



John Blow Primary School
Weekly Bulletin Friday 4th October 2025

The new home learning booklets have been well received across the school and they are a great resource for bridging learning between home and school; thank you for your support in implementing these! Remember, 30 minutes is the maximum amount of time we expect the children to be working on the set activities, if they are taking longer than this, stop and mark where the children got to. These activities are designed to consolidate learning so if the children are struggling, please write a note in their book / learning journal and we will intervene and support in school.

Healthy snacks

We would like to remind parents about the importance of providing healthy snacks for children at breaktime. Break is at 10.15am, and we have noticed an increase in high-sugar items and large packets of crisps being brought in. While these are fine in moderation and as part of a balanced lunch, they are less suitable mid-morning as they can cause sugar spikes, leaving children feeling tired or unfocused soon after. Instead, we encourage sustainable, nutritious snacks that keep energy levels steady and help children concentrate. For our EYFS and KS1 children, daily fruit is still provided in school. Thank you for your support in helping us promote healthy habits and ensure children are ready to learn throughout the day.

Healthy snack ideas for breaktime:

- A piece of fresh fruit (e.g. apple, banana, pear, satsuma)
- Chopped vegetables (e.g. carrot sticks, cucumber, pepper slices)
- A small handful of plain popcorn (swap for large packets of crisps)
- Rice cakes or oatcakes (swap for biscuits)
- A yoghurt tube or pouch, low in sugar (swap for chocolate bars)
- A small portion of cheese, e.g. cubes or Babybel (swap for processed cheese strings)
- A small handful of dried fruit in moderation (swap for sweets)
- Wholegrain breadsticks (swap for salty snacks like crisps)

Forest School

Forest School days have been booked and are as follows:

Year 4 Tuesday 7th October

Year 5 Friday 10th October

Year 6 Friday 17th October

Our highlights of the week from across the school (identified by the staff):

EYFS (Reception): *“Tap and clap circle time in the hall (great listening and rhythm from the children!).”*

Year 1: *Forest school (last Friday) – the children were brilliant explorers! Look out for certificates coming home this week!*

Year 2: *Capturing learning in our floor books: it’s great to see collaboration and inquisitive learning from the children!*

Year 3: *“Excellent grammar work this week!”*

Year 4: "Learning about Egyptian gods in history."

Year 5: "Escher tessellation pictures in Art and their Science investigation into water resistance."

Year 6: "Our author workshop with Patrice Lawrence; she even answered Bertie's questions!"

UKS2 Tennis

Well done to our UKS2 tennis superstars who represented the school in a tournament at Caunton Tennis Club on Wednesday afternoon – they played brilliantly and made it through to the finals in June. Thank you to Rob and Mrs Waite for transporting and cheer leading for the team!



Dinner Menus

Autumn Term 2 dinner menus are now available to book via the School Money app. The catering team do need to order ingredients before half term in readiness for 3rd November and would be grateful if you could place orders as soon as possible to aid this process.

Start of the day arrangements

Thank you for your ongoing support in making the start of the day as smooth as it has become – it is wonderful to see the children growing in confidence and independence as they come into school to start their learning.

On a Thursday morning at 9am, all children and staff engage in a mentoring session – please ensure that children are in school for 9am – Mrs Sim has a mentoring group so the office is not manned between 9am and 9.15am – we are still contactable via the telephone during this period.

Website

Make sure you regularly check your child's class page on the website as we are using this platform to share learning and photographs this academic year. Share the link with your families and friends too!

<https://www.johnblowprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Class+Pages&pid=45>

<https://www.johnblowprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Celebrations+at+John+Blow+Primary+School&pid=46>

The power of handwriting (a message from Mr Barnard)

Cognitive and productivity benefits of handwriting compared to typing.

The benefits of writing are...

1. **Unlocking Handwriting's Benefits**

- Use pen & paper for brainstorming.
 - Handwrite notes in meetings/lectures.
 - Keep a daily journal.
 - Rewrite important ideas after typing.
2. **Typing vs. Handwriting**
- Typing = efficiency.
 - Handwriting = intelligence.
 - Typing stores words on a screen; handwriting engraves them into your brain.
3. **Impact on the Brain**
- The way you write shapes your brain's circuitry.
 - Handwriting supports deeper memory, sharper focus, and stronger creativity.
4. **Pen vs. Keyboard**
- A pen is a **cognitive tool**.
 - A keyboard is just a **shortcut**.
 - The challenge: which will you choose tomorrow?

