John Blow Primary School

Weekly Bulletin

Friday 16th October 2026



Update to parents

Have a great half term!

As we reach the end of a busy and productive half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support. The positive progress we have seen across the school this term has been made possible through the strong partnership between home and school, and we are grateful for your encouragement, trust and engagement in your children's learning.

I hope that the half-term break provides an opportunity for families to relax, recharge and enjoy some quality time together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term filled with learning, enrichment opportunities and continued success. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community, and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Road safety in the community – a reminder

We have had phones calls from neighbours to say that they are very concerned about the number of children who are playing on the road in the morning before the pedestrian gate has opened. Please could you be vigilant and ensure that your children are on the pavement or wait in the park for the gates to open in the morning and once you have collected at the end of the school day.

Please could we also ask that parents do not drive into the school car park to drop children off in the morning or park on the double yellow lines outside the gates.

Many thanks.

This still remains a concern with parents and carers parking on the yellow lines outside of school – this is causing a risk to our learners and whilst it might be convenient, please refrain for using this as a drop off zone.

Help Us Transform Our School Playgrounds!

We are excited to be planning improvements to both of our school playgrounds to make playtimes more exciting, creative and inclusive for all children!

We hope to introduce areas for den building, construction, imaginative play, outdoor adventures, physical activities and quiet, sensory play. These will encourage children to develop their creativity, independence, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

BBC Concert Orchestra
The 10-Piece BBC Concert Orchestra visited us for a very special performance on Friday 16th October 2026.

It was wonderful to hear classical music pieces being played live for all the pupils!

Please see link below:

https://www.johnblowprimaryschool.co.uk/gallery/?pid=46&gcatid=75&albumid=306

Can you help us?
We are looking for donations of unwanted items or support from local businesses to help bring our playgrounds to life.

Some of the items we are looking for include:

- Building and construction: Sturdy plastic crates, cardboard boxes and suitable building materials.
- Den building: Clean sheets, curtains, blankets, fabric and tarpaulins.
- Imaginative play: Old pots, pans, utensils, dolls, toy pushchairs, dressing-up clothes and role-play accessories.
- Creative play: Chalk, paintbrushes, buckets, sponges and bubble-making equipment.
- Outdoor adventures: Watering cans, plant pots, child-friendly gardening tools and sand-play equipment.
- Active play: Balls, hoops, skipping ropes and other outdoor games.
- Quiet spaces: Outdoor cushions, suitable seating, planters and sensory resources.
- Storage: Weatherproof storage boxes, sheds or secure outdoor storage units.

Larger building materials – please contact us first!

We would also be interested in suitable wooden pallets, ropes, tyres, timber, large plastic pipes and other construction materials for den building and creative play. However, these items must be checked and approved for safety before we can accept them. Please contact the school before bringing in any of these materials.

We would also love support from local businesses!

If you work for, own or know someone who runs a building supplier, garden centre, garage, supermarket or other local business, please ask whether they could help with materials, equipment, fundraising or sponsorship.

All donations will be checked for safety and suitability before being used.

Every donation, big or small, will help us create wonderful play opportunities for our children.

Thank you for your continued support!

Supporting Your Child's Reading as They Grow
As children grow, the way parents can support their child's reading changes, but sharing books and enjoying stories together remains important right up to Year 6!

- ✓ ***Reception and Year 1***: Enjoy reading aloud together, looking at pictures, talking about stories and letting your child choose books they love. Make reading a relaxed, enjoyable part of family life.
- ✓ ***Years 2 and 3***: As children become more independent readers, continue sharing books and reading aloud to them. Talk about favourite characters, explore their interests and celebrate their growing confidence.
- ✓ ***Years 4, 5 and 6***: Encourage children to discover their own reading preferences, including fiction, non-fiction, comics and magazines. Chat about what they are reading, recommend books to each other and continue enjoying stories together, even when they can read confidently on their own.

The most important message? Reading is about more than developing skills. It is also about enjoyment, imagination, conversation and spending time together. Children are never too old to enjoy being read to!
Inspired by research shared by the Open University's Reading for Pleasure team.

A Rootin', Tootin' Nativity! – a reminder

We are excited to share that this year's EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas performance will be 'A Rootin', Tootin' Nativity'! As part of the costume for the production, all children will need a cowboy hat. We wanted to let you know now to give families plenty of time to source one before the performance. If obtaining a cowboy hat may be difficult, please do get in touch with the school office and we will be happy to help. We will share further information about costumes after half term, along with a link to the songs so that children can enjoy practising at home. For now, we wanted to give everyone an early heads-up and plenty of time to prepare for what promises to be a fantastic festive production!

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

Merit Assembly

We held our first Merit Assembly on Thursday 15th October – these children have been spotted by staff for consistently going Above and Beyond with their learning and always embodying our school values.

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Arden Lillie	Elodie Margot	Eliza Zachary	Arthur Josie	Max Hugo Emilia	Zachary Reuben Elliot	Molly Violet

John the Bear!



This week, Daisy & Grace M have been selected from the box of nominees to look after John for October half-term!



