

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

"Let Your
Light Shine"

NEWSLETTER

Friday 20th December 2024 Issue 15

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Merry Christmas!

MESSAGE FROM MRS TIMSON

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the SMB Community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you to the staff team for all of your hard work this term, especially in the run up to Christmas with the Nativities, concerts and church.

Thank you to PaFoS for another successful term fundraising, including a successful Christmas Fayre.

And thank you to you, the parents and carers, for your wonderful support in attending events, volunteering your time and working in partnership with the school for the best outcomes for your children.

See you all in 2025!

Mrs Timson



Diary Dates

Friday 20th December

School closes for the
Christmas break

Monday 6th January

2025

Teacher Training Day

School closed to pupils

Tuesday 7th January

2025

School open for spring
term



The school has strong links with St Oswald's Church. Further details are available from www.smsso.org.uk

THEATRE TRIPS

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 went to Macready Theatre on Wednesday 18th December to see a brilliant, funny show of The Three Little Pigs. The children were a credit to the school and all loved the show.

Thank you very much to PaFoS for partially funding some of the cost of the theatre tickets.

On the same day, Key Stage Two went to see Herald of Herods at the Temple Speech Room, hosted by Elim Church. They were brilliantly behaved.



KS2 CAROL CONCERT





ATTENDANCE

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

This week's whole school attendance is **94.6%**

This is below the target set by Warwickshire Admissions Service.

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/>



This week, every child has had an attendance letter showing their attendance record at school, our aim for good attendance is 95% as we understand that children do become ill throughout the year.



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



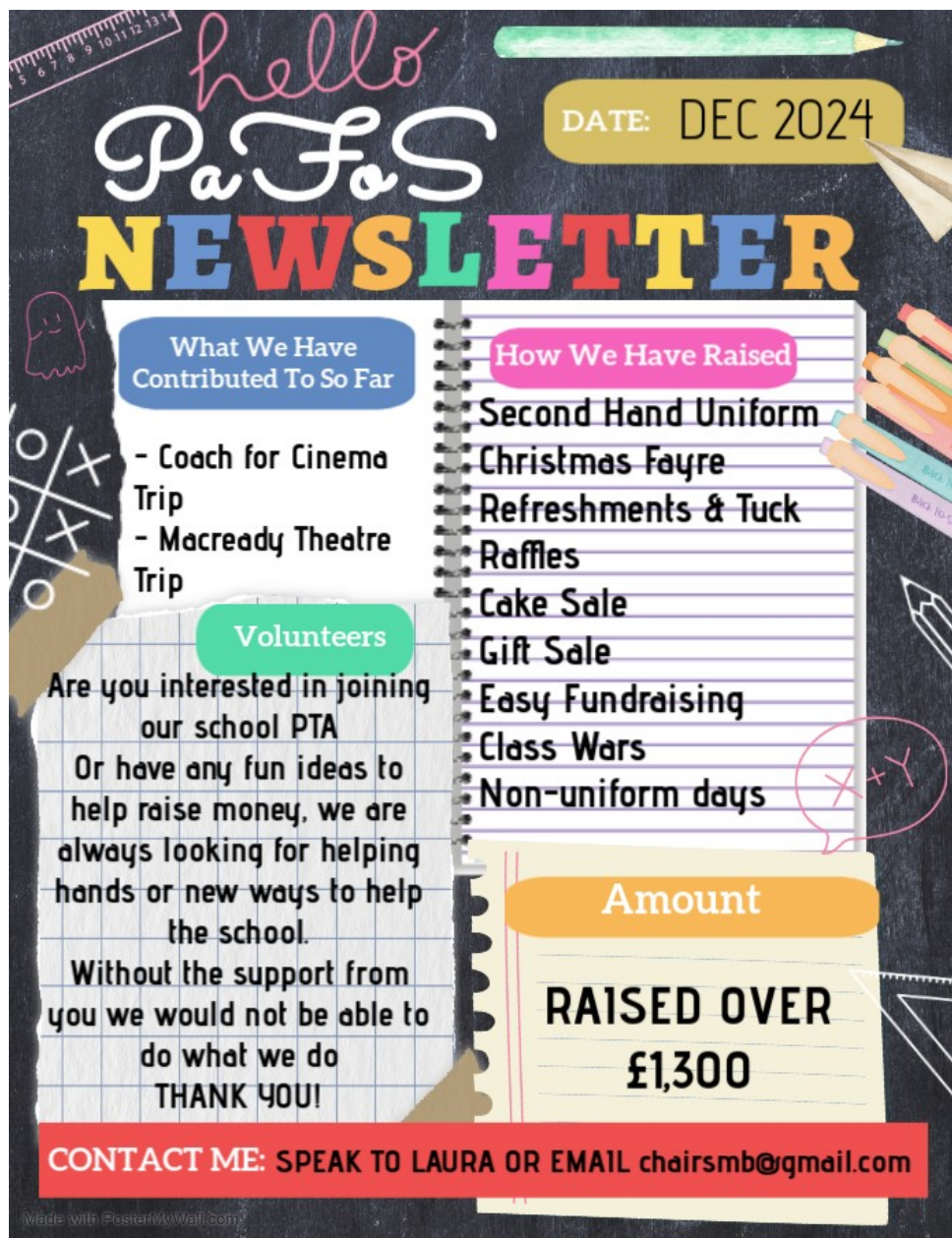
Check in with your child regularly to **review their phone settings**.

