

Blackawton Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Creative - Confident - Caring



Friday 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Many of our children use social media to connect with friends, share interests, and explore their identities. While this can be positive, we are increasingly seeing the negative impact of online interactions — particularly those that happen outside of school but spill over into friendships and behaviour during the school day.

It is important to recognise that schools and families both have a role to play. Social media use primarily takes place at home – we have tight restrictions in place at school to stop access – and we rely on parents and carers to help guide their children in using it safely and responsibly. However, when these issues affect relationships or wellbeing in school, we will always support children in repairing and learning from those situations. Working together is the only way we can help children develop healthy digital habits, in a world which at times is extremely difficult for children to navigate.

We ask families to regularly check what social media platforms their children are using and whether these are **age-appropriate**. The minimum age guideline for **Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook, and YouTube** is **13 years old**, and for **WhatsApp** it is also **13** (previously 16). These limits exist to protect children's safety, wellbeing, and emotional development online.

At school, we continue to teach children how to use the internet safely, to think critically about what they see online, and to treat others with respect in all forms of communication. We also help them understand that what they post or say online has real-life consequences.

We would encourage you to keep talking openly with your child about their social media use — what they enjoy, what worries them, and what to do if something goes wrong. The more we talk, the safer and more confident our children will be online.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping our children grow into responsible, kind, and respectful digital citizens.

Best wishes

Liam Fielding and Charlotte Buckle
Headteacher Deputy Head

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



We educate children so they can lead great lives





Monday 17 November 2025	Washwalk Farm, Yr6
Tuesday 18 November 2025	London, Yr5 and Yr6
Wednesday 19 November 2025	SEND Parent Forum, 2 to 2:30pm
Tuesday 25 November 2025	'Secondary school life' talk to Yr6
25, 26, 27 November 2025	Parents evening
Monday 8 December 2025	Wreath making evening (book your place via fobs.org.uk)
Tuesday 9 December 2025	EYFS Christmas trip (please pay via fobs.org.uk)
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Whole school Christmas lunch
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Parent / Carer forum, 5:30pm
Thursday 11 December 2025	EYFS Christmas fun run
Friday 12 December 2025	Cake sale (Yellow House)
Tuesday 16 December 2025	Nursery and Reception nativity in the church, 2:15 to 3pm
Wednesday 17 December 2025	Panto trip (Yr1 to Yr6) (please pay via fobs.org.uk)
Thursday 18 December 2025	EYFS Christmas party
Thursday 18 December 2025	Open classroom, 2:30 to 3pm
Thursday 18 December 2025	Class 2, 3, 4 and 5 Candlelit Service in the church, 6pm (meet in school hall from 5:30pm)
Friday 19 December 2025	Last day of term
Monday 5 January 2026	Back to school

Please note the date change of the Candlelit Service - Now Thursday 18th December 2025

Please note: new dates could be added after this version of the calendar is published and all dates are subject to cancellation / change.

CLASS 'SNAPPY' NEWS

“Remembering and thinking of others”

Nursery

This week, Nursery had lots of fun exploring the story of the Little red hen. The children enjoyed listening to the tale and joining in with the repeated phrases “Not I”. We acted out the story using our own animal's masks working together to retell the story, such great performers.

Using clay, we moulded our very own Little red hen, adding wings and a beak. They were very proud of their creations. We've been talking about the importance of helping others and working together, just like The little red hen wanted her friends to do.



Class 1

Class 1 are doing fabulously in their daily maths sessions. This week our maths focus has been careful counting of 5 items. There are all sorts of skills to master here; organising the items, saying the number names in the correct order, 1 to 1 correspondence of number name to item and understanding that the last number spoken is the total of the set. The class has a funny puppet called Miss Count who needs lots of help from Class 1 to remember to do all these things.



Class 2

This week Class 2 have loved travelling to Letter Village. When we go to Letter Village, we learn how to be accurate handwriters.

In Maths we have counted from 1 to 100! We have been using number lines to explore place value and dienes to create numbers in base ten.

In science we explored the season of autumn and compared it to summer. We took a photograph with a tree and are excitedly waiting to see how it changes through the season.

Class 3

It's been another busy and exciting week of learning in class 3! We have been exploring non-fiction texts and developing our reading comprehension skills. The children have been learning how to scan and skim for key information, which helps them retrieve facts quickly and effectively.

In maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction, practising different strategies to solve problems accurately and with confidence. I'm especially pleased to see how well everyone has been engaging with Sparx Maths this week. The effort and progress made by the whole class have been fantastic — it's clear that all that hard work is paying off!

