

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

"Let Your
Light Shine"

NEWSLETTER

Friday 17th January 2025 Issue 17

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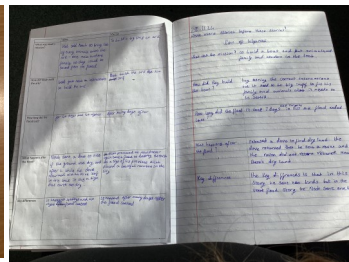
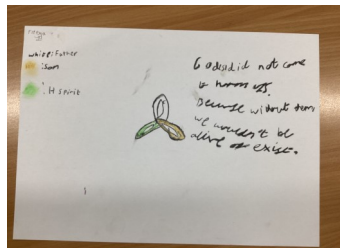
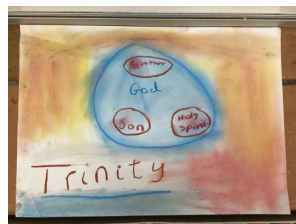
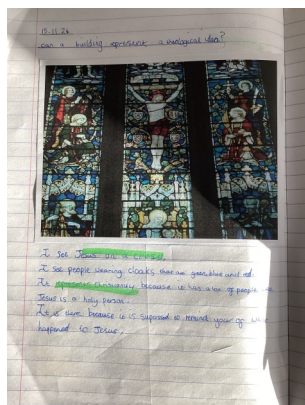
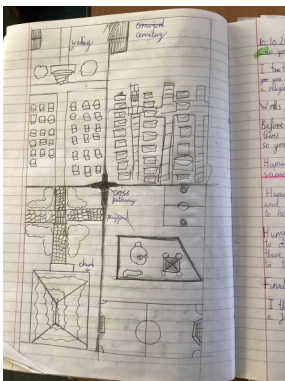
Website: www.st-matthewsbloxam.co.uk



R.E

This year, we have started following a new RE syllabus, along with most other schools around Coventry and Warwickshire. It has proved itself to be really complex and detailed and aims to teach children about the different worldviews that people hold, rather than teaching about religions in a linear way. The whole school have really shown an interest in this new challenge and there have been some fantastic discussions around school. In the Early Years, children have explored how people show their belonging as part of different groups, year one have investigated how some people may show their worldviews in different ways and have just begun to explore where people may turn to for guidance, looking particularly at sources of guidance for non-religious people. In year 2, pupils have investigated different worldviews that people following the religion of Islam may have and in year 3, the importance of nature and the seasons for people. Year 4 have looked into how people may seek guidance to do hard things, year 5 have looked at why ancient stories may be important and how they have changed over time and in year 6, pupils have explored how beliefs shape people's lifestyles. Pupils have made some really insightful contributions so far, and I am looking forward to seeing how this continues in the lessons still to come!

Miss Blackaby



Diary Dates

Monday 20th January

Year 4 Swimming

Tuesday 21st January

After School Games Club
Years 1-6

3.20pm-4.20pm

Friday 24th January

Year 5 celebration
assembly 9am—parents/
carers welcome

Non Uniform for donation
of class coloured raffle
item. Please see
attached flyer for more
information



DRUMBA



The whole school had a great day on Wednesday.

They all attended a Drumba workout.

As you can see, this involves moving to music whilst banging a drum!
Thank you to <https://www.drumba.co.uk/> for providing the children with an action packed workout!





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.

RAINBOW RAFFLE

Friday 24th is dress down day for a donation of coloured raffle items, kids are welcome to wear an item of their chosen year group colour.

Any non perishable items are welcome, no alcohol! see the suggestions below for ideas, i.e sweets, biscuits, tea bags, shower gel, new books or toys also welcome. what will **YOU** bring!





Mental Health in Schools Team

Tips For Wellness



Online Safety

With lots of our young people accessing different online platforms, it is important we are making sure this online activity is accessed in a safe and positive way. Online activity is a big part of day-to-day life and for young people is the norm. This may involve watching YouTube videos, online gaming, having social media accounts (e.g. Instagram, TikTok) or using the internet to support completing homework tasks. As a parent/ caregiver, this can at times be difficult to navigate and stay on top of these ever-evolving platforms.

It is good to remember that online activity can be positive: there are lots of opportunities to learn new things, spread joy and positivity, connect with others and show creativity.

Our Top Tips For Online Safety:

1. **Have regular conversations about online safety-** Making communication about online activity a normal part of the conversation will create an open and more relaxed dialogue around what your young person is accessing online. This can also make it easier for your young person to come and speak to you if they do have any worries.
2. **Encourage time away from devices-** Spending too much time online and looking at a device can begin to blur the lines between the online world and what is happening right in front of us. Encourage regular screen time breaks. This could be by completing an activity which the whole family can get involved in e.g. playing a board game or going for a walk. There are also wellbeing setting on apps, including Instagram and Tik Tok to support setting these boundaries.
3. **Keeping it real-** It can be useful to remind our young people that not everything they see online is real. Some of this content may have a negative impact on how they feel about themselves and what they are doing. It can be useful to remind young people that an online post is only one snapshot of time. Encourage your young person to take control of what they are looking at and help them to feel empowered to choose to access online content that encourages positivity and makes them feel good.

Online safety is an ongoing conversation. By setting boundaries, providing guidance and being open, this encourages young people to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.



NSPCC- Talking to your child about online safety



Barnardo's- Keeping children safe online

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.

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.



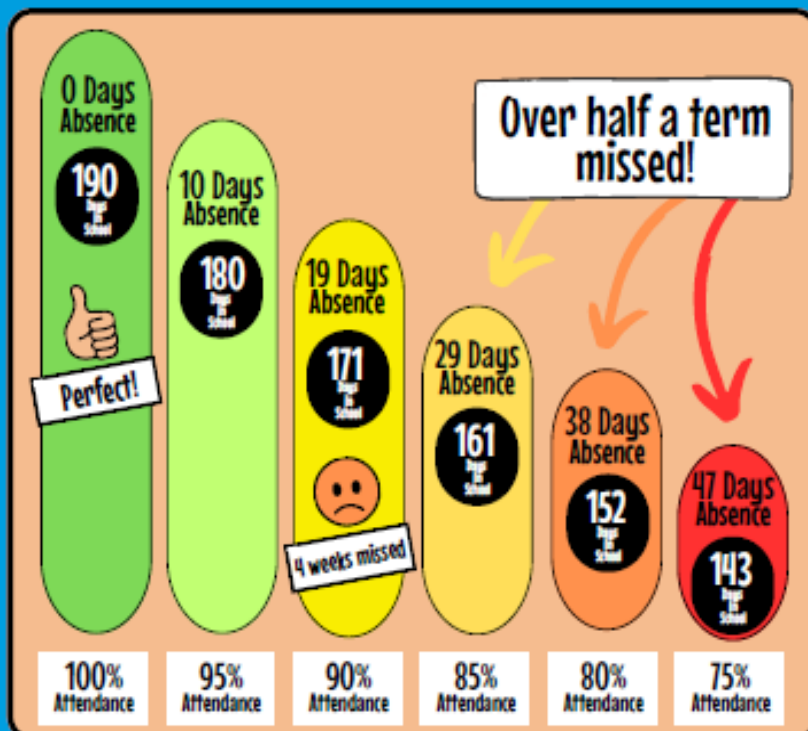
Building Confidence

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.

