



# Blundeston CEVC Primary School



**A Place to Flourish**

*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10)*

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## **School Newsletter – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

### **Busy Half-Term**

It feels like we have fitted a lot into these past six weeks, with trips, sports events, many visitors and support sessions, on top of the exciting curriculum content. There have been some wonderful opportunities for the children to engage with and be enthused by their learning. This only ever helps them to retain what they have been taught and hopefully inspires them to find out more about their topics.

### **The 2 Johns Internet Safety Sessions**

What a fantastic day (if somewhat scary for the adults) we had listening to and taking part in the The 2 Johns' Internet Safety talks. Every year group from Y1 to Y6 stunned the adults in the rooms with their incredible amount of knowledge of the online world.

It left us speechless at how many influencers, Youtubers, Tiktokers, messaging systems etc they recognised and how little, if any, the adults knew. Not only that, but how ingenious the children were at getting around the safeguards you may think you have in place to keep your children safe!

It has certainly raised a great number of questions for us to consider at school. How best do we support our young people, as they grow up surrounded by so many online challenges? This is an area we will continue to strive to excel in. However, it works best if school and home work together.

If you didn't get to see the parent session, you still have just over two weeks left to view a recording online. I cannot encourage you enough to take time out to watch the session. It will radically shift the way you think about what your children are doing online and may well help to prevent them from coming to serious harm.

You can watch (or re-watch) the 2 Johns parent session by clicking on this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/TmX0YcNwSe3ZdTscP9rZTZsmjI4PFcwp1JXLropQcUNEoa7ZPtCfCvoPRm\\_6zbdh.FggT8ZkSzHHagQYO](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/TmX0YcNwSe3ZdTscP9rZTZsmjI4PFcwp1JXLropQcUNEoa7ZPtCfCvoPRm_6zbdh.FggT8ZkSzHHagQYO)

It would be incredibly helpful to us if you could provide some feedback of your own to say how impactful the training The 2 Johns gave was. If you have watched the presentation, please click on this link to fill out a short survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/Da4QF1jPaL>

## Mental Health

### Mindfulness Mondays

A big thank you to Miss Moore for setting up and promoting our Mindfulness Mondays this half-term. The children across school have really enjoyed being involved in a range of activities designed to give them a better appreciation of taking care of their mental health and wellbeing. In today's landscape, it is such an important part of keeping the children safe. Getting the children to understand and recognise when they aren't feeling well and having ways to cope goes a long way to helping them to develop their resilience to all manner of problems they may encounter through their childhood and beyond.



### Worries Box

Sharing your worries is one of the best ways to deal with any issues that are troubling you. In school, we encourage the children to talk about their worries. However, there are times when they cannot find the right words or when they don't wish to speak to somebody straight away about their feelings.

That is why the children have access to a worry box – a place where they can post their worry and know it will be read by an adult, who, if needed, can then provide the listening ear or help they are seeking. They may simply just want somebody else to know how they are feeling.

Our message is clear – please don't suffer in silence and feel alone when you can share any worries you have. The worry box is kept outside my office.

### Worries Email

The same is true for parents, too. Juggling so many responsibilities can be draining and coping with all that life can throw at us stretches us to breaking point at times. The door is always open for parents to share their issues with us, too. I know many of you talk to Mrs Pryke or the class teachers at the start and end of the day.

Likewise, though, you may not have the resolve to front up about the worries that are troubling you. That is understandable and why we have Class Dojo and most importantly, our worries email. The worries email is checked daily, to see if anybody is reaching out to offload their worries to somebody who will listen or asking for help, support or signposting to resolve the issues they are facing. Please use the worry email: [worries@blundeston.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:worries@blundeston.suffolk.sch.uk) if it can help you in any way.

### Parking

I knew this would be a recurring theme! I have been giving this issue a lot of thought and tried to think of how we can make the issue of parking easier for all involved. Unfortunately, it is a very difficult problem to try to resolve, given the positioning of the school and limited parking spaces nearby. In addition to all the ways we encourage people to walk from their starting points or car park spaces from slightly further away, for example parking near the pub, village hall and other spots in the village, I have been looking at other possibilities.



I would be interested to gauge parental opinion as to introducing a staggered start and end to the school day. I don't have the ability or authority to make a change like this without consultation and governor approval and it would take some time to put into practice, if it even gets any traction. After half-term I will outline a proposal to parents to see if there is any positivity to such a move or whether it is a non-starter as an idea.

Of course, if you have some suggestions of your own, I would always welcome hearing them. In the meantime, let us hope that nicer weather arrives and this encourages even more people to walk than at present.

### Smoking in Cars

Several parents have come to inform us that some parents, whilst waiting for the school to open at the start of the day, are smoking with children in their car.

This is illegal. From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 smoking in a car with a child present was banned and became part of the Children and Families Act. Police officers are due to be present at various times over the next few months, in part to address this and the ongoing issue of parking.



### Futsal Winners



Last week a team of Y6 girls took part in a futsal competition against other local schools in the area. On the day, the girls absolutely smashed it out of the park and won all of their games. Not only that, they only conceded one goal in all of the games they played.

As a result, they were crowned the winners and will now go on to compete in the County Championships. We are so proud of their efforts, team work and skills and wish them luck in the County finals, later this year.



### PE Kits

We have had to speak to several children about what they are wearing for PE as many have been coming in to school in branded tops. PE tops should be plain. Currently a plain white shirt is acceptable but after feedback from parents we have opened this up to include plain navy shirts too. From September 2024, we will be moving to just plain navy PE shirts. Likewise, with sweatshirts and hoodies, these should be plain.

