Blackawton Primary School NEWSLETTER

Creative - Confident - Caring



Friday 28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers.

As we take a moment to look back over the term so far, I am reminded daily of just how incredible our children are. Their energy, curiosity and willingness to get stuck into every learning opportunity bring such life into our school. Whether they're trying something new, supporting one another or showing real determination in class, they continually impress us with their attitude and enthusiasm.

Attendance to date	
Class 1	95%
Class 2	96%
Class 3	96%
Class 4	95%
Class 5	90%
National expectation	96%

One of the things I'm particularly proud of is how confidently our children use their voices. They express their ideas openly, talk thoughtfully about their learning and play an active role in shaping the culture of our school. Our Rights Respecting Schools ethos sits at the heart of this—children show a strong understanding of fairness, respect and kindness, and they strive to make sure everyone feels included and heard.

Naturally, there are times when emotions run high or friendships become a little tangled—as happens with all children. Games can change tone quickly, or situations can feel overwhelming. When these moments arise, we work closely with pupils to help them navigate their feelings and communicate clearly. We encourage them to speak up when something feels uncomfortable or unfair, and we support them in working through disagreements calmly so that relationships can be repaired with understanding and respect.

As we move into the final stretch of the term, I want to acknowledge what a special community we are part of. The togetherness of our children, the dedication of our staff and the support of our families all contribute to a warm, ambitious and respectful school environment.

Thank you for your ongoing encouragement and partnership—it truly makes a difference.

Best wishes.

Liam Fielding and Charlotte Buckle
Headteacher Deputy Head



We educate children so they can lead great lives





Monday 1 December 2025	INSET day (non-pupil day for whole school & Nursery)
Tuesday 2 December 2025	Christmas tree decoration assembly
Monday 8 December 2025	Yr5 parents: residential talk, 3:30pm
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
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	Toddler playgroup Christmas party, 10:00 in the Nursery hut
Thursday 18 December 2025	EYFS Christmas party
Thursday 18 December 2025	Open classroom Christmas tree trail, 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, details tbc)
Friday 19 December 2025	Last day of term
Monday 5 January 2026	Back to school

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

"Food for thought and sport"

Nursery

We have been having lots of fun with our story "The Tiger Who Came to Tea". The children practised their fine motor skills while painting their own stripy tigers. They used careful brushstrokes, repeating patterns, and lots of bright colours to bring their tigers to life. In our role-play area, the children loved dressing up as animals and making all the different sounds. We rolled up our sleeves to make cakes and practised spreading and cutting to make our own

sandwiches. Great fine motor practice and lots of fun! To finish our week, the children helped get everything ready for a Tiger Picnic.



Class 1

We've been having loads of fun this week in Class 1 thinking about Birthdays. The children have been planning a party for our toy dog who will be turning 5 on

Friday! There has been lots to do - cards to write, presents to make, games to plan and of course cakes to bake.



Class 2

Class 2 have been immersing themselves in the Winter season in lots of subjects. We have created wintery spiral drawings in art inspired by the patterns we have seen in frozen spiderwebs. In English we have explored 'prosody' and how we can use our voices in different ways to perform poetry. We have found adjectives from a welly walk that describe just how cold it has been! In maths we have moved onto our new topic of shape and have been exploring both 2D and 3D shapes. We have developed our vocabulary to include, vertex, and side and are experts now in counting the number of vertices a shape has. In PE we have enjoyed learning how to 'tag' in tag rugby, and developed effective passes in netball.

Class 3

Class 3 have mastered the positions in netball this week — and what a difference our brand-new netball bibs have made! Thanks to the generous support from FOBS, we've been able to learn where every player belongs on the court and how teamwork makes the game truly shine. What a great sport! We've also been exploring snappy subtitles in non-fiction writing, discovering how strong, punchy phrases can hook a reader's attention. From bold statements to surprising questions, Class 3 have become experts in crafting headlines that jump off the page! In art, we've been experimenting with light tones in charcoal drawings, learning how shading can create dramatic effects. Smudging, blending and using gentle strokes helped us bring light and shadow to life — with some stunning results.

Class 4

This week in Class 4, our science lessons took a wonderfully messy turn as we explored how the digestive system works. After learning about the different organs and the journey our food takes through the body, the children carried out a hands-on experiment to replicate the whole process. Using everyday items to represent each stage of digestion, they squashed, squeezed and mixed their "food" to see exactly what happens inside us. It was equal parts fascinating and entertaining, and the children threw themselves into the learning with brilliant curiosity and plenty of laughter.

Class 5

Class 5 have become engrossed in some wonderful poetry this week. The level of their work is outstanding. There is real depth and meaning and a lot of thought and creativity - well done team! In maths, we have moved onto finding fractions of amounts and applying this to real world scenarios in the form of word problems. It is tricky but we are making progress.

Next week, Class 5 will be sitting some mock SATs. This is nothing to panic about, just an indicator of where they all are and what help they need going forward.





