



**John Blow Primary School**

**Weekly Bulletin**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2026**



### **Update to parents**

#### **Thank You, Friends of John Blow**

A huge thank you to the Friends of John Blow for generously giving their time to visit IKEA and purchase a range of resources to further enhance our reading areas across the school.

Their support will help us continue to create inviting, engaging spaces where children can develop a love of reading, explore high-quality texts and enjoy sharing books with their friends. We are incredibly grateful for the time, effort and commitment that the Friends of John Blow give to our school community, and we know that the children will benefit greatly from these new additions.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and our pupils.

#### **Growing a Love of Reading**

Reading is about so much more than finishing a book. It introduces children to new words, ideas, people, places and experiences, while supporting vocabulary, comprehension, imagination and empathy. Children who enjoy reading are also much more likely to read regularly.

Every Friday, our classes hold Book Clubs, giving children time to share what they are reading, recommend books and discuss their thoughts with friends. Talking about books is important too: discussion helps children develop their language and understanding.

We would love parents and carers to support us by making reading a regular, enjoyable part of home life. Read to your child, listen to them read, take turns, or simply curl up and share a story together. Even as children become confident readers, there is still real value in sharing books and talking about them.

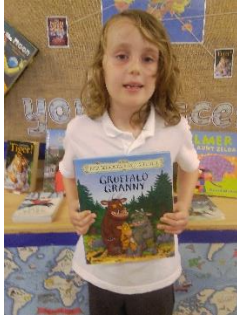
And remember, the most powerful part isn't always how many pages or words a child reads. The more children read, the more opportunities they have to encounter new vocabulary, knowledge and perspectives—but the quality and enjoyment of the experience matter too.

Some of children's warmest associations with books can come from the experience surrounding them: sitting together, laughing, talking, wondering what will happen next and having someone's full attention. Shared reading can provide comfort, enjoyment and connection between children and their families.

Help us make reading something our children want to do, not simply something they have to do.

### **Birthday Book Donation**

A huge thank you to Aksel for making the first birthday book donation of the academic year. We are delighted that Aksel has chosen to donate books for both Year 2 and EYFS, helping to further develop a love of reading across our school. We are very grateful for this thoughtful gift and know that many children will enjoy sharing these books in the months ahead.



### **Morning Drop-Off Reminder**

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support with our morning routines and for the positive improvements in punctuality this term. It has been fantastic to see so many children arriving on time and settling quickly into their classrooms, ensuring they are ready to learn from the very start of the school day.

Across the school, pupils are engaging positively in their morning starter activities, helping to create the calm, purposeful learning environment that was recognised during our recent strategic support visit.

A reminder that if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please do so from 8.30am onwards, or contact them via email. This allows teachers to give you the time and attention needed whilst ensuring they can focus on welcoming children into the classroom and supporting them to make a successful start to their day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us establish positive routines and maximise learning time for all pupils.

### **School Census Day – Thursday 1 October**

#### **We need your help!**

Thursday 1 October is School Census Day, and we are asking families of children in EYFS, KS1 and children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) to choose a school dinner on this day wherever possible.

We have three meal choices available each day, giving children plenty of choice and helping them to enjoy a school dinner that they will want to eat. Of course, children can still bring a packed lunch if they prefer, but ordering a school dinner on Census Day really does help our school.

The number of children taking school meals on Census Day is an important part of the information we submit, and this information contributes to future funding and financial planning for school. The more accurate our numbers are, the better we can plan and protect the funding available to support our children.

So, if your child is happy to have a school dinner, please order one for Thursday 1 October and help us on Census Day!

### **Secondary School Applications for Year 6 Parents**

Applications for secondary school places are now open for children currently in Year 6. Parents and carers are reminded to complete their application before the national closing date to ensure their preferences can be fully considered. Applications can be submitted online through the **Nottinghamshire County Council School Admissions Hub**: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/hub>. Please do not leave your application until the last minute.

### Family Update Evenings

Bookings are now open for our Family Update Evenings on the Arbor App.

These meetings will take place on:

- **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**
- **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

Family Update Evenings provide an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate successes and talk about next steps for learning.