In summary...

- **Typing is fast but shallow.** It helps with efficiency and storage but doesn't engage the brain deeply.
- **Handwriting is slower but powerful.** It enhances memory, focus, creativity, and intelligence by actively engaging the brain.
- Incorporating handwriting into daily life/teaching (journaling, note-taking, idea rewriting) as a way to sharpen thinking and learning.

We would love to see examples of children's writing at home, please send them in and they will be celebrated in our classrooms.

A little something different for a home learning activity

Why not check out the RSPB's website for birds to look out for in October: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/birds-of-the-month/october-birds-of-the-month>

We would love to see photos of you exploring the outdoors – send them into the school office – office@collingham.notts.sch.uk

Sumdog

Mr Straw has entered all pupils into the East Midlands Sumdog Competition over half term (17th – 23rd October). If you would like your child to join in, you just need to log in and click on the challenge. Good luck everyone!

Key dates and upcoming events

Autumn Term 1 – 2025-2026 Bulletin Dates

w/c Monday 6th October

Mentoring – if you could swap places with someone for a day, who would it be? Discussion – what is it important to see the world from different perspectives?
 Music Journey Focus – Pop, review of genre explored
 BSL – review of all signs learnt

Monday 6th October

- Assembly – Celebrating diversity, BC
- 6pm – FOJB AGM – in school hall

Tuesday 7th October

- Assembly – Libraries Week, BB
- Y4 Forest School Day
- MHST workshop in hall – 2.30-3.15pm

Wednesday 8th October

- Assembly – Share a story, KTB
- 3.00pm – Introduction to Little Wandle, Year 1 parents invited

Thursday 9th October

- LKS2 Trip to Eureka! Halifax

Friday 10th October

- Assembly – Above & Beyond, looking after our school
- World Mental Health Day
- 8.40-9.30am – UKS2 drop-in
- Y5 Forest School Day

w/c Monday 13th October

Mentoring – what have you learned about your group this half-term? Discussion – what goal could we set for next half-term?

Music Journey Focus – Pop, review of genre explored.

BSL – review of all signs learnt

Monday 13th October

- Assembly – Diwali, BC

Tuesday 14th October

- Assembly – Recycling Week, looking after our environment, CN

Wednesday 15th October

- Assembly – Share a story, KB
- MHST- UKS2 sleep hygiene workshop – 9.30-10.30am – in hall

Thursday 16th October – Wear what makes you feel wonderful

- Y2 Trip to The Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- LKS2 wellbeing workshop – 9.30am – in hall
- 3.00pm – Introduction to Little Wandle, EYFS parents invited
- FOJBP School Disco, Wear What Makes You Feel Wonderful Day (not Halloween themed)

Friday 17th October

- 9.00am – Merit Assembly (invitation only)
- Y6 Forest School Day



Autumn Disco

<p>EYFS AND KS1 3.30PM - 4.30PM £3.50 SNACK AND DRINK INC</p>	<p>KS2 4.45PM - 5.45PM £3 TUCK SHOP AVAILABLE</p> <hr/> <p>OCTOBER 16</p>
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WEAR WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL WONDERFUL DAY AT
SCHOOL - NO FANCY DRESS COSTUMES IN SCHOOL



'Be the best you can be' at John Blow Primary School!

Was your child born between 1/9/2021 to 31/8/2022?

If they were, you need to apply for a school place to commence in September 2026. The Nottinghamshire County Council's application window is live between the 3rd November 2025 and 15th January 2026.

Before completing your application, why not come along to see why John Blow Primary School is an excellent place to learn at one of our EYFS open day sessions on Tuesday 4th November 2025?

We are hosting sessions at the following times:

- 9.15am - 10am

- 4pm - 4.45pm

There will be an opportunity to explore the EYFS provision, have a tour of the school, learn about our vision and what it means to be part of the John Blow Team!

To book a place either call the school office (01636892485) or email - office@collingham.notts.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you and your little ones in attendance!

The John Blow Team





JUNIOR FREE TENNIS TASTER SESSIONS

4-7 YEARS
8-10 YEARS
11-18 YEARS

Try Tennis at any of our weekly sessions for 2 weeks for free
You won't even need a racket as we will provide them
All takes place at Caunton Tennis Club, Maplebeck Rd,
NG23 6AS



TO BOOK A SPACE PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE or SCAN THE QR CODE
www.tennis4all.org.uk

For More info

Email james@tennis4all.org.uk

Phone 07771 962964