## Blackawton Primary School NEWSLETTER

Creative - Confident - Caring



#### Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers.

We hope you are well.

Wow – we really are whizzing through this first half-term! Before we know it, we'll have completed one sixth of the academic year already. This part of the year can often feel like a turning point: the weather is getting colder, the nights are drawing in earlier, and the initial excitement of September begins to

| Attendance to date   |     |  |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| Class 1              | 97% |  |
| Class 2              | 96% |  |
| Class 3              | 96% |  |
| Class 4              | 95% |  |
| Class 5              | 92% |  |
| National expectation | 96% |  |

give way to the steady rhythm of school routines. These routines, however, are what give children a sense of stability and enable them to feel confident, happy, and ready to learn each day. Thank you for your support with this.

There are many exciting things coming up over the next few weeks. A key date to note is our **first**Parents and Carers Forum on Tuesday 14th October at 2:30pm in the school hall. As previously shared, this session will focus on our 11 by 11 offer, which is all about the experiences and opportunities we want every child to have access to during their primary years with us. There will also be time at the end for wider discussion, questions, and feedback – both positive and constructive. We really value your voice and hope many of you will be able to join us.

Thank you, as always, for the way you support your children in engaging so positively with school life. It has been a real joy to see them embracing their learning and routines so well. The energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm they are bringing into school is wonderful to witness. Of course, at this time of year, illness is sometimes unavoidable, but we would encourage children to be in school whenever they are well enough – even small breaks in learning can make a difference to their confidence and progress.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support of both the children and the school. It really does make such a difference. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes,

Liam Fielding and Charlotte Buckle
Headteacher Deputy Head



We educate children so they can lead great lives





| Monday 6th October 2025              | Tempest whole school photos                             |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 14th October 2025            | Parent and Carer Forum 2:15 - 3:15pm                    |
| Wednesday 15th October 2025          | Junior Life Skills and swimming gala, Yr6               |
| Friday 24th October 2025             | Open Classroom @ 2:30pm                                 |
| Friday 24th October 2025             | Last day of term  |
| Monday 3rd November 2025             | First day back to school                                |
| Thursday 6th November 2025           | RNLI water safety visit                                 |
| Friday 7th November 2025             | School immunisations, Reception to Yr6                  |
| Monday 10th November 2025            | NSPCC workshops; Yr2, Yr5 and Yr6                       |
| Tuesday 18th/19th/20th November 2025 | Parents Evening   |
| Wednesday 19th November 2025         | SEND Parent Forum, 2-2:30pm                             |
| Friday 21st November 2025            | Children In Need  |
| Wednesday 10th December 2025         | Christmas Dinner (whole school)                         |
| Wednesday 10th December 2025         | Parent and Carer Forum 5:30 - 6:30pm                    |
| Monday 15th December 2025            | School Panto trip                                       |
| Tuesday 16th December 2025           | Reception and Nursery Nativity in the Church            |
| Wednesday 17th December 2025         | Class 2, 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Performance in the Church |
| Thursday 18th December 2025          | Open Classroom @ 2:30pm unicef                          |
| Friday 19th December 2025            | Last day of term  |

### CLASS 'SNAPPY' NEWS

"Electrifying events"

#### **Nursery**

This week in nursery, we've been learning all about our amazing bodies – and what a fun and busy time it's been! Observing out little hands to find out fingerprints through colourful handprint art – a fun (and slightly messy!) way to learn about how unique we all are. We checked our teeth in the mirror and talked about brushing them every day to keep them shiny and strong! They all had great fun with the huge toothbrush and teeth during messy play. The children loved our height prediction chart – we guessed who might be the biggest and smallest in Nursery. Using our noses, we explored different smells – from fresh oranges to cinnamon. Lots of giggles (and a few funny faces)! We had fun playing doctors and patients – listening to heartbeats, using toy thermometers, and learning that doctors help us stay healthy. We've had a fantastic week celebrating all the things our bodies can do.

#### Class 2

A great week of learning in Class 2 has been had. We have all completed our big writes based on Daisy Doodles. We enjoyed comparing our first ever writing to the stories we have written and sharing what we are proud of. In maths we have used the symbols <> and = to compare amounts and numbers. In PE we have practised running and dribbling in football and developed our accurate passing in netball and went on a sensory walk in Science as we explore our 5 senses.





