

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we are saying adieu to Mrs Tebbit-scales who is temporarily leaving to have her baby, we wish her the very best of luck and can't wait to meet the bump. Sadly we are also Saying farewell to Ismae and Aubree, have lots of fun in your new school.

Last week we celebrated Harvest thank you very much for your kind donations. Please see the letter below from the food bank.

Dear Mrs Leach,

St Blaise CE Primary School Harvest Festival - Didcot Emergency Foodbank

Yesterday we received a magnificent collection of food items from the school Harvest Festival for which we thank you on behalf of the clients of the Foodbank. It arrived during a particularly busy Foodbank session in which food for 31 adults and children was issued, so please be assured that all the donations are, and will be, of great value. To give you an idea of the needs that are met, in September we issued food for 159 people, 167 in August, 156 in July, and 1873 for the whole of 2018.

The Foodbank was set up 10 years ago by the then Didcot Baptist Church minister, Rev Keith Nicholls and his wife Anna, plus a church Elder and a lady from the now-closed Families Centre in Newlands Avenue who were beginning to encountering family situations where the authorities were unable to help during short term crises, pending a longer term solution. They set up a referral network which now includes just over 50 agencies in this area, including the health centre and nurses; primary schools; clergy; various social services and families units; housing agencies; debt, mental health and addiction charities, and the biggest single referrer, Citizens Advice. The SOFC assist by providing premises situated at 116 Lower Broadway, next to "TRAIN".

Four years ago the need increased quite rapidly with benefit issues being cited by many, peaking at food issued for 2003 adults and children in 2017 (however, that does include repeat visits).

In the early years most of the food items were donated by church, scout, guide, and WI groups in Didcot and the villages, but now includes the general public via collecting boxes in Sainsbury's, primary school collections at harvest time, local business employee groups, and significant amounts from South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance (SOFEA) and Tesco's.

Please do pass on our thanks to the children and parents.

Kind regards, Andrew Snell, Foodbank Manager

We have put some pictures on the website.

Thank you to the families who helped at the school tidy up – we now have all of our fences painted. We will hold another session in the Springtime.

This week Willow class have been to Court Hill – there will be lots of photos to follow over the next few days.



Have a great weekend

Ruth Leach and the St Blaise team

School building works

We were expecting our building to start at the end of September – the project been delayed until the 18th or 25th November due to issues with access for contractors and additional money needing to be found in line with rising costs. The main changes you will see before Christmas will be the fencing of the backfield which is now school property and works to the Rainbow garden area. Phase one of the project is to install the new carpark, access road to the back field and hard standing play area at the rear of the school. The improvements to the school will be of benefit to all and we will do all we can to ensure that the school continues to run smoothly. Please do come and speak to us if you have any concerns, questions or worries.

Thanks – Ruth and team

Governor vacancy.

Please see website for a new Parent Governor vacancy. Details can be found on the St Blaise website under – *Our School – Governors.*



Please respect our neighbours and think about your parking if you drive to school. A number of residents have complained and have contacted the county council about blocked driveways and cars parking on the grass opposite the school. Could you park a street away and walk the last metres? We must make sure that a fire engine can fit through the gap – this is for access.

Term 1 2019-20 - ALL DATES ARE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE – things are always subject to change so please keep an eye on it

Week 6 Oct	Tue 8 th Fri 11 th	Red Dragon and St Blaise open day for new pupils. Certificates.
Week 7 Oct	Wed 16 th	Poplar trip to Donnington castle.
Week 8 Oct	Fri 25 th Oct	Outdoor learning day – certificate worship at the end – 2pm Flu Immunisation whole school.
Half term holiday – 28 th - 1 st November		
Week 2 Nov	Fri 8 th Nov	Non-school uniform.
Week 3	11 th – 15 th Nov	Anti-bullying week – the children will work in classes to think about how we can make sure that we stamp out bullying in school. We will also think about cyber-bullying in KS2. Friday 9 am worship to feedback this work.
Week 4	20 th Nov – 2.30-6.30pm	Parent/guardian meetings – a sign up sheet will be available soon – all classes will have individual meetings with parents.
Week 5	26 th Nov	Choir at the Big Christmas Sing.

Contact
Information

Email:
Office.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk

Phone
01235 831368

Website
<http://www.st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk>