to provide information for this years residential.

An email was sent out with the information that was shared, if you did not receive the email please let school know.

Please could we remind you to pay the next installments.

We will send the medical / dietary forms in May.

Thank you

NSPCC



A huge thank you for your donations to NSPCC number day. The children had a great day creating coin towers and taking part in maths activities in school. There were some fantastic number themed costumes too!

We raised a staggering £210.27 which will be donated to the NSPCC! This is an amazing amount of money, so thank you.

The winners were as follows:

Combined heights of towers

1st= Year 3- 255cm

2nd= Year 5- 171cm

3rd= Year 2- 164cm

Tallest tower:

Year 5 at 11cm.

A big thank you for taking part!

Miss Hughes



This week's Family Information Service Newsletter - Tuesday 11th February 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-8828066?e=04fcebfe0>



ATTENDANCE



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

This week's whole school attendance is **95.2%**

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 CARPARK

If there is a reason for you to drive onto the school premises then please adhere to the **5mph** speed limit.

It has been noted that cars are driving at speed.

If caught speeding you will be banned from driving onto school premises.



Thank you





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.



**Having a declutter this half term?
Pafos would be grateful for any of the
following items:**

- Books**
- Toys**
- Dressing up items**
- Unwanted/unused gifts**

**Please bring any items into school on
Monday 24th February, and hand
them into the school office or to a
class teacher.**

**Thank you for your support!
From Pafos**



**Dont forget about our
second hand uniform
donation bin**



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Kindness

Kindness means being friendly, generous, and considerate to others. It's all about showing care and respect through our actions and our words.

Random Acts of Kindness Day is celebrated each year on **February 17th**, however you can practice random acts of kindness all year round!

Ideas for random acts of kindness

Here are some easy ideas to spread kindness:

- Give compliments – A genuine compliment can make someone's day brighter.
- Hold the door open for someone.
- Share a smile – Smiling at people can help to boost their mood.
- Send a thank you note – Write a note of appreciation to someone who has helped you.
- Be a good listener – Sometimes, all someone needs is someone to talk to.
- Help your teacher – Offer to hand out something to the class or do something to help them.
- Ask someone how their day is going – Asking someone about their day can make them feel cared for and happier.
- Pick up a piece of litter.
- Offer to help someone at home.

Why is being kind important?

Kindness is contagious! When you show kindness, it inspires others to do the same.

When you are kind to someone, it can help them to feel happy, it can brighten their day and boost their mood.

Kindness can help to make schools, homes and communities more welcoming and friendly. When people are kind, everyone feels more comfortable which can lead to better relationships and friendships.

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.

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/>



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

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.



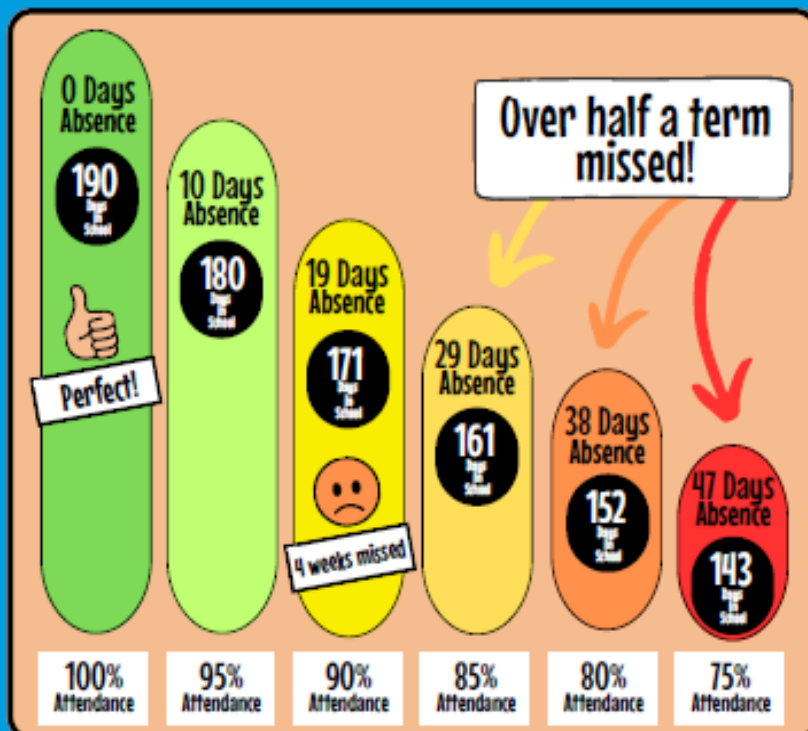
Building Confidence

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.