Class 4

It's been another busy and exciting week of learning in class 3! We have been exploring non-fiction texts and developing our reading comprehension skills. The children have been learning how to scan and skim for key information, which helps them retrieve facts quickly and effectively.

In maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction, practising different strategies to solve problems accurately and with confidence. I'm especially pleased to see how well everyone has been engaging with Sparx Maths this week. The effort and progress made by the whole class have been fantastic — it's clear that all that hard work is paying off!

Class 5

Class 5 have enjoyed looking at a variety of poems in their English this week.

We started with 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae. We made some beautiful poppies for Remembrance and wrote our poems about the war. They were very emotive and full of rich language and a deep understanding of what life must have felt like during WWII or any war.

We have moved onto fractions in maths - looking at equivalence and simplifying.



In Other News

Forest School News

From Puddles to the Past – A Forest School Journey!

It's been another fabulously inspiring week in Forest School! They say children don't mind a bit of rain or mud — and our little explorers proved that once again. Whatever the weather throws at them, the fun (and learning!) never stops!

This week, the younger children had a brilliant time splashing in puddles and collecting 'cooking water' for their ever-busy mud kitchen. Outdoor play naturally encourages sharing, teamwork, and imagination — and it's wonderful to see those social skills growing right alongside the giggles!

Meanwhile, our older adventurers took their learning back in time to the Anglo-Saxon era! Forest School transformed into a bustling Anglo-Saxon 'village', where children built sturdy dens fit for warriors and wise folk alike, tried their hand at frame weaving, whittled sticks to create their own rune collections, and gathered around to listen to the beautifully told story Rhythm of the Rain.

It's always amazing to see how classroom learning comes alive under the open sky. Studies show that time in nature reduces stress, boosts mood, and sparks creativity — and we see that magic every single week in the smiling faces and imaginative work of our children.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful learners with us. Have a fantastic weekend — we can't wait to see what adventures next week will bring!





Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



Eco News



Competition - Crocus Bulb Creation Competition:

Crocus planting fun - for the whole school. If you would like to enter, we ask that you plant your bulbs as a family this Autumn and bring to school Mid January for judging. Prizes for:

- Most colourful blooms,
- Prettiest crocuses
- Unusual design

How to grow a crocus:

Crocus bulbs should be planted from September to December, to allow roots to develop before winter. Plant them about 3-4 inches (8-10 cm) deep in well-drained soil, with the pointed side facing up. Planting time can extend as late as December, as long as the ground isn't frozen.



We have purchased a new bird feeding station, to encourage different birds to our grounds ahead of Bird Watching Week 2026. If you have any feeders you would like to donate to the school, please do drop them into the school office.

Let's Cut Your Carbon!

Whilst the big responsibility lies with governments and big businesses to make large changes, we can help too!

Through small changes, like walking instead of driving or turning off devices, we can lower carbon emissions and protect our planet.

This November, we challenge YOU to complete 6 fun activities with your family and friends to Cut Your Carbon!



What's Next?

You'll get a Cut Your Carbon checklist to take home. Complete the six challenges at home with friends and family across November.

At the end of the month, we'll count up how many of you joined in, add up the estimated carbon saved, and celebrate your amazing efforts!

Let's help our planet – one small step at a time!



CYC

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

At 11am on 11th November, Blackawton Primary School pupils, staff and parents, gathered together to remember those who fought and lost their lives for us during all wars.

Year 6 pupils recited poetry and Frank led a two minute silence by playing The Last Post, then ending it with The Rouse.



Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week

This week we have been celebrating Anti-Bullying Week, a national event that encourages kindness, respect and inclusion. The week began with Odd Socks Day on Monday, when children and staff wore odd socks to celebrate what makes everyone unique.

Throughout the week, children took part in discussions about friendship, celebrating differences, and using their voices for good — speaking up when they see unkind behaviour and supporting others. They learned about the difference between being a bystander and an upstander and how small actions and kind words can make a big difference.

It was a fantastic week full of positivity, kindness, and confidence, reminding everyone that we all have the power of our voice to help make our school a safe and happy place for all.



Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

Children In Need

Everyone enjoyed a fun-filled day raising money for Children In Need.

Thank you for your donations.



Well done to the Blue House team who raised £91 from their cake sale at the end of last term.
Thank you to everyone who supported their fundraiser, we hope you all enjoyed your sweet treats!

HEAD LICE

Please check your child's hair!

Head lice have been reported in school. It is important to regularly check your child's hair for head lice.

