



John Blow Primary School

Weekly Bulletin

Friday 4th September 2026



Update to parents

I hope that you had an enjoyable summer holidays; it has been great to welcome the children back into school for a new school year. Thank you for your punctuality and arrival for learning to commence at 8.50am in classrooms.

Remember, lunches must be ordered via the Arbor app – we cannot guarantee that we can provide food if it has not been ordered so please ensure that orders are placed on the app – you will not be charged for the meals until they have been received by the children.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Lost minutes = Lost learning



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!



PE days

Due to a change to our PE timetable, PE will now take place on the following days during the Autumn Term:

EYFS- Monday and Friday

Year 1 – Monday and Friday

Year 2 – Thursday and Friday

Year 3 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 4 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 5 – Tuesday and Friday

Year 6 – Monday and Friday

Despite cuts to the Sports Premium funding, we are proud to still offer a comprehensive sports and PE offer – this is something we have prioritised and we are excited about being able to welcome Mr West for an additional session each week. We will also be utilising Mrs Atkins' expertise to deliver our gymnastic and dance curriculum in PE alongside the class teachers.

Safeguarding update

In line with the new Keeping Children Safe in Education, we are required to complete DBS clearance checks on all adults volunteering in school; this includes supporting on trips. In order to obtain a DBS, we require 3 forms of ID (one of which must be a bank / Council Tax statement) – we will be approaching adults to commence this process in the coming few weeks as we prepare for upcoming trips and events. We really appreciate adult support to facilitate trips, we would not be able to attend these visits without your support.

An update from Mr Barnard

Pupil Leadership – Have Your Say!

Next week, we will be electing our new Class Reading Ambassadors and School Council representatives.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are invited to write a short letter over the weekend explaining why they would like the role and why their classmates should consider voting for them. Children are very welcome to apply for both roles if they wish.

At the end of next week, classes will hold their elections. This provides a valuable opportunity for pupils to experience democracy in action, supporting our work on the British Values of democracy, respect and having a voice.

In EYFS and Key Stage 1, teachers will discuss the roles with their classes and pupils will make their choices through class discussion and voting.

We are proud to have active Reading Ambassadors and a School Council, giving pupils meaningful opportunities to contribute to school life, share the views of their peers and help make a difference.

We are really looking forward to hearing from our pupils, reading their applications and seeing democracy in action across school next week!



BBC 500 Words 2026 – Calling All Young Writers!

We are delighted to share that BBC 500 Words, the UK's largest story-writing competition for children aged 5–11, is back!

The competition is all about celebrating creativity and imagination. Children are invited to write an original fictional story of 500 words or fewer – most importantly, a story that they would love to read themselves.

Key Dates

Entries open:	Tuesday 29 September 2026
BBC Live Lesson:	Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 11.00am
Entries close:	9.00pm on Friday 6 November 2026
Winners announced:	Early March 2027

There are two age categories: 5–7 years and 8–11 years.

What are the judges looking for?

Stories are judged on originality, plot, characterisation, language and enjoyment. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked – the emphasis is on children's ideas and creativity.

Stories must be 500 words or fewer, written by one child and be their own original work. Entries must be written as a story (prose rather than a poem, rap or play). AI must not be used to create, write or develop the story.

What can children win?

Gold, silver and bronze winners in both age categories will receive a National Book Token and a framed illustration of their story created by a leading children's illustrator. The winning stories and illustrations will also feature in a special 500 Words book. The schools of the two gold winners will each receive 500 books for their school library!

How do we enter?

Once your child's story is ready, it must be typed and submitted online by an adult. Only one story can be entered per child.

If you enter, please print off a copy or email to the school office for the attention of Mr Barnard.

Entries open on Tuesday 29 September.

Find out more, access inspiration and enter here:

[BBC 500 Words – information and entry page](#)

We would love as many of our children as possible to get involved. Let your imagination run wild – where will your 500 words take you?