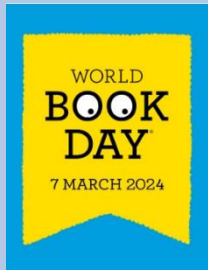
Our school uniform provider, Screens, has added both a Blundeston logoed navy T-shirt and logoed navy hoodie to their online selection. Parents are not under any obligation to purchase the Blundeston logoed tops but if you choose not to, then we would expect to see the children in a plain version.

The Blundeston logoed PE top is marked at £6.35 and the branded hoody at £12.25. You can order these by clicking on the following link: <https://screensschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/primary-schools/primary-schools-blundeston-primary/>



### World Book Day

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March it will be World Book Day. To celebrate the occasion, we will be dressing up as our favourite book characters and completing a range of activities, which encourage children to engage with reading. We are really looking forward to seeing what costumes the



children come to school in. Please note that you do not have to spend a fortune on a costume - this is about celebrating story characters, books and reading.

### Comic Relief Day

The week after World Book Day, on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, will be Comic Relief, or Red Nose Day. The school council will decide what theme will be the order of the day and we will let you know in good time, once the decision has been made.

This is a time where we will reinforce one of the Christian virtues of charity, regarded as the highest form of love you can give.



### Homework - Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots



Homework is a really important aspect of school. Completing it serves many purposes. The most important aspect is to consolidate learning that has taken place at school. We want our children to make the most amount of progress possible. Practising skills at home, in addition to the learning that has taken place at school, will help enormously to do this. In the case of using TTRS and Numbots, it is enabling more facts to be committed to the children's long-term memory. These basic maths skills underpin much of the Maths curriculum the children will need as they progress through their schooling. Unfortunately, pupil engagement with these programs at home has been sporadic. A handful of children in each class routinely practise the times tables and basic number facts but a large proportion are not doing enough. We would like to see an improvement in the numbers regularly using these support programs so that no child is being left behind in terms of their learning.



### **Maths Roadshow**

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February, between 6:00pm and 7:30pm, Mrs Houlgate will be running a Maths Roadshow. If the mere mention of the word maths strikes fear into your heart, don't panic. This is a roadshow with a difference as it is designed to help you to understand a great number of aspects of maths that you may not have considered, without being put on the spot.

One of the main aims is to show that maths can be fun. There will be a wide range of puzzles and problems that count as maths and you will have the opportunity to explore with your children a variety of tasks... if you wish to. There will be no pressure to undertake a task that you don't like the look of, that you think may be too difficult or stressful. This is about having fun together.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to work as a team and learn some helpful tips and tricks to solve certain types of problems and puzzles. No matter what your ability, there will be something for everybody. Please join us and we promise you will discover a sense of satisfaction through the success in the tasks you choose to undertake.

### **Blundeston Church**

Y5 held their class collective worship at the church On February 1<sup>st</sup>, showcasing the topic they had been covering very knowledgeably. The other classes due to perform to parents in the church are listed below. Each event will start at 2:30pm (apart from Y4) and the dates are as follows:

Year 5 – Spring 1, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 'Good News' ✓

Year 3 – Spring 2, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 'Why is the Cross more than a sacrifice?'

Year 2 – Spring 2, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 'The Easter Story'

Year R – Summer 1, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, YR will do their RE presentation in their classroom about 'Salvation'

Year 6 – Summer 2, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 'Incarnation'

Year 1 – Summer 2, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 'Pentacost'

Year 4 – Summer 2, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, Y4 will be giving a musical performance in the hall, based on the work they will have been covering. This event will be between 1:00pm and 2:00pm

### **Five Questions**

If your children are anything like mine then asking the usual questions when they come out of school won't get you very far! I spotted this online and thought I would share with you – asking five different types of questions to our children, rather than, 'how was school?'

- 1.) What made you smile today?
- 2.) Who did you sit with at lunch?
- 3.) If you could change one thing about today, what would that be?
- 4.) What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- 5.) Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday?

Hopefully it will initiate a more enlightening conversation regarding your child's school day and if they can answer question 5 on a regular basis, there is every likelihood that your child is making good progress, committing more facts to their long-term memory banks.

### Dates for your diary

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Spring Half-Term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5 Pupil Workshops about Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity start
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Maths Roadshow Event 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Open The Book – The Easter Story
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Mental Health Support Team – Parent workshop on sleep
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Trip to Carlton Marshes
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	RSPCA session with children on pet care and wildlife
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Y3 RE showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – Why is the Cross more than a sacrifice? 2:30pm start
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Mrs Visinheski's last day in Y2
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2 RE Showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – The Easter Story 2:30pm start
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last Day of the spring term
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school – Summer Term starts
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Y5 Session on Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATs week
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	YR RE Showcase to parents in their classroom – 'Salvation' 2:30pm start
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Y6 Residential to Hilltop
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of Half-term
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Summer Half-term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Group Photos for School
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Open The Book – The Storm on the Lake
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 RE Showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – Incarnation 2:30pm start
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1 RE Showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – Pentecost 2:30pm start
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 Music showcase to parents in the school hall 1:00pm start
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Teacher Training Days
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Children return to school – Autumn Term starts
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Autumn Half-Term
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Children return to school
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December - Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Christmas Holiday
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Children return to school – Spring Term starts
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of half-term