Key dates and upcoming events

Autumn Term 2 – 2026-2027 Bulletin Dates

w/c Monday 2nd November

Monday 2nd November
- Mentoring
- 4.00 – 7.00pm, Family Update Evening

Tuesday 3rd November
- Assembly – The Wonderful World of Non-Fiction (BB)
- 9.30am, EYFS Open Day
- 5.00pm, EYFS Open Day
- Wednesday 4th November
- Assembly – Religions Around the World, Diwali (KTB)
- 1.30pm – Y4 Virtual Author Visit
- National Youth Choir Tour visiting JBPS

Thursday 5th November
- Assembly – Share a Story (KB)

Friday 6th November
- Assembly – Above & Beyond, 5* Standards
- School Council, Wear Something Yellow Fundraiser

w/c Monday 9th November

Monday 9th November
- Mentoring
- 3.45– 6.00pm, Family Update Evening

Tuesday 10th September
- Assembly – Inter-Faith Week, Religions Around the World (BC)
- EYFS & Y6 Height & Weight Check

Wednesday 11th September
- Assembly – Remembrance Day (BB)
- 11.00am – Minute Silence

Thursday 12th November
- Assembly – Share a Story (TS)

Friday 13th November
- Assembly – Above & Beyond, Work we are proud of

w/c Monday 16th November

Monday 16th November
- Mentoring
- First Aid Training, UKS2

Tuesday 17th November
- Assembly – Religions Around the World / Celebrations Around the World (BC)

Wednesday 18th November
- Assembly – World Hello Day (CN)
- Choir singing at William Bailey House

Thursday 19th November
- Assembly – Share a Story (KTB)
- Flu Immunisations in school

Friday 20th November
- Assembly – Above & Beyond, Celebrating Learning
- Children in Need

w/c Monday 23rd November

Monday 23rd November
- INSET DAY

Tuesday 24th November
- Assembly – Religions Around the World, Guru Nanak Gurpurab (BC)
- Chess Tournament (BB)

Wednesday 25th November
- Assembly – UK Parliament Week, School Council Assembly (BB)

Thursday 26th November
- Assembly – Share a Story (ER)

Friday 27th November
- Assembly – Above & Beyond, Celebrating the Wider Curriculum
- Wear your House Colour and bring a donation in that colour for the Christmas Fair (non-uniform)

w/c Monday 30th November

Monday 30th November
- Mentoring

Tuesday 1st December
- Assembly – Advent Begins, Christianity, Rev Keeler (BB)

Wednesday 2nd December
- 9.00am, EYFS & KS1 Music Concert (inc. KS2 siblings) Invitation Only
- 3.30 – 6.00pm FOJBP Christmas Fair

Thursday 3rd December
- Assembly – Share a Story (EM)
- KS1 Inspire Nativity Performance, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

Friday 4th December
- Assembly – Above & Beyond

w/c Monday 7th December

Monday 7th December
- Mentoring
- An Inspired Christmas, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham
- No After School Club

Tuesday 8th December
- Assembly – Hanukkah (TS)

Wednesday 9th December
- Assembly – How Christmas is celebrated around the World (EM)

Thursday 10th December
- Assembly – Share a Story (EH)
- 5.00pm EYFS & KS1 Nativity

Friday 11th December
- 9.00am EYFS & KS1 Nativity

w/c Monday 14th December

Monday 14th December

- Mentoring
- Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 15th December

- Assembly – Different Faiths, Shared Values (BC)
- Whole School Pantomime Visit, Palace Theatre Newark PM

Wednesday 16th December

- Assembly – What does it mean to show tolerance & respect? (BB)
- 2.00pm KS2 Music to Parents, by invitation only

Thursday 17th December

- Assembly – Share a Story (CN)

Friday 18th December

- Merit Assembly, by invitation only
- Class Parties
- 3.30pm – End of Autumn Term 2

71 High Street, NG23 7LB

October Half Term at Collingham Library

Crafts...

Thursday October 22nd	Badge Making
Friday October 23rd	Autumn Gnomes
Tuesday October 27th	Bats
Thursday October 29th	Halloween Witch Cards

All crafts are completely free, just drop in between 10am and 12pm!



And more...

- Lego Club
  Monday's, Wednesday's, and Saturday's in the half term during our regular opening hours
- Halloween Treasure Hunt
  Every day during the half term with all entries going into a prize draw!
- Halloween Colouring and Activity Sheets
  In the children's area every day during the half term
- Trick or Treat
  Thursday 29th and Friday 30th October

New activities this year for children and families:

- **Just One Piece**
- **"Have a Go" sessions**
- **Free Treasure Hunt**

More details below!

Locations can be found on the Trail map.



- ## Just One Piece

  Ever wanted to be part of the Collingham Art Trail, but don't yet have much work to display? Then Just One Piece is for you!

  Anyone, of any age, from, or connected to, Collingham can show ONE piece of their artwork and have it for sale during the Art Trail weekend. The work can be any medium, any size, any price. It's free to enter, just £5 to pay to the art trail funds if the piece is sold.

  The Art should be ready to display and brought to 56 Dykes End on Friday 13th November between 10-12am or on previous days by arrangement.

  Please contact Kate 07936448167 to assure your place in the Exhibition.

- ## "Have a Go" sessions

  There are two "Have a Go" sessions:

  - **Make and Take** printmaking activity, Saturday and Sunday 10am-3pm in Venue 1. No booking needed. £3.50 per print. All equipment provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
  - **Kids Draw Cartoons**: Led by a former Marvel and DC Comic book artist who is teaching and runs Foundry Art Studio. For children aged 8-12. All equipment provided. Saturday and Sunday in Venue 8 10am-12noon and 1:30pm-3:30pm.

- ## Treasure Hunt

  Have fun hunting around the Artists' Studios and Venues for 2 eyes, a nose and a mouth! Bring these to the table at venue 1, assemble as a cubist face and claim your reward!