#### Class 1

Our theme this week is My Body. We have enjoyed the story Funny bones and had fun looking at skeletons and feeling the hard bones in our own bodies. This has meant learning some new tricky language, like skull, ribs, pelvis, spine. The children all had a go at drawing the funny bones characters - they did really well!





#### Class 3

In PE, we've been out in the sunshine practising our hockey skills and putting our defence strategies into action. In Geography, we have been exploring *informal settlements* around the world and discussing why people often choose to live in these areas closer to the city. In Maths, we've been learning how to compare numbers, while in English, we've been developing our descriptive writing by imagining the personalities of different types of dragons. In Science, we've been investigating electricity and successfully creating complete circuits. It's been a fun and productive week of learning!

#### Class 4

In science, the children have been exploring electrical circuits — building their own and learning to use the correct symbols to represent each component in diagrams. They have loved the hands-on investigations and are becoming confident at explaining how electricity flows. Our the class have been developing their basketball and football skills—their confidence and coordination are really starting to show on the playground and in lessons. In maths, we have been mastering factors and multiples. They've been spotting patterns, using efficient strategies and challenging themselves with problem-solving tasks. Whilst in English, the focus has been on creating tension and atmosphere in stories. The children have been learning how to use adverbs and adverbials to draw the reader in and make their writing more dramatic and engaging.

#### Class 5

Class 5 have had a week of assessments! They have persevered and demonstrated positive mindsets, even when finding it tricky - trying their best is all we ask! We will be inviting pupils to have some extra tutoring time after school next term - look out for the email. In science, we are seeing our bread experiment evolve daily. There are various colourful patches of mould to examine and the slice that was 'coughed' on, tells us lots of things about germs and microorganisms already. We have also seen the results of our tie-dying experiment and have loved drawing portraits in ink - without taking the pen off the paper - very entertaining!





#### What a Glorious Week in Forest School!

We've been soaking up the sunshine this week in Forest School, and what a perfect time it's been to explore the theme of *Harvest*—so fitting for this time of year.

**Nursery and Class 1** put their fine motor skills to the test, practising careful cutting as they sliced apples for a seasonal treat. The delightful mix of apples and cinnamon filled the air—an ultimate autumn favourite—and the children absolutely loved it.

Classes 2 and 3 harvested apples straight from our own trees and turned them into a tasty campfire treat. It was a wonderful way to connect with the food we eat and the season we're in.

Classes 4 and 5 gathered around the fire, where we shared folk tales and legends. One story that captured everyone's imagination was about a poor mother and daughter who were helped by the North Wind in a time of need. The children also made their own BBQ sticks and used them to caramelise apples with cinnamon over the fire—a delicious hands-on experience!

Many children also got creative with clay, making beautiful leaf imprints—a perfect memento of the changing season.

All in all, it was a magical week of sunshine, storytelling, and skill-building in nature. Here's to more golden days ahead!



















#### A Big Thank You to Gardening Club!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our Gardening Club for starting to clear the weeds in the bottom playground, clearing the beds in the garden and for caring so beautifully for our school environment. If anyone would like to donate a small plant for the beds, please drop it into the school office—we would be very grateful.

Thank you also to those who have already donated spring bulbs. We can't wait to see the playground burst into colour when they bloom in the spring!



#### **ECO News**



#### **Launching Biodiversity in Our School Grounds**

We are very excited to share that our school has officially launched a Biodiversity Project within our grounds! This special initiative is part of a national project run by NEP Parks, which encourages schools and communities to increase and protect local wildlife habitats.

As part of the project, we will be creating spaces around the school that support a wide variety of plants, insects, and animals. This might include planting wildflowers, building bug hotels, and caring for existing green spaces so that nature can thrive.

We will begin by establishing a *baseline* of where we are now, so that we can carefully track and reassess the impact of our efforts as the project develops.

By joining this national effort, our school is helping to make a real difference—not just for our local environment, but as part of a bigger picture across the country. We are looking forward to seeing how the project grows and how it can inspire our pupils to be proud caretakers of the natural world.



#### Newsletter

Issue 26, October 2025



#### In this issue:

Welcome to our new schools

Corporate membership

Awards update

Introducing our Fundraising Manager

Upcoming give and take events

Follow us



littlegreenchange.com

#### Welcome to our new schools

We're proud to have a 100% recommendation rate from the schools we've worked with to date, with many utilising our free, state-funded school services on a repeat basis each year.

Since September, we've also had a number of new schools in Devon, Dorset and Somerset sign up to our Biodiversity in Schools Project. We'd like to give a big Little Green Change welcome to some of them including Avishayes Primary School, Blackawton Primary School, Branscombe Primary School, Feniton Primary School, Hemyock Primary School, Lady Seaward's Primary School, Milverton Community Primary School, Offwell Primary School, Ottery St Mary Primary School, and Westfield Arts College.

We're delighted to be working with over 100 schools to educate children about protecting our environment. Thanks to our funders for making this possible.

#### Corporate membership

Becoming a Little Green Change corporate member is a great way of contributing to a heathier environment, investing in education and the green skills needed for the future, and supporting community action. Find out more on our website: littlegreenchange.com/corporate-membership

#### **Music**

This is Class 4 playing ukulele and Glockenspiel along to Taylor Swift in their music lesson this week—they sounded amazing.



Class 1 worked on their harvest song, as well as listening and moving to Carnival of the animals.

Class 3 have consolidated their learning on recorders and ocarinas, whilst class 2 worked hard on some of their harvest songs.

Class 5 continued their learning Glockenspiels and reading the notes this week.



#### **House Team Charities**

This year, our House Team Leaders have been busy researching charities to support throughout the year. They will be planning and organising events to raise money and awareness for their chosen charities.

We were so impressed with the way our leaders presented their ideas to their family groups. Their public speaking was outstanding—they spoke with confidence, clarity, and passion. They truly set an excellent example as role models for the rest of the school, showing great organisation, teamwork, and commitment.

From preparing their own presentations to working to deadlines and clearly sharing their mission, our House Team Leaders have already demonstrated the skills and leadership that will make this year's charity work a real success.

Well done House Teams!

Our chosen Charities for the year are:

Blue: Lottery Dogs, Hutcherleigh, Blackawton

**Green: Cancer Research UK** 

**Red:** RSPCA

Yellow: Animals In Distress - Toray & Westcountry

















Agatha's write up of her experience of performing at the Royal Albert Hall



The Albert Hall was massive. When I got there, I was nervous and excited at the same time!

We practiced loads and then it was time for the real thing!

Lots of audience came in and the show was amazing! For the first half we were dancing then we were in the choir singing.





#### **SEND Signpost**



Please also see the attached information about upcoming learning and support groups. Our next parent forum will be on Wednesday 19th November. These sessions are designed to offer practical strategies, advice, and a chance to connect with other parents. We hope you find them helpful and look forward to seeing you there!

Vicky Llewellyn SENDCO

Sensing to Learn; Learning to Make Sense

# SENSORY PROCESSING DIFFERENCES EXPLORED

For parents, carers & staff supporting neurodivergent children - Autism, ADHD, AuDHD

A series of Friday meetings about the issues relating to SPD in children's behaviour with Lynne Tarrab-Snooks

- Facilitated confidential support time
- How to address issues relating to food, sleep, puberty and bullying
- Managing transitions, PDA and demand avoidance more generally
- Fourth Friday each month Oct 24th, Nov 28th, Dec 19th
- 🕒 9:30am 12:00pm
- \* Kingsbridge Community Hub Belle Cross Road TQ7 1NL





## Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard SEND Signpost

🏲 Sensing to Learn; Learning to Make Sense

# SEND/NDV PARENTS & PALLIES SUPPORT GROUP

## WE SHARE, WE LISTEN, WE SUPPORT, WE LEARN

This is a facilitated confidential group in which to share concerns, successes, make requests, share resources and find out more about Sensory Processing Differences and how they affect our children, and ourselves.

- Everybody welcome, no diagnosis needed
- Refreshments & Resources provided
- 'O' Second Tuesday of each month

Tues Oct 14th Tues Nov 17th Tues Dec 9th

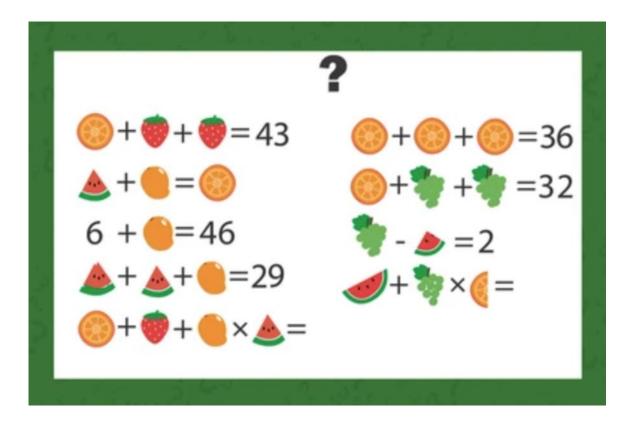


! Kingsbridge Community Hub, Belle Cross Road TQ7 1NL



#### Maths Problem of the Week - Family fun!

Have a go at this mathematical thinking to get your maths conversations happening at home.