Appointments can now be booked via the Arbor App, so please log in and secure your preferred time slot.

We look forward to meeting with you and sharing how your child is progressing this academic year.

### Please check your Arbor information

Please also take a moment to check that the information we hold on Arbor is accurate and up to date, particularly your contact details and information relating to Free School Meals/Pupil Premium eligibility.

If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please complete the Nottinghamshire County Council eligibility check. Registering for benefits-related FSM can also ensure that the school receives the additional funding it is entitled to.

### Nottinghamshire County Council – Free School Meals and Pupil Premium check:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

Thank you for helping us make the most of the funding available to support our children.

### Look at what we have been up to in school:

Follow this link to see what we have been up to across school following a wonderful start to the 2026-2027 academic year!

<https://www.johnblowprimaryschool.co.uk/gallery/?pid=46&gcatid=73&albumid=280>

### Class pages

We are starting to populate class pages with photographs – keep checking in for updates!

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

### Above and Beyond

Each week we celebrate children who go Above and Beyond in their learning or actions around school, this week we were pleased to celebrate with the following children:

Our focus value this week was: *We show respect*

| EYFS                                      | Y1              | Y2                                       | Y3              | Y4                          | Y5                                              | Y6                        |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lillie<br>Evie<br>Otto<br>Beatrix<br>Alex | Elodie<br>April | Bodhi<br>Noa<br>Ollie<br>Alexxia<br>Alex | Beauden<br>Izzy | Delilah<br>Arlo T<br>Archie | Poppy<br>Amilia<br>Barney<br>Henry<br>Francesca | Charlotte<br>Molly<br>Eve |

### **John the Bear!**



This week, Myah has been selected from the box of nominees to look after John for the week!

### **School Lunches**

We are currently liaising with the catering team. If you have any feedback, please send through to the school office.

### **Breakfast Club Vacancy**

We are looking for a Breakfast Club Supervisor to work 5-mornings a week. The club runs from 7.15am until 9.00am. Please contact the school office to request further information.



Defence  
Children  
Services



# Service Pupil Premium 2026

**Help your child's school to qualify for extra funding to support Service children**

- Are you a parent of a Service child in a state school, academy or free school in England?
- Is your child in Reception to Year 11?

If the answer is yes, your child's school may be eligible to receive **£360 of additional funding** with the **Service Pupil Premium (SPP)**. Inform your child's school of your Service status before **1 October 2026**, to help them secure this extra funding.

## **How will the funding support my child?**

The SPP is intended primarily for pastoral support, helping Service children manage the challenges of Service life, and supporting their education and wellbeing. Schools decide how best to use the funding to support their Service children.

## **Schools may receive Service Pupil Premium (SPP) funding for pupils who meet one of the following criteria:**

- A parent is serving in the regular Armed Forces, including those on Full-Time Reserve Service (Full Commitment).
- A parent died whilst serving in the Armed Forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.
- The pupil has been registered as a 'Service child' in the most recent DfE school census, or has been registered in a DfE school census at any point during the previous 6 years.
- A parent is serving in the Armed Forces of another nation and is stationed in England.

## **For general queries:**

Email the **Education Policy Team**: [RC-DCS-HQ-EPT@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-DCS-HQ-EPT@mod.gov.uk)

For more guidance, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/service-pupils-in-schools-nonstatutory-guidance/service-pupils-in-schools-non-statutory-guidance>



Department  
for Education



### ***Key dates and upcoming events***

#### **Autumn Term 1 – 2026-2027 Bulletin Dates**

#### **w/c Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Mentoring – British Values

#### **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

- Mentoring

#### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

- Assembly – Perseverance, keep improving, ER

#### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

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

#### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

- Assembly – National Poetry Day, BB
- National Poetry Day
- CENSUS DAY

#### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

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

#### **w/c Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Mentoring – Protected Characteristics

#### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

- Mentoring

#### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

- Assembly – Teamwork, TS
- LKS2 Trip to Magna

#### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

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

#### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

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

#### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

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

#### **w/c Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

Mentoring – Protected Characteristics

#### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

- Mentoring

#### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

- Assembly – British Values, Respect & SEND, EH

#### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

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