

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

"Let Your
Light Shine"

NEWSLETTER

Friday 31st January 2025 Issue 19

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Year 1

This half term, the children in Year 1 have engaged in many learning opportunities. They have also participated in some other special activities, such as Drumba Day, which involved playing the drum and moving to the music. They also enjoyed Boogie Bounce.

As part of our exciting learning journey this half term, we dived into the fascinating world of The Arctic and The Antarctic, with a special focus on the incredible Emperor penguins. We have investigated its life, feeding habits, and the challenges it faces due to climate change. The children have had a chance to role-play looking after the egg as male penguins do.



Diary Dates

Monday 3rd February

Year 4 Swimming

Prayer group for parents/
carers led by Gill Duncan
-2.30pm

Tuesday 4th February

After School Games Club
Years 1-6

3.20pm-4.20pm

Friday 7th February

NSPCC Number Day

Dress up as a number



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 28th January 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-8827905?e=04fcebfe0>

PARKING REMINDER

Can we ask that you park considerately and safely!

There was a near miss on Wednesday near the tennis courts when a parent narrowly avoided being hit by a vehicle.

This was due to the parent having to walk on the side of the road as cars are being parked on the pavement.

Please be mindful of where you are parking

Thank you

ATTENDANCE



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

This week's whole school attendance is **96.5%**

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/>

PRAYER GROUP

Our school/church link worker, Gill, will be in the conservatory on Monday next week (3rd February) at 2.30pm if any parents/carers/friends of the school would like to join her for prayer group.

Please enter via the main entrance.

A vibrant, multi-colored watercolor border surrounds the text, featuring shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

**A big thank you from PaFoS to
everyone who purchased tickets
for our Rainbow Raffle.
We raised £300!**

Our winners are:

**N - Filip
R - Louis
Yr 1 - Evie
Yr 2 - William
Yr 3 - Leo
Yr 4 - Rebecca
Yr 5 - Eysan
Yr 6 - Mackenzie**

**Please collect your prize from the
office after school**



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.



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Mood Boosters

Our mood can change, and this is completely normal. You may notice that sometimes you are feeling more tired than usual, maybe stressed or experiencing difficulties with schoolwork or friendships. Situations like these may cause you to feel a bit low, it can be really helpful to talk about these things with an adult, or someone you trust.

Whilst it is normal to feel this way at times, there are things we can do to **boost** our mood and help us to feel happier. By doing more of the things we love and value, or 'doing more of what matters', we can boost our mood. This helps us to feel less tired, have an increased sense of achievement, feel better about ourselves and have some fun!

Our tips for boosting your mood:

1. Have a look at the **BBC Moodboosters** video resources by scanning the QR code. There are a selection of videos to try, you could do these with a friend/ family member, with your class, or by yourself. But most importantly, have fun!
2. The **five ways to wellbeing** - can you challenge yourself to try one of these for each day over the next week! Watch the video on the QR code for more information.
 - o **Connect** - Reach out to a friend/family member, listen to music that reminds you of happy memories, look at old photographs, or arrange activities with friends.
 - o **Be Active** - Try different ways to get your body moving. You could dance, walk, skip, or hula hoop!
 - o **Take Notice** - Spend time outside appreciating nature, maybe on your way to school or practise mindfulness
 - o **Keep Learning** - Read a new book, watch a documentary, follow a new recipe, or learn a new language.
 - o **Give** - Give someone you love a hug, hold the door open for the person behind you, or give your time to help others.



BBC
Moodboosters!



Five ways
to
wellbeing!

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.



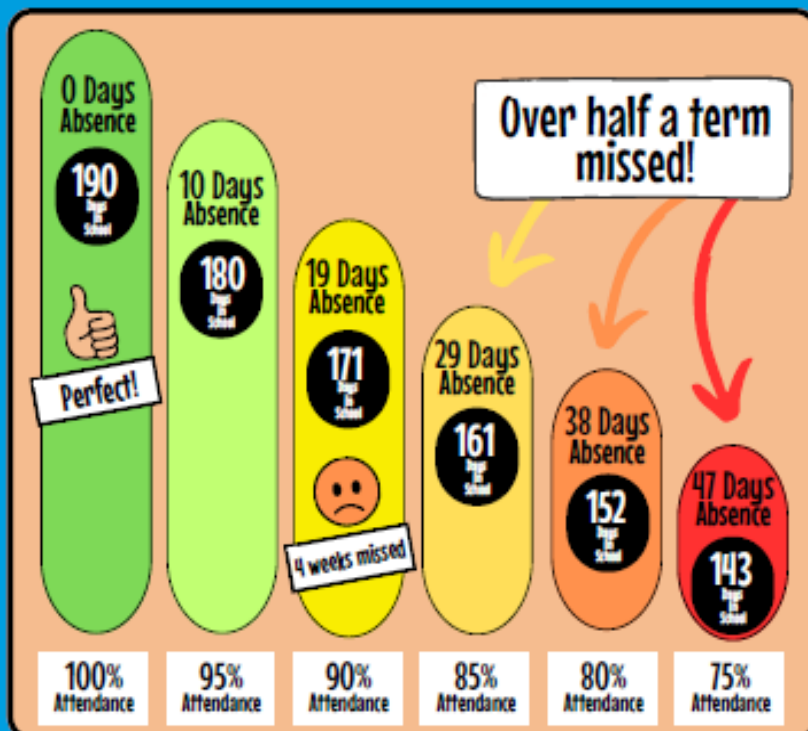
Building Confidence

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.