The best technique is to use a head lice comb when the hair is wet, leaving in conditioner and combing the hair in sections. When the hair is wet, head lice cannot move so they are easier to comb out. Please note that they do not jump or fly, you can only catch head lice from head to head contact. If you find head lice, please treat appropriately: the wet combing technique eradicates the lice and eggs. This should be done every 3 to 4 days over a 2-week period to break the life cycle.

If you require further information please have a look at [Head lice and nits - NHS](#)



Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

SEND Signpost



Vicky Llewellyn
SENDCo

On Wednesday 19 November, from 2.00–2.30pm, I'll be hosting our SEN Parent Forum, and I warmly invite you to join us.

These forums are a chance for us to sit together in a supportive, relaxed space to share experiences, talk through challenges, and explore practical solutions as a team.

Both the SEND Code of Practice and DfE guidance highlight how strong, trusting partnerships between schools and families make a real difference to children's progress and well-being, and your insight is a vital part of that. If there is anything you would like added to the agenda, please just let me know—your questions and priorities help shape the support we offer.

Free Energy Advice and Support



We can help you with:

- Making your home more energy efficient / lowering bills
- Grants to help you in hard times*
- Problems with energy companies/ bills/ meters
- Damp and condensation
- Funding to insulate your Home*
- Broken appliances*
- Boiler repairs*

*subject to eligibility criteria

Get in touch today for free and impartial help:

0800 112 3044

www.sdce.org.uk

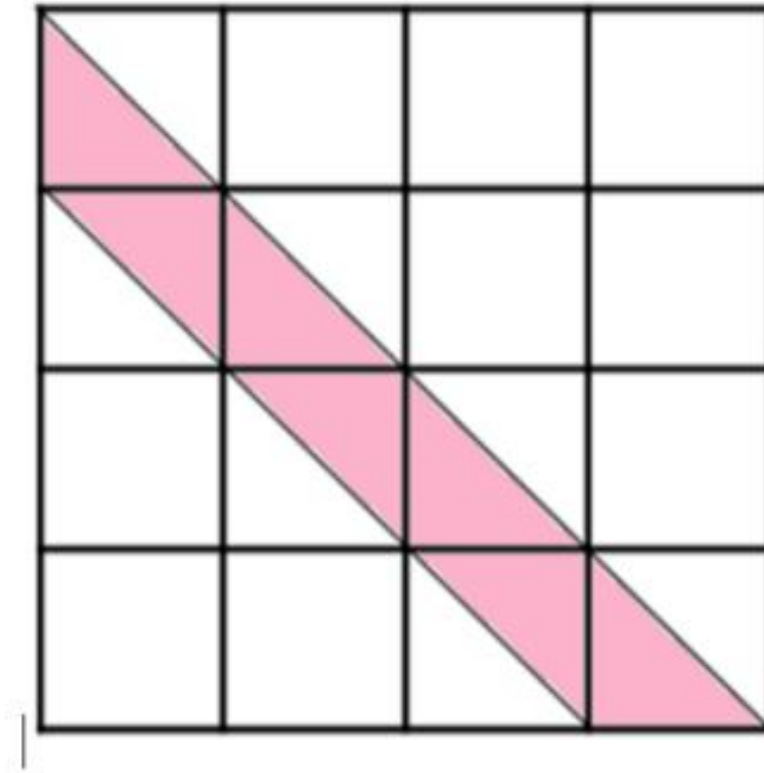
Community Benefit Society Registration number 7353

Maths puzzle of the week – family fun

Try this mathematical thinking to get maths conversations happening at home

What fraction of the square is shaded?

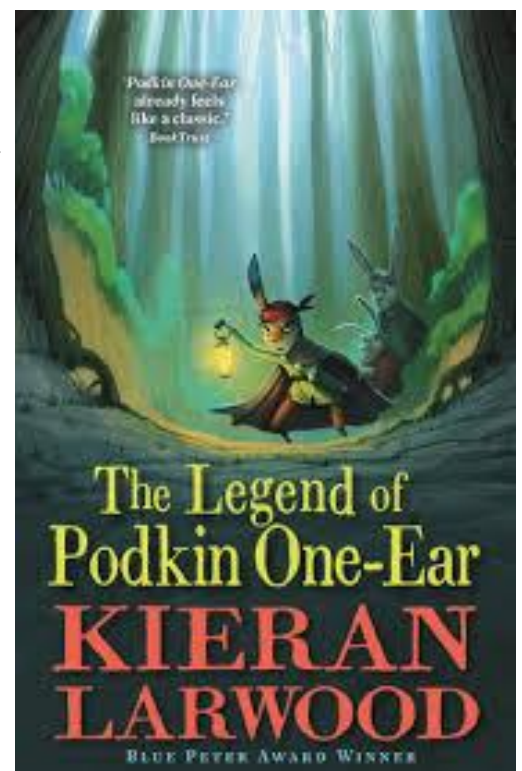
How many different ways could you shade $\frac{1}{2}$?