Dance Club

We're so excited to be running our Dance Club again at John Blow Primary School

If your child would like to join us, please follow the link below to book their place:

[Login | Hannah Simmons Dance Company- Portal](#)

All the details about the session, including dates, times and what to expect, can be found in the attached information.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch at hannahdancefitness@gmail.com.

We can't wait to dance with you all again! 🕺

Best wishes,

Hannah

Hannah Simmons Dance Company HSDC

Royal Academy of Dance, International Dance Teachers Association & Acrobatic Arts Registered

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560379666587>



AFTER SCHOOL DANCE CLUB

JOHN BLOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALL YEAR GROUPS

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

TIME:3:30-4:15PM

PRICE: £3 PER SESSION. £18.35 for 6 weeks, includes 35p transaction fee.

Follow the link on the email to book onto the class!



Key dates and upcoming events
Autumn Term 1 – 2026-2027 Bulletin Dates

w/c Monday 7th September

Mentoring – Introduction to mentoring groups

Monday 7th September

- Y6 PGL Residential
- Mentoring
- 8.50am, Y1 phonics drop-in session in hall

Tuesday 8th September

- Assembly – Our school values, respect, BB
- Y6 PGL Residential

Wednesday 9th September

- Assembly – An introduction to British values, CN
- Y6 PGL Residential
- 9.00 – 11.00am, EYFS transition music session with Lucy Reid

Thursday 10th September

- Assembly – Share a Story, KTB

Friday 11th September

- Assembly – Above & Beyond, we show respect, BC

w/c Monday 14th September

Mentoring – JBPS values

Monday 14th September

- Mentoring
- 8.50am, Y2 phonics drop-in session in hall
- Staff meeting – English

Tuesday 15th September

- Assembly – Kindness in the school community, CN

Wednesday 16th September

- Assembly – National Democracy Day, BB (School Council voting day)

Thursday 17th September

- Assembly – Share a Story, ER

Friday 18th September

- Assembly – Above & Beyond, School Council introduction / making kind choices, BC
- Individual & sibling photos

w/c Monday 21st September

Mentoring – British Values

Monday 21st September

- Mentoring
- 8.50am, EYFS phonics drop-in session in hall

Tuesday 22nd September

- Assembly – Taking responsibility for our choices / actions, BC

Wednesday 23rd September

- Assembly – British Values, Rule of Law & Fairness, KTB

Thursday 24th September

- Assembly – Share a Story, EM

Friday 25th September

- Assembly – Above & Beyond, Responsibility Awards, BC

w/c Monday 28th September

Mentoring – British Values

Monday 28th September

- Mentoring

Tuesday 29th September

- Assembly – Perseverance, keep improving, ER

Wednesday 30th September

- Assembly – British Values, Individual Liberty, expression & choice, BC

Thursday 1st October

- Assembly – National Poetry Day, BB

- National Poetry Day

Friday 2nd October

- Assembly – Above & Beyond, Perseverance Awards, BC
- World Smile Day

w/c Monday 5th October

Mentoring – Protected Characteristics

Monday 5th October

- Mentoring

Tuesday 6th October

- Assembly – Teamwork, TS
- LKS2 Trip to Magna

Wednesday 7th October

- Assembly – World Mental Health Day (10th October), BC
- 3.30 – 4.15pm, Start of Choir Club, Lucy Reid

Thursday 8th October

- AUTUMN CENSUS DAY
- Assembly – Share a Story, EH
- Whole School Dance Workshop

Friday 9th October

- Assembly – Above & Beyond, Teamwork Awards, BC
- KS2 Netball Competition

w/c Monday 12th October

Mentoring – Protected Characteristics

Monday 12th October

- Mentoring

Tuesday 13th October

- Assembly – British Values, Respect & SEND, EH

Wednesday 14th October

- Assembly – A reflection of this half-term, BC

Thursday 15th October

- Merit Assembly (invitation only)
- Wear What Makes You Feel Wonderful Day
- FOJBP Disco

Friday 16th October

- BBC Concert Orchestra performing in school (children only)
- 3.30pm – End of Autumn Term 1