



John Blow Primary School
Weekly Bulletin – Friday 30th January 2026



Online Safety – An update

Recently, I have been in correspondence with an IT expert from Microsoft, who shared serious concerns about the impact of social media on children. The algorithms that children are exposed to can be alarming and, in many cases, damaging for children of a young age. While systems are being introduced by the government to improve online safety, these measures are not able to fully prevent the potential harm caused by algorithm-driven content.

Age restrictions on social media platforms and apps are in place to protect children. Young children do not yet have the critical thinking skills required to filter, question or contextualise the messages they are exposed to through these algorithms. Some would argue that even at the age of 13, many children are still not developmentally ready to do this safely. Content that may appear innocent on the surface can, in reality, be harmful or inappropriate.

I appreciate that I may sound repetitive in raising this issue, but it is important. We are still dealing with the fallout from online incidents that are impacting children in school, relationships between peers, and emotional wellbeing.

I strongly encourage you to be mindful of the platforms and apps that your children are accessing, to check age ratings carefully, and to have open conversations with your children about what they see online.

Feedback from history week

This week, we have been engaging in learning as part of our History Week across the school, Mr Barnard's initial idea was that we would hold a gallery in the hall celebrating what we have discovered (but this has been scuppered by the flood damage!). Below is a summary

EYFS

- Our circle time has been themed this week. This includes the creation of a spider's web of compliments. The children passed across the circle a compliment about one of their friends to reinforce the idea that we all have strengths and even though these may be different across the class, they are all valued.
- Our story time sessions have used books which represent diversity and an acceptance of differences. A particular favourite has been 'George's Dragon'. A great story which highlights how different the dragon is from a usual choice of pet. It celebrates his differences (he can breathe fire) and whilst

these differences might first appear to be causing a problem, they become part of what makes him a unique and celebrated friend.

- LT has been working within different group activities both inside and outside the classroom and developing his friendships with the other children. He has mastered the art of throwing objects far and wide this week and the children had the great idea outdoors of making this into a throw and catch ball game. LT has been seen out of his pushchair and walking with support alongside his peers.
- As part of our castles and dragons topic, we have been watching clips about how castles have changed over time. We had a great discussion about why castles were made of wood in the past were not as effective as the later stone-built constructions.

Year 1

In Year 1, we have been learning about people who help us, both now and in the past. We talked about different helpers such as nurses, firefighters, police officers and teachers, and how their jobs have changed through history.

The children explored how people helped each other long ago and compared this to how helpers support us today. They asked great questions and shared their own experiences of the people who help them in their everyday lives.

This learning helped the children understand the importance of kindness, care and teamwork, and how helpers have always played an important role in our communities.

Year 1 have shown fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm throughout this topic.

Year 2

In Year 2, we have been learning about toys from the past. We explored what toys were like when our parents and grandparents were children and talked about how toys have changed over time.

We then became toy designers! The children designed their own toys, thinking carefully about what they would look like and how they would be played with.

To finish our learning, we used AI to bring our toy designs to life. The children were amazed to see their ideas transformed and really enjoyed combining creativity with technology.

It has been a fun and exciting project, and the children showed fantastic imagination and enthusiasm throughout.

Year 3

During History Week, Year 3 explored fascinating topics from the ancient world. In Healing in the Ancient World, pupils learned how people treated injuries and illnesses long ago by examining images of ancient medical tools and comparing them with modern hospitals today. They also discovered Ancient Wonders, looking beyond Europe to compare the pyramids of Egypt with the temples of Mexico, and discussing what these impressive structures tell us about past civilisations.

Year 4

Year 4 pupils learn about inspirational historical figures who overcame challenges to achieve great things. Through discussion and research, children explore how these challenges affected individuals' lives but did not prevent success. Pupils develop their non-fiction writing skills by creating an information poster, organising facts under clear headings and using images to support understanding. The lesson also promotes empathy, resilience and reflection, helping pupils understand that determination and perseverance can help people overcome difficulties.

Year 5

For Disability through History, “Everyone Has a Story”, we have expressed emotions and pain through colour as Kahlo did. Investigated War, Recovery, and Innovation; explored how conflict changed understanding of injury and recovery, including sorting primary and secondary sources and investigated prosthetic limbs from WWI and WWII. For Global connections and representation, “History Around the World”, we have examined Science and Discovery Across the World and celebrated global inventors and thinkers. We have also learnt about scholars from the Islamic Golden Age. Year 5 also took part in a webinar about Katherine Johnson and her achievements and influences on modern space exploration- we even had our question read out live on air!

