

Dear Parents and carers,

Happy New Year to you all. It is great to have the children back in school and eager to learn, they are well rested but ready – thank you!

We are really pleased to welcome two new pupils and their families to school, Daniel and Marcel have joined us in Willow and Maple, we hope that they will settle quickly and soon feel part of the St Blaise Family. We are also delighted to welcome four new members of staff. Mrs Tebbit-Scales has joined Poplar class as a full time permanent teacher, Mrs Wortley is teaching in Willow on a Tuesday afternoon, Katherine will be working as TA in several classes and Katy McManus is our new administrator.

Please can you ensure that children are in school uniform – this includes shoes. In exceptional circumstances we understand that things have to be purchased and are always flexible with this, please come and speak to us. Children also need to have a full PE kit; lots of lessons are outdoors so children need warm clothing and suitable footwear. We have a number of children with earrings, these must be removed for PE or covered (please send micropore tape if they are to be covered). Children swimming must remove earrings – please teach them how to do this as we are unable to help.

There will be a BOBS meeting on Friday 18th January after school in the core, everyone is welcome as we need lots of ideas as we plan the rest of the years fundraising events.

Maths meeting

On Tuesday 21st January Mr Lyne our maths lead will be running a maths evening for parents 6-7pm. There will be wine and cheese and a crèche available.

Everyone is welcome but please could you let the office know if you are coming and if you need child care.

Have a great weekend

Ruth Leach and the staff at St Blaise

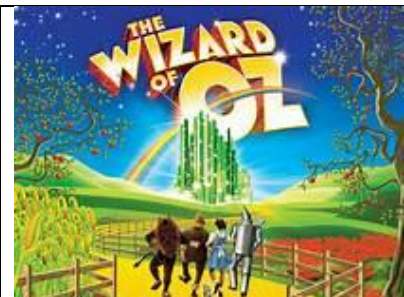
Building News

The planning process for the new Red Dragon, RECP and KS1 block is underway. The County Council are seeking planning permission and also to increase pupil numbers.

https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/st_blaise_expansion/consultationHome

I will do a regular update via the newsletter so that you are aware of the next steps. The plans can be found on the school website.

<https://www.st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk/our-school/school-future/>



This year our school performance will be the wizard of Oz. We would like to have a dog in the play to play the part of Toto. The dog we would like to use is a very family friendly placid dog called Reggie. Reggie will need to come to school weekly so that the children can rehearse with him, he will stay in my office and in the hall. If anyone has any concerns or questions please come and speak to me.

Term Dates - 2A

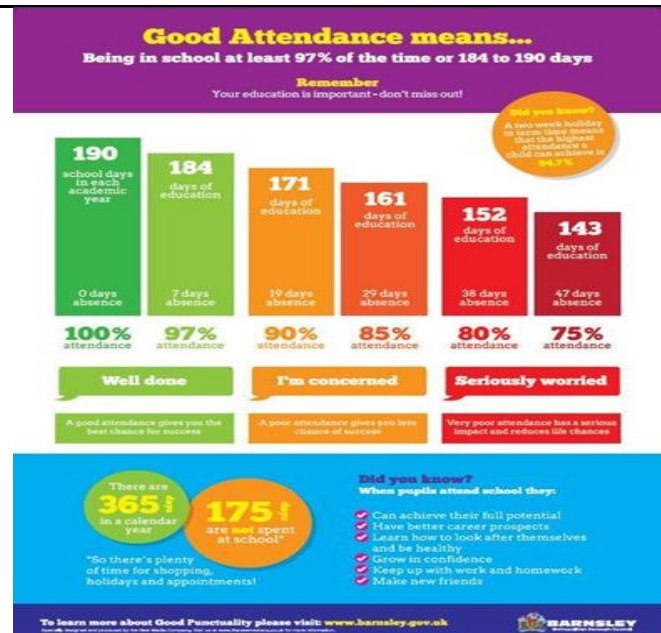
7 th January	Term begins
8 th January	Swimming begins for Y3,4,5,6 – 10 weeks. Children need swimming costume/trunks, towel and swimming hat
11 th January	Afternoon – outdoor learning (please make sure that they have coats)
14 th January	PM – Mr Lyne parent meetings
14 th January	Clubs start
16 th January	Breakfast for parents and carers - £1 a bap – 50p hot drink
18 th January	Certificate worship
18 th January	BOBS meeting after school in core. Everyone is welcome
21 st January	Maths evening for parents
1 st February	Certificate worship
3 rd February	This is St Blaise Day – please go along to St Blaise church if you have time
5 th February	Safer internet day
12 th February	Tea and coffee morning for parents

The flu immunisations in schools and local catch up clinics have now come to end for 2018 but we are holding a further 2 clinics in Abingdon/Wantage in the New Year for those children who did not have their Flu immunisation in school.

Abingdon Community Hospital, Out Patients Department (OX14 1AG) – Thursday 17th January 2019 (9.00am - 12.00pm)

Wantage Community Hospital (OX12 7AQ) – Thursday 10th January 2019 (3.30pm - 4.30pm)

The numbers of pupils taking holidays in term time has decreased dramatically over the last 5 years and we appreciate your support with this. This year we are aiming for 97% attendance as a school target which is ambitious but is vital for a child to maximise their learning opportunities. The school term dates are on the school website – we publish this year and next year's dates. We appreciate that some children are unwell and we certainly recommend them staying at home until they are better but consider when they are fit to return and think about minimising their time off.



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