

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

**"Let Your
Light Shine"**

NEWSLETTER

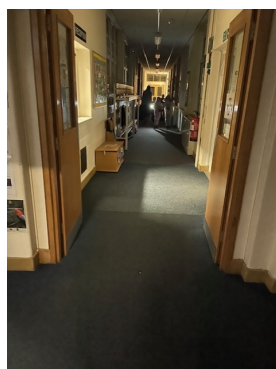
Friday 6th December 2024 Issue 13

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SPACE CAMP

Last Thursday night, year 5 had a sleepover at school! This was space themed and we were fortunate enough to receive a visit from a space expert who brought along a telescope and binoculars for the children to learn and explore the sky. Some of the sky was fairly clear, so we had a really good view of Jupiter and at one point also saw Saturn and the ISS. We then escaped from the cold and completed some space themed craft activities with a hot chocolate and snacks and then settled down to watch The Christmas Chronicles. After a very late night, year 5 finally got a little bit of sleep, and then woke up to enjoy a breakfast of waffles, fruit and syrups!



Diary Dates

Monday 9th December

Year 5 Swimming

Gift Sale—Break time

Year 1 & 2 Nativity Play –
1:30pm

Tuesday 10th December

Year 1 & 2 Nativity Play-
9:30am

Choir singing at Knox Court
–2pm

Forest School After School
Club

Year 1,2,3 & 4

3.20pm - 4.15pm

**Wednesday 11th
December**

Nursery & Reception
Nativity Play –9:30am

Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday 12th December

Nursery & Reception
Nativity Play –1:30pm

Friday 13th December

Christmas Jumper Day for
Save The Children

THANK YOU

On behalf of the staff, children, parents, carers and friends of the school, I would like to give grateful thanks to Laura Thompson and Jo Wilday for giving up their time to organise, set up and co-ordinate volunteers to run a successful Christmas Fayre. I have witnessed the hard work - physical and mental - which it took these two ladies in the lead up to, on the actual day, and the days after the fayre. So, thank you both. We all appreciate your dedication in raising money for the benefit of the children at SMB.



Anita Timson

Headteacher



GIFT SALE



If your child would like to buy a Christmas gift as a present for someone, there will be a gift sale on Monday 9th December, at break time.

Gifts are £1 or £2 per item



ATTENDANCE



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

This week's whole school attendance is **88.1%**

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/>

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day is back!

On Friday 13th December everyone in school can wear their Christmas Jumper or non school uniform.

This is in exchange for a monetary donation for Save the Children.



Early Years will be learning all about people who help us and we are looking for volunteers to come in to talk to the children about their jobs.

If you are willing to do this, please email admin3213@we-learn.com or talk to

Mrs Francis , Mrs Hancock or Mrs Wilson.

Thank you





Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Fayre and made it the hit it was! As usual without the SMB staff and volunteers none of these fun events would happen.

Mrs Timson pulled out our winners names in assembly this week.

Congratulations to

- Patrick in Year 1 for winning the Reindeer
- Henry in Reception for winning the giant cracker
- Noah in year 2 for winning the toy truck
- Miss Blackaby won the Teachers Hamper

And well done to those who won our MEGA prizes on Lucky Tree.





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



Thoughtful

Being thoughtful is when we think about not only our needs and feelings, but also the needs and feelings of other people. There are lots of ways we can brighten up someone else's day by being thoughtful. Small things, such as being kind and helpful, can really make a positive impact on those around us. Thoughtfulness can spread happiness and help to encourage positive thinking.

Try to reflect on as many times as you can when people have been thoughtful towards you over the past week. There will have been more times than you think! How did it make you feel? Is there a way you could be thoughtful towards these people over the next week?

Our tips for being thoughtful:

1. Say 'hello' to a friend or teacher.
2. Ask a friend or teacher if you can help them.
3. If somebody needs a friend, be there to listen.
4. Do something kind for somebody else.
5. Think about other people and what they would like or need.
6. Smile at others to make them feel happy and relaxed.
7. Do something considerate for others, such as offering to help.
8. Speak kind or comforting words.
9. Show the person who is speaking to you that you are really interested by asking questions and listening carefully to the answers.
10. Hold the door open for the person behind you.
11. Give someone a compliment.
12. Listen to other people's ideas and thoughts.
13. If you see someone struggling, ask if you can do anything to help them.
14. Tidy up after yourself, both at home and at school!

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.



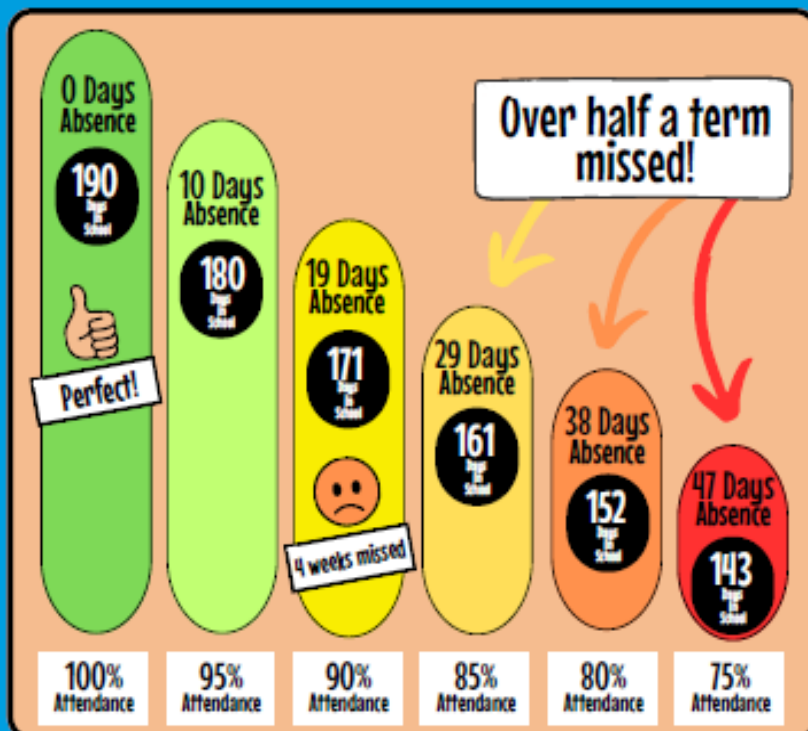
Building Confidence

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.



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