Year 6

On Wednesday morning, Year 6 took part in an inspiring online workshop alongside over 1,000 pupils from schools across the UK. The session explored the remarkable role Katherine Johnson played at NASA, highlighting how her exceptional mathematical thinking helped calculate rocket trajectories and support space missions. Pupils also heard from an award-winning Ghanaian mathematician, who shared how Katherine Johnson’s achievements inspired her own journey into mathematics.

During the workshop, children investigated mirror numbers and learned how these concepts link to calculating trajectories. Before the session began, pupils predicted what they thought Katherine Johnson was known for and discussed other historical figures they had previously studied. It was fantastic to see the children making meaningful links to their prior learning in history, as well as applying knowledge from other areas of the curriculum.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS – BY PARENTS

A huge thank you to the three families who contributed to our first Padlet – their suggestions to help support others were brilliant.

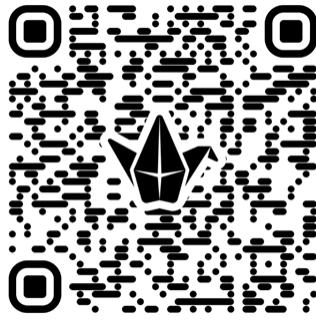
At school, parents often ask us for advice and ideas to support them and their children at home. We know, however, that some of the most helpful ideas come from other parents who are experiencing the same everyday challenges.

To celebrate the strength of our school community, we are launching a series of Padlets created by parents, for parents. Even if you don’t currently have difficulties with an area, your tips and routines could make a real difference to another family.

This week’s focus is bedtime routines up. Please use the QR code or the link below to share the strategies that work in your home. As parents add their ideas, we will build a shared bank of practical tips that everyone can access and benefit from.

Over time, we will introduce new Padlets covering different areas. By working together and sharing our experiences, we can support all families and, ultimately, all our pupils.

Please take a moment to contribute – your ideas could really help another family.



<https://padlet.com/bbarnard5/bedtime-routines-kjnm3hmbmqf4wqty>

Please see the school website for this and our previous Padlet on 'Tidying up'- under, 'Parents', 'Support and advice', 'Parental Padlets'

Photos

Remember to check class pages and the Celebration at John Blow Primary page on the website, as new photos have been uploaded.

February Half-Term

Please see below a copy of the email sent out by Mr Carver yesterday.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you, with regret, that we will be unable to run our February half-term Holiday Club.

This decision has not been taken lightly. As part of the ongoing renovation work following the recent flood, further investigations have identified both licensed and unlicensed asbestos within parts of the building that now require removal. The asbestos removal process will take approximately seven days, and to minimise disruption to learning time, this work has been scheduled to take place over the February half-term where possible.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the work and the strict safety controls required, it will not be possible to operate Holiday Club during this period. This is something I have had to factor into the overall planning of the works, and I fully appreciate the inconvenience this may cause for families.

Please be assured that the safety of children and staff is paramount, and this decision has been made with that firmly in mind. Our aim is to ensure that learning is not disrupted once the children return to school, and completing this work during the holiday period supports that intention.

We will continue to keep you updated as the work progresses and will also share information about alternative holiday clubs available in the local area.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

*Many thanks,
Ben Carver
Headteacher*

We have included flyers received from alternative providers at the bottom of the Bulletin.

Year 4 Multi-Skills

Year 4 had a great time participating in a multi-skills event at NK today!



Spring Term 1 – 2025-2026 Bulletin Dates

w/c Monday 26th January

w/c Monday 2nd February

Mentoring – what have you achieved so far this year? What target will you set for the rest of the year?

Music from around the world – S.H.E (Taiwan)

Monday 2nd February

- Assembly – National Astronomy Week, KB

Tuesday 3rd February

- Assembly – National Story Telling Week, BB
- Y3 Forest School Day

Wednesday 4th February

- Assembly – Share a story, CN

Friday 6th February

- Assembly – Above & Beyond, attractive & safe

w/c Monday 9th February

Music from around the world – review of genre

Monday 9th February

- Assembly – sporting role model, TS
- Y2 Forest School Day

Tuesday 10th February

- Assembly – Safer Internet Day, Y4 presentation to assembly & parents, CN

Wednesday 11th February

- Assembly – Share a story, KTB

Thursday 12th February

- 8.15 – 9.00am, Story Telling Café
- Assembly – Merit Assembly by invitation only
- End of Term @ 3.30pm