Miss Burt's Recommended Read:

The Legend of Podkin One-Ear follows young Podkin, a rabbit who would much rather spend his days exploring than preparing to become a leader. Everything changes when a dangerous army known as the Gorm attacks his home, and Podkin must escape with his brother and sister. Their journey takes them through forests, caves and ancient warrens as they try to keep a powerful magical object out of the wrong hands.

The story is full of excitement and tension, but it also has plenty of heart. Podkin begins as an unlikely hero, and watching him find his courage makes the book especially appealing to readers in Key Stage 2. The world is richly imagined, the characters feel real, and each chapter keeps you turning the pages to find out what happens next.



Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

After School Club is available from Mondays to Thursdays for pupils in Reception to Year 6

3:20pm to 4:30pm: £6

3:20pm to 5:30pm: £8



TERM DATES

Monday 3 November 2025

to

Thursday 18 December 2025



Monday	Games Club
Tuesday	Film Club
Wednesday	Cooking Club
Thursday	Sports Club

To book your child (Reception to Yr6) in to after school club, please email
admin@blackawtonprimary.org.uk or call 01803 712363

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

Blackawton Nursery Stay and Play

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



Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



FOPS Christmas Hamper Raffle!

PLEASE PROVIDE 1 ITEM FOR
YOUR CHILD'S CLASS HAMPER

*No nuts or perishables

Please donate all items to your child's
classroom by Weds 10th December

Raffle tickets £1 each available from
fops.org.uk

Raffle Tickets will be drawn at the
Christams Carol Concert



Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



FOBS Christmas wreath making workshop

You're invited to the Friends of
Blackawton School wreath-making
evening with Faye Luscombe

Monday, 8th December
at 6.30 pm

in Blackawton school hall

Tickets £35 per person, available from
FOBS.org.uk

1 glass of mulled wine included
Book early to avoid disappointment

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



Having a pre Christmas clear out?

Looking for preloved gifts?



Indoor Car Boot Sale

Saturday 22nd November

10am – 12 noon

(Sellers from 9am)

Blackawton Village Hall

£5 per table

Refreshments available

Email: denmark26fundraising@outlook.com to book

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



SANTA FUN RUN 2025

Get your hats, your spirits, and your running shoes
ready for a jolly dash!

Saturday 13 December 2025

Sign-in from 1.30pm, Race begins at 2.00pm

Things Happen Here, Meadowbrook Community Centre,
Shinners Bridge, Dartington, TQ9 6JD



- A fun Santa Run/Walk for all ages and abilities
- Distance options – from 1 mile (1 lap) up to 5 mlaps)
- Kids up to age 10: FREE! Adults (10+): E10
- Fancy dress is most definitely encouraged (but pot co)
- Treat yourself to a pint and pizza at Things Happen Here
- Free toasted treats around the fire



Book now via Dynamic Adventures website

Father and Son weekend, 31 January - 1 February 2026:

[Father And Son Weekend — Dynamic Adventures](#)

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



FULLY FUNDED
FOR ALL CHILDREN AGED 5-14
ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFIT RELATED
FREE SCHOOL MEALS
[£25 PER DAY FOR PUPILS NOT ELIGIBLE]

FESTIVE SPECIAL
10am - 3pm DAILY FOOTBALL
& MULTI-SPORT
ACTIVITIES

NUTRITIOUS COOKED
MEAL EVERY DAY

NUTRITION
GUIDES

MAGICIAN & ENTERTAINER

LOCAL TRIPS

CERTIFICATES, PRIZES
and much more!