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.



stuff and nonsense theatre company



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Winter Wellness

Winter can be a challenging season for many things, but especially for our mental health.

You might have heard of the winter blues? It's true! The lack of sunlight impacts our vitamin D levels, which changes our mood and motivation levels. Therefore, it is important during the winter months that we take time to look after our bodies and minds and practise some self-care.

Our tips for winter wellness:

1. **Make the most of the natural sunlight** - why don't you play outside with your friends during break or lunch time, or practice some mindfulness outside?
2. **Keep moving** - exercise is important to help boost our 'happy chemicals'. You could join an after-school club, do a yoga tutorial on YouTube or have a competition with your friends to see who can do the most star jumps!
3. **Stay connected** - make sure you reach out to friends, family and your teachers for a daily chat.
4. **Practise self-care** – you might want to spend the evening wrapped up warm with a blanket and hot drink, or you could get cosy and read a new book!
5. **Try to learn a new skill or hobby** over the winter – what activities could you do inside when the weather is colder? Maybe you could learn to bake or help your family with the cooking! You could learn to play a new instrument, practise mindfulness, try a craft activity or learn a new language. Ask a friend or family member if they would like to join in too!
6. Scan the QR code for more activity ideas to help keep you well during the winter:



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.

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.



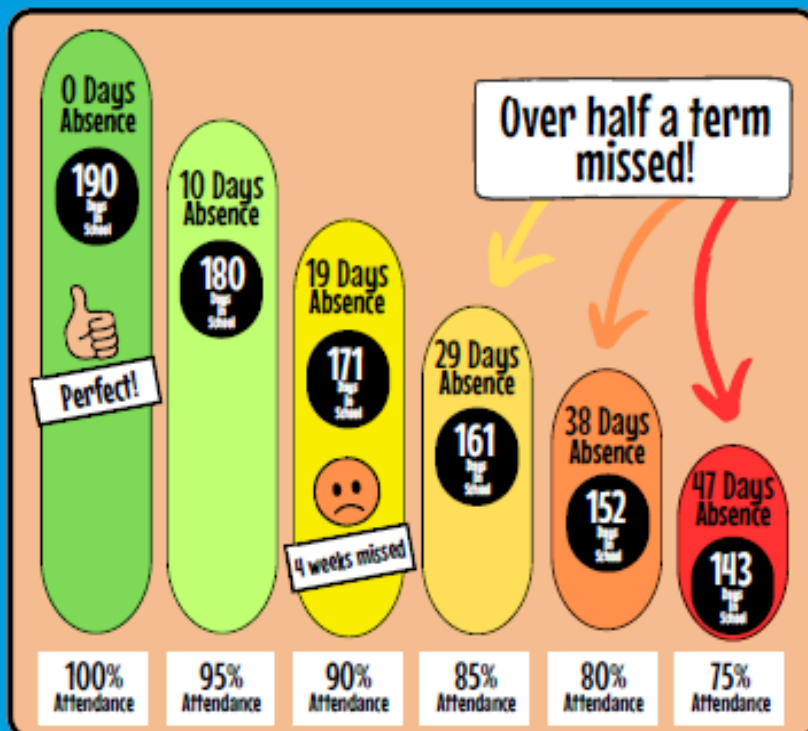
Building Confidence

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.

