

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

There is something very special about the end of term feeling in schools and especially when the sun is shining!

The end of term always provides an opportunity to reflect on what has gone before and to reward children for all that they have achieved. I hope you enjoy looking at the photos taken from around the school – your children have been working really hard and produced some great work.

The news at the moment can often feel a bit gloomy. Although there is short term optimism, much is made of the negative impact the periods out of school may have on children's learning and life chances. There is no doubt that there is catch up work to be done, but as I look around the school, I am confident that your children are more than ready for this. I would also like to reassure you that as a staff team we are planning and teaching to ensure that gaps are filled and children are able to move on in their learning.

As we reach this end of term, all thoughts turn to the upcoming Easter weekend. In Collective Worship this morning children and adults shared their thoughts on what Easter and the cross means for them, which not surprisingly included lots of references to chocolate!

Alongside this however we remembered what Easter means for Christians. For me, Easter is about the triumph of good over evil, the victory of light over darkness, a sign that whatever mess we find ourselves in, it is not the last word. Easter marks the start of something new, a chance to begin again.

And so, at the end of this strangest of terms, I want to thank you for all that you have done to work with us over the past weeks. I also want to wish you all a safe and happy Easter break, enjoying some of the new freedoms that we are now allowed.

I look forward to welcoming all your children back to school on Monday 19th April for what we hope will be a settled term when everyone can continue their learning together.

May God bless you and your families as you celebrate this coming weekend.

School lunches

Every day, Margarita, Sadie and Kim prepare around 200 hot meals for our children.

As you know, these meals do not have to be pre-booked. When the register is taken each day, every child is given the option of having a school dinner.

With such large numbers of meals being prepared, from scratch, every day, ordering can be a real challenge.

We want to both make sure we have enough food for our children and reduce the amount of waste.

We are therefore trialling a new system from the start of next term. We are asking that you select in advance the meals that your children are likely to have.

The system will only really help us if everyone whose child may have a school meal completes the online form. So, if your child regularly has a school meal, [please do complete the form](#), indicating their likely choice of meal for each of the menu choices over the three week cycle.

As they are now, your children will still be given the meal options when the register is taken and if they have changed their mind or want a meal where you had not indicated that they would, that is fine.

We really appreciate your support in helping us get a clearer idea of our likely food needs to improve our school meal provision.

Keeping in touch

We really hope that over the Easter holidays our whole school community will remain healthy.

If however, any of your children do test positive for Covid-19 at any time over the holidays, please do email the school office to let us know. (office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk)

The inbox will be monitored throughout the holidays and someone will respond to you.

News from around the school

This week we have been all around the school taking photos of what is on the walls. Children in all year groups have produced some really great work, right across the curriculum.



Easter bunnies – on the loose around Cogges!

Thank-you to all those of you who have bought an Easter Bunny Hunt, which will run between 1st and 18th April.

If you have purchased a sheet, your child should now have brought the sheet home. All you need to do is head around Cogges (locations are on the sheet!) and spot the pictures of the bunnies. Each picture will have a name that you can fill in on your sheet.

Please keep hold of your sheets, there is no need to return them to school. Every person who purchased a sheet will be entered into the prize draw. There are 5 prizes to be won.

Thank you all for your continued support for The Friends and happy hunting!

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Power to Parent
ONLINE AUTISM SUPPORT WORKSHOP

2 hour online workshop including downloadable workbook, video tutorials and access to our private community group.

£39.99
Book through our website
www.powertoparent.co.uk

These courses are designed to support parents and enable children. The course sees autism as just another way of being human and embraces difference and change.

The course is designed to meet the needs of both parents and children and provide support that will enable them to thrive.

There are limited places for families in receipt of certain benefits, so do get in touch if this applies to you.

An end to self-isolation

Earlier today, the school was informed that the member of staff, who at the weekend tested positive for Covid-19 using a Lateral Flow Test, has now received a negative result using a PCR test.

We were therefore delighted to be able to tell all of our Reception children and staff that they no longer need to self-isolate and can get out and enjoy their Easter holiday.

We currently have no positive cases of Covid-19 within our school community.

Doodle

We are sorry to say that as a staff team we have decided not to renew our subscription to Doodle Maths and Doodle English.

Our current subscription will run until the end of the Easter holidays, so if your children want to enjoy some last 'Doodling' they can do so over the holiday period.

Mr Noble's class remain our top Doodlers, if any classes think they can topple them, they have just two weeks left to try.

Why not try church?

This Easter is a great time to try out a church near you. Many local churches are now having a mix of online and face-to face events.

Find out more about what is happening at St Mary's Cogges on their [website](#) – if you are an early bird, you may want to join them for their sunrise service on Easter morning.