ANIMAL
HQ VISIT

FOR LOCATIONS, DATES AND BOOKINGS PLEASE VISIT
SHEARSOCCKER.CO.UK

OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ADAM SHEARER 07967 124844

TOTNES | NEWTON ABBOT | DARTMOUTH



Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

SPORTIVA^{EVENTS}

→ **TRAIL RUNNING** → **RETURNS TO** **DARTINGTON** ←

*Chip Timing / Professional photographs & Friendly marshals /
Family-friendly atmosphere / Medals for all finishers / Well-marked courses
Free hot drink or beer when you finish + Food options at Green Table Cafe*

Friday 21st Nov, 9am-3pm

DART CHALLENGE

*Choose your challenge: run a marathon,
a 10K or as many 5K laps as you can
fit into six hours!*



Saturday 22nd Nov 5.30pm

THE DARK DART DASH

*Head torches on! Take on a thrilling night-time
trail run (10K, 5K & kids races) through
Dartington's beautiful grounds. Expect twisting
trails, glowing markers, and a post-race buzz
like no other. Podiums & Prizes including best
fancy dress!*



Location: Dartington Estate, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EE

Sign up online: sportivaevents.co.uk

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



Free casual swimming included

**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

Following the **Swim England** | Learn to Swim Programme

fusion

fusion-lifestyle.com/swimschool

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

GLURBS



LANGUAGE LEARNING MADE SIMPLE



Completely safe, ad-free and designed by the specialists at Language Angels for children to learn and play independently in a way parents can trust.

- ★ It's not just fun, it's effective
- from first word to fluency.
- ★ The more you play, the more you learn!
- ★ Boosts memory, creativity & communication.



**HOW TO GET AN ENTIRE YEAR'S
SUBSCRIPTION FOR JUST £1.99:**

1. Register a new account
2. Go to 'Settings'
3. Tap **LAOFR25**



**ON MOBILE?
CLICK HERE**

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

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.

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

Let's Keep Blackawton Clean and Beautiful

We all love walking our dogs around our lovely village, but please remember to always carry waste bags and clean up after your pets.

Dog mess left on paths, verges, and play areas **isn't just unpleasant** – it's a health risk, especially for children.

South Hams District Council is asking all dog owners to do their bit by **bagging and binning** their dog's waste responsibly.

Anyone caught not cleaning up after their dog could face a **£100 fine**.

If you notice dog mess or have information that could help identify repeat offenders, please report it on the South Hams District Council website – just search **“report dog fouling”**.

Together, we can keep Blackawton clean, safe, and a place we can all be proud of.

Bag it. Bin it.
Keep Blackawton beautiful!



**South Hams
District Council**

www.southhams.gov.uk/report-it

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

Making Christmas Manageable



Citizens Advice

|Simple ways to enjoy the festive season without overspending

Christmas can be a great time to relax and spend time with family, but it often comes with extra costs and pressure to spend more than we'd like. With household budgets already stretched, a bit of planning can make a real difference.

1. Set a Realistic Budget

Work out what you can comfortably afford to spend and stick to it. It's easy for small extras to add up, so keep a list of what you need — and what you don't. If you can, set aside a small amount each week to spread the cost.

2. Keep Gifts Simple

Children often remember the fun and attention more than what's under the tree. Low-cost or homemade gifts, or pooling together for a "Secret Santa" within the family, can keep things fair and affordable for everyone.

3. Plan Food Carefully

Christmas dinner doesn't need to be over the top. Planning meals in advance helps avoid waste, and sharing the cooking with friends or relatives can save both time and money.

4. Make the Most of What's Local

There are plenty of free or low-cost events in Teignbridge over the festive period — from school fairs to community activities. These can be a great way to get into the Christmas spirit without spending much.

5. Don't Feel Pressured

It's fine to say no to things that stretch your budget. A walk to see the lights, a film night at home, or a board game with family can make just as good memories as anything that costs money.

Need a Bit of Advice?

If you're worried about money or would like some support with budgeting, benefits, or local services, the **Citizens Advice Schools Project** can help. You can speak to your school for a direct referral.

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



Staying Healthy

Illness

Feelings

Getting Help

A fun and interactive resource
for learning about health

Games

Activities

Quizzes

www.healthforkids.co.uk

Psst! Parents!

As well as enjoying the content with your child, you can get advice on supporting their health and wellbeing.



www.healthforkids.co.uk/Devon

Follow us: Health for Kids: Grownups healthforkidsgrownups @HealthforKids1



ChatHealth

Text a school nurse for confidential advice and support

07520 631721

Or scan the QR code
for further service
contact details:



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.

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

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 (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national 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

No

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

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



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

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



I can ask the parents in my child's class questions

It helps me to see who's who at my school and see who lives nearby

I can organise my child's birthday party and see who's coming

I can stay in the loop with important school info & PTA events coming up

Now I know who my child is friends with, I can get in touch with their parents

Round-up emails help me keep up with what's going on even when I'm busy

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 GDPR-compliant, private and secure.

Sign up today! It's easy and completely free

1

Download the Classlist app on iOS or Android

2

Select our school and sign up



Classlist

Smarter together.

www.classlist.com