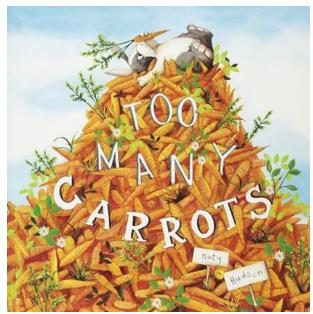


#### Miss Burt's Recommended Read:

This week's recommended is a great book to celebrate international carrot day, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

We meet a rabbit who loves carrots so much that his burrow becomes too crowded, leading to a series of unfortunate events as he tries to find space for his collection. He learns the importance of sharing and how true friendship provides more than just a place to sleep.

A wonderful story to share.





## Wear it loud. Wear it proud.

Wear yellow this World Mental Health Day, 10th October, and donate to Young Minds to support young people's mental health.

#HelioYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

#### **Polite Notice**



We've had a report that someone has not cleaned up after their dog by the gate at the top of School Lane, leading to French Furze car park.

If you are bringing your dog on the school run, please bring bags so that you can clean it up and dispose of it responsibly.





**TUESDAY MORNINGS** 

FROM 10:00 to 11:00am



#### **NURSERY HUT**



at Blackawton Primary School

Playing / Arts & Crafts / Making Friends

A session of fun and educational activities for you and your child(ren).

Led by Jo Mitchell, our Nursery Leader

Refreshments provided for children and adults

£2 per family



#### Available in school!



## Piano lessons with Jess Heywood, available in school

(with option to work towards accredited piano exams)

#### Contact: jess\_h\_heywood@yahoo.co.uk

Jess is the Director of the Youth Festival,
Dartmouth Music Festival
and is available for new bookings

Please book your child's place by contacting Jess directly or get in touch with the school office.

**BADS** proudly present a



In Blackawton Village Hall
On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025
At 6pm
For All the Family
Tickets Adults £2 / <18 free
(from the Community Shop or on the Door)

If you have a song or other piece of music, or a magic trick or a sketch to put on with a friend or two, please give your name – and encourage others to do the same – to kate.janman@gmail.com or another BADS committee member.

Or just come along and enjoy the show.



### Scouts Prize Bingo!

Saturday 11th October 2025

**Townstal Community Hall** 

Doors open:

6.30pm

Eyes down:

7:30pm

Caller: Linsey Little

Raffle Refreshments

With Cash flyer (must be over 18 to play)



## SWIM HAPPY, SWIM WITH CONFIDENCE

Learn to swim with Fusion Lifestyle

- Preschool, junior & adult lessons available
- Kids swim for FREE\* in general swim sessions
- ✓ Track your child's progress online



Scan the QR code to find out more

Swim School







fusion-lifestyle.com/swimschool

#### Shoebox Appeal 2025



A reminder that this year's Shoebox Appeal is coming up just before half-term, this year channelled through cr2ee, (Christian Response to Eastern Europe), operating from Exmouth.

These shoeboxes will be heading to **Moldova** and **Ukraine**. Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe, and Ukraine is still in the grips of war. We know every single box will be gratefully received this Christmas!

Please bring any completed shoeboxes, (or contributions to put into boxes), to school by Monday 20th October (later than this will be too late!) So ideally, this date!!

Suggestions for contributions to children's shoeboxes:

| Hat                  | Scarf              | Gloves            | Socks / tights |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Hairbrush            | Soap               | Toothpaste        | Toothbrush     |
| Shower gel           | Shampoo            | Deodorant         | T-shirt        |
| Calculator           | Colouring book     | Paint Box         | Pencils        |
| Felt-tip pens        | Wax crayons        | Colouring pencils | Exercise books |
| Cuddly Toy           | Tennis ball        | Jigsaw Puzzles    | Torch          |
| Biscuits             | Chocolates         | Sweets            | Pyjamas        |
| For girls            | Tights             | Dolls             | Beads          |
| Friendship Bracelets | Craft Items        | Glow Sticks       |                |
| Hair Clips & Slides  | Lip Gloss          | Purse             | Jewellery      |
| For boys             | Lego Bricks        | Toy Cars          | Wallet         |
| Glow Sticks          | Airfix Type Models | Magnifying Glass  |                |
| Glow Sticks          | Airfix Type Models | Magnifying Glass  |                |

