



Value – Respect

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and productive week in school. The children have enjoyed the visiting book fair, dressing up for Children in Need, discussing Anti Bullying and completing learning tasks linked to the theme of *One Kind Word*. The Pupil Parliament recorded an online assembly on Children in Need which has been shared with all the children. Very well done for putting this together Pupil Parliament! You all spoke so clearly and shared the important messages about why we celebrate Children in Need.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Remembrance Service on Sunday. We were very proud of the children who attended to represent the school. They presented the wreath and two of the children have written a report about this:

Remembrance Sunday Pupil Parliament Report

On Sunday I represented the school by writing the message on the Remembrance wreath and placing it on the war memorial. I felt very honoured to be doing this to remember the people who fought and gave their lives for our country. *Verity W.*

Remembrance Sunday was a thrilling day for everyone. The schools in Bloxham, Scouts troupes, Girls and Boys Brigade and soldiers marched up the hill, holding fabulous poppy wreaths in their hands. We all did the two minutes silence. Members of the Pupil Parliament represented the school which was great, as we got to lay down a wreath and stay with Ms Horton. I also felt proud to represent the school as I am in my last year at Bloxham Primary.
Ivy C.



Attendance and COVID - 19

We are continuing to monitor attendance carefully as a school and want to work closely with parents to ensure children are attending school when they are well to avoid missing vital learning. We do appreciate that with rising cases this is causing anxiety and want to reassure you all that we are taking all the necessary precautions to reduce the spread of infection and urge you to send you children in if they are well and do not have symptoms. We do appreciate that it is hard to know if symptoms are just a cold or COVID, so due to the rising cases are advising that children with any symptoms stay at home and get tested.

We have implemented the following to control the spread:

- Reinstated the wearing of face coverings for staff walking around the building
- We have recommended social isolation for any close contacts or household contacts of those testing positive until they receive a negative PCR test result
- Social isolation for siblings of positive cases until they have a negative PCR test
- Creation of COVID-19 secure groups – this can be across the year groups
- Suspended collective worship, singing and activities in the hall with larger groups
- Increased handwashing, cleaning, and the use of hand sanitiser
- Ensured that all rooms are well ventilated and will be using CO2 monitors to check ventilation
- Increased the amount of outdoor learning taking place

For children who are at home due to covid or who have siblings who are isolating waiting for a PCR we will not mark this as unauthorised absence. This will be coded as X02 Self Isolating – Covid 19 Symptoms.

We apologise for any confusion about this.

Reading

We are continuing to raise the profile of daily reading and appreciate your support in sharing and reading books with your children at home. Thank you for assisting us with this, by always sending your child's book and reading diary into school each day. Across the school we have had a delivery of some high-quality texts for children and are also improving the range of reading books available for children to take home. We want to ensure that children are reading regularly and enjoy reading for pleasure.



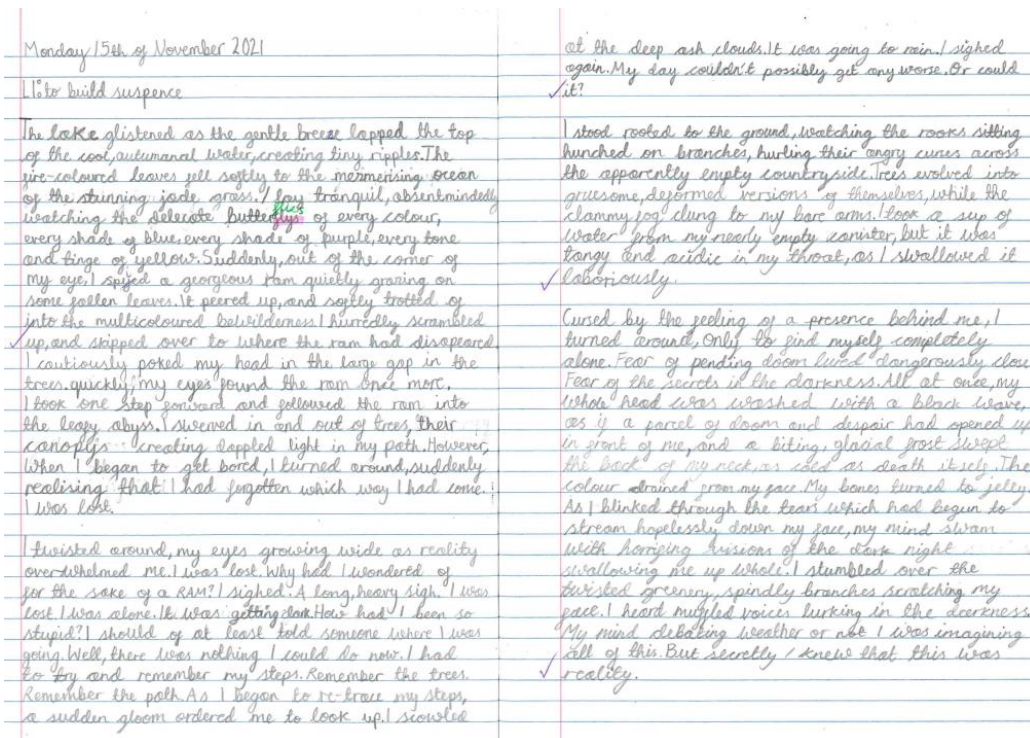
Value – Respect

Persistently Absent Children

Across the school we do have a significant number of children who are persistently absent and whose attendance is below 90%. I will be working with the leaders of the school to consider how we can best work with you to improve this. These low attendance percentages are not all COVID related and many of the children have been regularly absent since the beginning of the year. I will be looking closely at patterns and trends in individual children's attendance and if your child's attendance is below 90% you will be receiving a letter informing you that this is the case.

We recognise that children are unwell especially at this time of year and know that there are some individual circumstances that of course we consider. We will however be seeking to work with you to improve attendance as that is key to your children achieving success at school. If you need any support with attendance please get in touch with a member of staff.

I have enjoyed visits to my office from children from across the school this week who have been sharing their amazing learning with me. Very well done to Alex in Year 5 who shared his amazing ship drawing with me and was able to tell me many amazing facts about ships. I would also like to say well done to Casey-Mae in Year 6 who has written the most incredible story this week. Here is an excerpt from her story:



I want to thank all those of you who have been touch this week acknowledging the amazing work the staff are doing under very difficult circumstances. We value your constructive feedback and support.

It is a real privilege to work with such a dedicated and enthusiastic team. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend. Lisa Horton