Forest School News

Crackling into Winter: This Week in Forest School

This week reminded us that our outdoor classroom, as always, needs a bit of planning — and a bit of going with the flow — especially when the weather likes to keep things interesting. The days were cold but bright, which meant we could get the fire going for lots of classes, even Nursery, and dive straight into bread-making... hands first, of course.

There's something quietly lovely about baking your own bread over a fire. Everything slows down, conversations come easily, and laughter pops up just as often as the sparks. As our damper bread cooked on sticks and turned golden, we all agreed it tasted great — and that time around the fire was exactly what we needed.

Around the site, children also made willow bird feeders, tried sawing to create their own little pouches, and crafted simple magic wands. Nursery children enjoyed the "mystery bag" game, guessing hidden objects, while many groups headed off on scavenger hunts and found pinecones, spiderwebs, ferns, moss, mushrooms, and feathers.

Another lovely week in Forest School — building skills, sharing moments, and enjoying the outdoors together.































Eco News





This week has been a busy and exciting one for our Eco Team! We have been hard at work **emptying the school composting systems**, which we have been filling throughout the year with leaves and garden waste from our grounds. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we successfully dug out **two full wheelbarrows of rich, composted material**.

This compost has now been used to **mulch our garden beds**, helping prepare the soil for our spring planting. Using our own compost helps reduce waste, improves soil health, and supports biodiversity—well done, everyone involved!

And that's not all...

We are delighted to share that we have a beautiful new flower planter at the entrance of our school. It

was handmade and generously donated by Taylor in Year 6 and his dad, Chris Wallace. We are extremely grateful for their creativity and hard work—what a wonderful contribution to our school environment!

We look forward to planting up the new planter in the coming weeks, and we can't wait to see it bloom as the spring arrives.

Together we grow — thank you for helping make our school greener and more beautiful!



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.

After School Club News

Communication skills were put to the test in after school club on Thursday, the children had a so much fun guiding their blindfolded friends around an obstacle course. This was as much fun to watch as it was to play!





Please contact the office for after school club booking enquiries.





Vicky Llewellyn SENDCo

SEND Signpost

Supporting Your Child Through the Christmas Build-Up

As we move towards Christmas, many children begin to feel the excitement – but for some, especially those with additional needs, the changes to routine, sensory overload and general unpredictability can feel overwhelming. Here are a few gentle ideas that may help at home:

- **Keep routines where you can.** Familiar mealtimes, bedtimes and after-school rhythms can make a big difference when everything else feels busy or "different."
- Use visual reminders. A simple calendar or countdown can help children understand what's coming and prepare for days that look a bit out of the ordinary.
- **Build in quiet time.** Even five or ten minutes of calm after school can help children reset when they've had a day full of rehearsals, decorations, noise or excitement.
- **Give advance warning of changes.** If you're attending events, visiting family, or doing something new, talking it through ahead of time can reduce anxiety.
- **Keep things simple.** Children don't need every festive activity or outing. Choosing one or two meaningful traditions they enjoy is often enough.

Plan for sensory needs. Christmas lights, music and crowds can be intense. Ear defenders, a cosy hoodie, or a familiar toy to hold can help children feel grounded.

If you'd like to chat through anything, or if you've noticed your child struggling with the changes this season brings, please do feel free to get in touch. We're always here to listen, problem-solve together, and help make this time of year as positive and manageable as possible for your family.

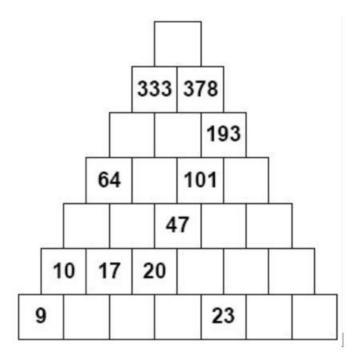


Maths puzzle of the week - family fun

Try this mathematical thinking to get maths conversations happening at home

Start where you can. Each two adjacent squares add up to make the number above. Some are filled in to give you clues.

Can you fill in the gaps?



Miss Burt's recommended read

Snow in the Garden, by Shirely Hughes

This beautiful Christmas anthology contains winter adventures, seasonal poems, festive recipes and easy-to-make craft activities as well as Shirley Hughes' trademark warm and classic illustrations. Whether reading stories and poems, or following instructions to make beautiful crafts and Christmas treats, this book is the perfect introduction to this very special time of year.



Christmas Decoration

Our annual Christmas tree decorating will take place on Tuesday 2nd December and we will be having our usual assembly to launch the festive period.

Please make a decoration for the school Christmas tree and send it to school with your child on the morning of Tuesday 2nd December. Every child will have the opportunity to hang their own decoration on the tree.

Please make sure that the decorations are not too large or heavy as we need to fit them all on the tree.

Music

<u>Class 1</u> are continuing to consolidate their learning of beat, rhythm and pitch, with Christmassy songs and body percussion, as well as moving in time to a beat.

<u>Class 2</u> have been learning about instrument families within an orchestra. They can recognise both the look and the sound of many instruments and are beginning to be able to describe an instrument's timbre.