<u>Please label each completed box with the approximate age and indicate BOY or GIRL.</u> You are welcome to include photos of your family and a covering letter, but **no address** please. There is **NO COST** for transport or need for a paid barcode!

cr2ee has been sending shoeboxes to Moldova for over 20 years, and those organising the boxes know the poorest families well. Since the outbreak of war, they have also been delivering boxes to children in Ukraine, where normal life for children has been totally destroyed, and so these boxes will make Christmas very special for them.

Bless you and Thank you!



## The Children's Bookshow

showcases the **best children's books** with authors and illustrators live on stage. **Come and see** 

#### Author, Alom Shaha, & illustrator Sarthak Sinha



Join us for a fun morning exploring Art,
Science and Literature through the book,
How to Find A Rainbow! Author and teacher
Alom Shaha will bring the science of light
to life on stage with some stunning
demonstrations, and he'll read stories too.
Indian illustrator, Sarthak Sinha, will draw for
us live, talk about his process and materials,
and reveal the important role of light when
creating picture books. Don't miss it!

**Venue:** Northcott Theatre, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4QB

Date: Tuesday 11 November

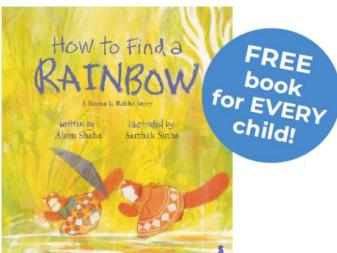
Time: 10.30am

**Duration:** approx. 1 hour

Age: Years 1, 2 and 3

Tickets: £7 (includes free

book for every child)



Four **FREE** in-school workshops with Alom and Sarthak (worth £500) available for schools attending the performance \*



Get in touch with Katy Webster to book tickets for this event: katyw@thechildrensbookshow.com 07904 068084

Find out more and how to book at www.thechildrensbookshow.com/performances



<sup>\*</sup> terms and conditions apply



Disclaimer: We may need to inform someone if we are concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored securely and can only be accessed by other authorised health care professionals who follow the same strict confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to your message within one working day and you should get an immediate message back from us to confirm we have received your text. If you need help before you hear back from us, please contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. In an emergency please dial 999. Unfortunately, our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some number masking mobile apps). To opt-out of receiving messages from a healthcare professional, please text 'STOP' to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.



The Warmth & Wellbeing Service

#### **HOME ENERGY ADVICE**

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is a charity working locally to improve your warmth & wellbeing. In a preventative approach, our free helpline provides you with a single point of contact for services, advice and financial support in order to help improve the energy efficiency of your property.

#### BETTER HOUSING BETTER HEALTH CAN HELP WITH:

ENERGY BILL SUPPORT



HOME ENERGY VISITS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER





CALL US FOR FREE

0800 107 0044

OR VISIT: WWW.BHBH.ORG.UK

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#### SUPPORTING CHILDREN

(1.5 hour session)

Wednesday 8th October 2025

at 6:30pm - 8:00pm

#### Book here:

https://forms.office.com/e/SNCW7Szqqi







rduh.ohesds@nhs.net



01392 405 705



FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER

**VENUE: KEVICC, TOTNES TQ9 5JX** 

£20 | Age 5-14 Years | 10am-3pm



TO BOOK VISIT WWW.shearsoccer.co.uk

(AXO

Contact Adam on 07967 124844 or info@shearsoccer.co.uk

COACHING SESSIONS • SMALL SIDED TOURNAMENTS • FUN COMPETITIONS TROPHIES & PRIZES • CERTIFICATES • PLAYER OF THE COURSE AWARD IMPROVE PERFORMANCE • BUILD SELF-CONFIDENCE • MAKE NEW FRIENDS FOR BOYS & GIRLS OF ALL ABILITIES • ALL STAFF UEFA/FA & CRB OUALIFIED