If you fancy something a bit different you can see what other churches are offering by looking at '[A Church Near You](#)', or you can share with the national [Church of England](#) services.

Many churches will be open for prayer and reflection over the Easter weekend, so why not drop in and enjoy some peace and quiet for a few minutes if you can.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Main Option 1	Pasta Carbonara	Oven Baked Salmon Fishcake with New Potatoes	Roast Turkey with Gravy	Local Butchers' Burger in a Roll with Diced Potatoes	Oven Baked Breaded Fish Fillet
	Main Option 2	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Homemade Jacket Wedges	Macaroni Cheese	Roast Quorn Fillet with Gravy	Vegetarian Bolognese	Vegan Sausage Roll
	Veg	Sweetcorn • Peas	Carrots and Peas • Broccoli	Roast or Parsley Potatoes • Spring Cabbage • Cauliflower	Baton Carrots • Broccoli	Chips or Pasta • Baked Beans • Peas
	Dessert	Krispie Cake	Apple Sponge	Whipped Fruit Mousse	Lemon Shortbread	Ice Cream with Fresh Fruit
Week 2	Main Option 1	Chicken and Sweetcorn Pasta Bake	Chilli Con Carne with Rice	Roast Chicken with Yorkshire Pudding	Turkey Meatballs with Tomato Sauce and Pasta	Oven Baked Breaded Fish Fillet
	Main Option 2	Cheese and Tomato Pizza and New Potatoes	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Roast Quorn Fillet with Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Oven Baked Vegetable Sausages with Homemade Potato Wedges	Quorn Fishless Fingers
	Veg	Broccoli • Sweetcorn	Carrots • Green Beans	Roast or New Potatoes • Seasonal Spring Cabbage • Baton Carrots	Broccoli • Cauliflower	Chips or Pasta • Baked Beans • Peas
	Dessert	Banana Flapjack	Orange Sponge	Strawberry Jelly with Peaches	Iced Raspberry Sponge	Iced Fruit Smoothie
Week 3	Main Option 1	BBQ Chicken Breast	Spaghetti Bolognese	Roast Pork with Yorkshire Pudding	Chicken Curry with Rice	Oven Baked Breaded Fish Fingers
	Main Option 2	Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Cheese and Tomato Pinwheel with Homemade Potato Wedges	Roast Quorn Fillet with Yorkshire Pudding	Vegetarian Burger in a Roll	Crispy Quorn Dippers
	Veg	New Potatoes • Sweetcorn • Broccoli	Carrots • Green Beans	Roast or New Potatoes • Cauliflower • Savoy Cabbage	Carrots • Broccoli	Chips or Pasta • Peas • Baked Beans
	Dessert	Chocolate Brownie	Rhubarb and Custard Sponge	Orange Jelly with Fruit Salad	Apricot and Oat Cookies	Strawberry and Vanilla Mousse

Our menu is changing from the start of next term, a copy is also on our [website](#).

Witney Heroes

We were delighted, and very touched, this week to receive a certificate from Witney Mayor Joy Aitman.

The certificate recognises the staff of The Blake School as Witney Heroes, "for doing an outstanding job of caring for key worker and vulnerable children over the past year." The certificate also recognised that staff "always have a smile on their face and make sure the children feel happy. They have also worked very hard to provide online learning too."

We don't know who nominated us, but we were all really touched by the recognition. Thank-you.



If, at any time over the Easter holiday, you have any concerns for your safety, the safety of your children, or the safety of others, please do not think that you are alone. There is always help available to you. Many charities have 24-hour helplines that you can call – do reach out to get the help and support you need. We are all in this together.

Celebrating birthdays

Since the start of the pandemic, we have asked parents not to send in sweets when it is their child's birthday.

However we recognise that this small gesture often means a lot to children. Therefore, in recognition that restrictions are beginning to ease, we are inviting all children who would like to, to bring sweets in on their birthday. All sweets must however be individually wrapped.

From the next academic year, we will be looking at an alternative way for children to celebrate their birthday, so do please listen out for information about this, particularly if your child has a September birthday!

For further information about all Juniors cricket, please see the club website: www.witneymillsc.co.uk.

GIRL'S ONLY

DYNAMOS CRICKET

@ Witney Mills C.C.

This is our game.

Calling all 8-11 year-olds!
Sign up today, at
dynamicscricket.co.uk

Starts Thurs 13th May
5.30pm to 6.30pm
Got any questions?
Email us at
juniors@witneymillsc.co.uk

Big Moments of summer fun!

ALL STARS cricket

@ Witney Mills C.C.

Join us at: Witney Mills Cricket Club

Sessions will run: 8 weeks from Mon 10th May

Session timings: 5.30pm - 6.30pm

For any questions please email: juniors@witneymillsc.co.uk

Sign up today at
allstarscricket.co.uk or at the centre