Friday 13th February

- INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN



**You are invited to celebrate
60 years of preschool in the Wesley Room
On Saturday 7th February 2026
Between 1-3pm
All welcome.**



JOHN BLOW PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNICATION FLOWCHART

General school enquiry
e.g. questions about events/activities, clubs or wrap-around care

→

Parents/Carers
Call the office between 8.15am and 4pm
01636 892485
or
email
office@collingham.notts.sch.uk

→

School will aim to respond within one working day



Learning / SEND enquiry
e.g. homework questions, concerns about progress, support for SEND needs

→

Parents/Carers
Send an email to the class teacher / SENDCo via
office@collingham.notts.sch.uk or
sendco@collingham.notts.sch.uk
or
Come into school before 8.30am in the morning (via the school office) or catch them at the end of the day when children are dismissed.

→

School
Class teacher will either respond via a telephone call or email
Staff will attempt to make an initial response within 2 working days

→

In some cases, the enquiry will be dealt with the a member of the SEND Team. We aim to respond within two working days.

Behaviour Enquiry
e.g. friendship concerns, physical incident, unkind language incident, social media incident

→

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Send an email to the class teacher / via
office@collingham.notts.sch.uk
or
Come into school before 8.30am in the morning (via the school office) or catch them at the end of the day when children are dismissed.

→

School
Class teacher will either respond via a telephone call or email
Staff will attempt to make an initial response within 2 working days

→

In some cases, the enquiry will be dealt with the a member of the Leadership Team. We aim to respond within two working days.

Emotional or Mental Health Support Enquiry
e.g. concerns around anxiety, changes to family circumstances

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Parents/Carers
Send an email to the class teacher / Wellbeing Team / SENDCo via
office@collingham.notts.sch.uk or
sendco@collingham.notts.sch.uk

→

School
A member of the Wellbeing Team / your child's class teacher / the SENDCo will attempt to make an initial response within 2 working days

→

In some cases, the enquiry will be dealt with the a member of the Leadership Team. We aim to respond within two working days.



It is imperative that these channels are followed when raising communication with school. The pathways are in place to ensure that policies and procedures are adhered to.

Safeguarding or safety concerns

Safeguarding children and young people is everyone's responsibility

To contact Mr Carver (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mr Barnard (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) regarding a safeguarding or safety concern during term time, please contact the school office:

Telephone - 01636 892485

Email -
office@collingham.notts.sch.uk

If your concerns are regarding a child in immediate danger, the police should be contacted or a concern can be made raised to with children's services (anybody can make a referral via these numbers):

Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) -
0300 500 80 80

Lincolnshire Children's Services -
01522 782111

February Half Term at Collingham Library

All of this is
FREE!

Valentine's Card Making Craft;

Friday 13th February, drop in between 10am and 12pm



Lego Club;

Saturday 14th from 9:30am-12:30pm

Monday 16th from 2-5pm

Tuesday 17th from 9:30am-1pm

Wednesday 18th from 2-5pm

Saturday 21st from 9:30am-12:30pm



"I Am A Storyteller" Children's Workshop;

Thursday 19th February at 10am

This Event is Sold Out! - Scan the
QR Code to Join The Waitlist



Board Games;

Friday 20th February
from 9:30am-1pm





Newark Sports and Fitness Centre
Dukeries and Southwell Leisure Centre

HALF-TERM TIMETABLE

Monday 16th – Sunday 22nd February 2026



4 FREE SESSIONS!

Places limited so book now at
www.active4today.co.uk/leisurehub

You can pay at reception on the day, subject to availability

Telephone 01636 655780 Email enquiries@active4today.co.uk





FEBRUARY HALF-TERM CAMP



LOVERS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Warburton Street, Newark, NG24 1LT

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb

FULL DAY - £24.00

FULL WEEK -
£100.00

HALF DAY - £12.00



SCAN HERE



TO BOOK:

Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk

Go to "Book Now" & select your camp!





FEBRUARY HALF-TERM CAMP



HOUGHAM & MARSTON VILLAGE HALL

Bridge St, Marston, Grantham, NG32 2JQ

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb

FULL DAY - £24.00

HALF DAY - £12.00

FULL WEEK -
£100.00



SCAN HERE



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Please follow the link below to a holiday club run by our sports provider, Premier Education, at the Magus Church of England Academy:

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/23737-945195/?back=1&radius=NG23%207PT&location=NG23%207PT&search=camps>