<u>Class 3</u> are now using recorders and ocarinas to play many tunes. They have learned many notes (D-D') this term and have started learning 2-part tunes to play as a group.

<u>Classes 4 & 5</u> are both continuing with songwriting and for some, learning about chords using glockenspiels as well. Many have made good use of their ukulele skills to help them write their songs and prepare for recording them.

Devon Wildlife Trust have a festive nature challenge for you!

They are encouraging people to do one wild thing a day from the 25th December to the 5th January each year. In those quiet days between Christmas and New Year, winter wildlife is just waiting to be explored!

These wild acts could be little things to help nature - like recycling a Christmas tree or feeding the birds — or ways to connect to the natural world, like trying stargazing.

Parents and carers can sign up to receive a digital pack to help them to take part. The link is below. Please share with your school community as it's a great activity to get families involved and engaged with nature over the Christmas holidays.

12 Days Wild | The Wildlife Trusts

Garden Time have, once again, very generously donated us a Christmas tree.

Not only did Garden Time donate us a tree, they also delivered it to school on Friday afternoon.

With a bit of help, Chris and Jack brought the tree into the hall where it will soon be adorned with the children's homemade Christmas decorations.

Don't forget that pupils need to bring their decoration into school on Tuesday 2 December.













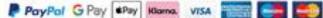
Designed at Blackawton Primary School

Order unique, personalised cards, gifts and keepsakes designed by YOUR child!

Blackawton Primary School will receive 20% commission on all product sales!

To order, login to the parent order portal at www.mychildsart.co.uk/order Login details for the portal will be issued/Ji2/RORFet

01530 887650 | customerservice@mychildsart.co.uk www.mychildsart.co.uk/order

















Order portals open NOW until the 31st December





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

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

TIMETABLE



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



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









Friday 5th December

Blackawton Village Hall

Doors open 6pm — Eyes down 7:30pm

Refreshments & Raffle

Refreshments will be tea coffee, cake, sausage rolls, mince pies (no sandwiches)

Most prizes are "one4all " shopping vouchers, other bingo and raffle prizes include donations from Simon Drew, Distinctly Living, Out of The Blue, Baxters Gallery, The Wheelhouse, Dartmouth Golf & Country Club, Occasional Cards & Gifts, Dartmouth Community Bookshop and other local businesses.







Our Community Shop manager is leaving us at Christmas to pursue other ventures.

So we're looking for someone else!

The role would suit someone keen to engage with the community and looking for part-time work in the village, adjustable to suit school hours.



Blackawton Community Shop

IS RECRUITING for a new

SHOP MANAGER

to take over the running of our friendly village shop

At the heart of the village, the Community Shop is a not-for-profit body run for the benefit of the local community, with volunteer staff and led by a management committee.

Responsibility for ordering, pricing, stock management etc Day-to-day running of the shop, supported by our volunteer team.

20 - 25 hours/week. Working pattern flexible /negotiable to suit candidate (job-share could potentially be possible) £14.50-£15.50/hour (overtime paid if needed), holiday entitlement.

Applications, with brief CV, or further enquiries to:

shopsecretary@blackawtoncommunity.com as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you!



Sustainable Blackawton

Welcome

to

Blackawton Community Composting Site

Sunday 7th December 2025 10am -1pm Blackawton Village Hall

Come and find out all about it.

Refreshments







SPORTIVAS TRAIL RUNNING RETURNS TO TOARTINGTON

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



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



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:

<u>Father And Son Weekend — Dynamic Adventures</u>







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



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.

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!



www.southhams.gov.uk/report-it

Making Christmas Manageable

citizens advice South Hams

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. Lowcost or homemade <u>gifts</u>, <u>or</u> 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.



NHS



01392 342678
Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

No injection needed
 The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu
The nasal spray helps protect

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

Avoid costs
 If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the resal spray vectors which is the preferred vectors. A vectors injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu







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 (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



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

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





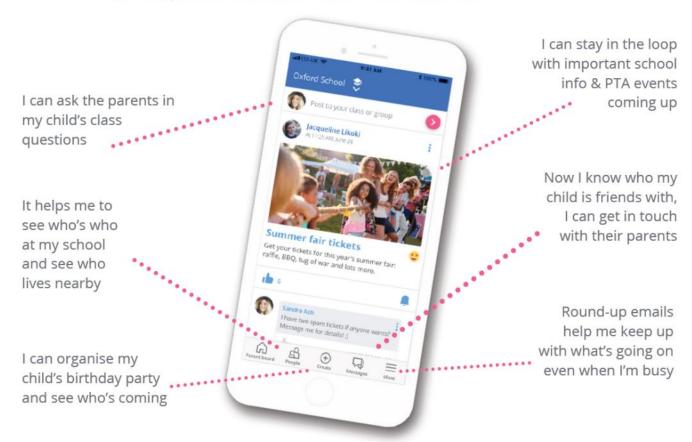
Advice and guidance

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



(iii) Classlist Smarter together.

www.classlist.com