## Junior Hockey Years 4 to 9

Tuesday's 5.00pm - 5.50pm

KCC AWP

Girls & Boys

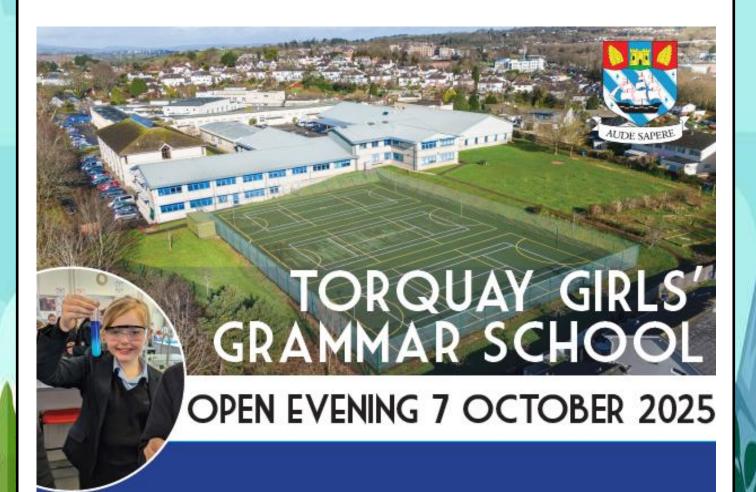
#### Starting Tuesday 16th September



You will need to wear trainers, shin pads and a mouth guard. Hockey sticks can be provided. Please bring a drink.

Cost is £25.00 subscription for the year and £30.00 for 12 sessions, from September to December.

If you would like more information, please email Sarah Budgen at slb1.home@outlook.com



THE EVENING WILL COMMENCE WITH A WELCOME SPEECH AT 6.30PM
FROM MS FORSTER, HEADTEACHER
SITE OPEN FOR FAMILIES TO LOOK AROUND
THE EVENING CLOSES AT 8.30PM

\* BOOKING REQUIRED \*
AT THE QR CODE BELOW OR VISIT:
WWW.TGGSACADEMY.ORG/OPENEVENING









Should I keep my

## child off school?



#### Until...

| Chickenpox  | at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting                            | 48 hours after their last episode   |  |
| Cold and Flu-like illness<br>(including COVID-19) | they no longer have a high temperature and<br>feel well enough to attend. Follow the national<br>guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19 |  |
| Impetigo  | their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics   |  |
| Measles   | 4 days after the rash first appeared  |  |
| Mumps   | 5 days after the swelling started   |  |
| Scabies   | they've had their first treatment   |  |
| Scarlet Fever                                     | 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics  |  |
| Whooping Cough                                    | 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics  |  |



but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Head lice            | Tonsillitis     |  |
| Threadworms          | Slapped cheek   |  |





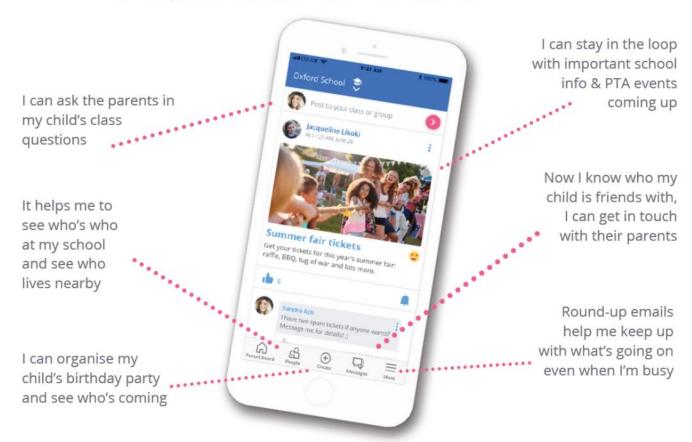
Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit https://grco.de/minfec.

#### Join our school on Classlist

Classlist is the parent app that brings you into the heart of our school community.

- Get in touch with parents in our school
- Ask questions to the parents in your child's class
- See what's coming up for you and your child
- Find like-minded friends in our community
- Organise meet-ups and birthday parties
- Buy event tickets & RSVP to invitations



#### Is Classlist moderated?

Yes! This keeps our community friendly, welcoming and useful.

#### How much information do I need to share?

You're in control! You decide how much information to share and what notifications you want.

#### Is Classlist safe?

Yes! It's fully GDPRcompliant, private and secure.

#### Sign up today! It's easy and completely free



Download the Classlist app on iOs or Android



Select our school and sign up



Classlist Smarter together.

www.classlist.com