

Blackawton Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Creative - Confident - Caring



Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the end of this first half term, it feels like the perfect moment to pause and reflect on everything that has taken place over the past six weeks. It has been a truly busy and productive start to the school year, filled with learning, growth, and plenty of memorable moments.

The children have settled back into school life brilliantly. They have shown enthusiasm, curiosity, and a real determination to challenge themselves and achieve their very best. Across the school, we have seen wonderful examples of resilience, creativity, and teamwork—qualities that we are incredibly proud to see developing in all of our children

We have also been fortunate to take part in a wide range of 11 by 11 experiences. These have included community apple pressing, school trips, life skills sessions, and the celebration of a number of awareness days, to name a few. Each of these experiences has given the children valuable opportunities to learn beyond the classroom and connect with the wider community. The engagement and excitement they have shown throughout has been a joy to witness.

*Looking ahead, we are very much looking forward to our **Harvest Festival at Blackawton Church on Wednesday 22nd October at 2:30pm**. This is always a special occasion in the school calendar, and it provides a lovely opportunity for us to come together as a community to celebrate and give thanks. We hope many of you will be able to join us.*

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. The partnership between home and school plays such an important role in helping our children thrive, and we are truly grateful for all that you do to encourage and support them.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

Best wishes

Liam Fielding and Charlotte Buckle
Headteacher Deputy Head

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



We educate children so they can lead great lives





Wednesday 22nd October 2025	Harvest Festival in Church at 2:30pm
Friday 24 October 2025	Open classroom, 2:30 to 3:15pm
Friday 24 October 2025	Last day of term
Monday 3 November 2025	First day back to school
Thursday 6 November 2025	RNLI water safety visit to school
Friday 7 November 2025	School immunisations, Reception to Yr6
Monday 10 November 2025	NSPCC workshops; Yr2, Yr5 and Yr6
18th, 19th, 20th November 2025	Parents evening
Wednesday 19 November 2025	SEND Parent Forum, 2-2:30pm
Friday 21 November 2025	Children In Need
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Whole school Christmas lunch
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Parent / Carer forum, 5:30pm
Monday 15 December 2025	School panto trip
Tuesday 16 December 2025	Nursery and Reception nativity in the church
Wednesday 17 December 2025	Class 2, 3, 4 and 5 Candlelit Service in the church
Thursday 18 December 2025	Open classroom, 2:30pm
Friday 19 December 2025	Last day of term
Monday 5 January 2026	Back to school

Please note—More dates to come.

Further school trips being organised, tbc.

Finer details will be sent closer to events.

CLASS 'SNAPPY' NEWS

“A taste of Harvest”

Nursery

This week, our nursery children have been digging into the world of seasonal vegetables! We've had great fun retelling the story of The Enormous Carrot (with a twist on the traditional Enormous Turnip) – complete with actions and lots of laughter!

Our role-play area has transformed into a vibrant vegetable shop, where children have enjoyed "buying" and "selling" pumpkins, carrots, and more – great for language and maths skills!

We've been learning all about pumpkins – inside and out – and discovering how vegetables grow in different seasons. The highlight of the week was making our own vegetable soup! The children practised their peeling and cutting skills safely and carefully, and of course, loved tasting their delicious, warm soup afterwards.



Class 1

Class 1's activities have been based around the theme of Autumn Harvest this week.

They have been enjoying the traditional tale of The Enormous Turnip, acting the story out in groups and drawing fantastic pictures to show all the characters. Thanks to a bumper harvest of apples we have all been able to crush apples and to make delicious apple juice to take home. The children decided that this is probably much tastier than turnip juice!



Class 2

Class 2 have explored the "ingenious and hilarious" book, mixed up fairy tales.

We have discussed what makes this book so funny and have understood its structure in preparation for creating our own class mixed up fairy tale next week.

Continuing our unit of addition and subtraction in maths we have been doubling this week and creating addition stories.

Class 3

Class 3 have had a very exciting start to their new unit in English! We have begun reading *Gregory Cool*, a story about a little boy who travels to the island of Tobago. Gregory finds himself in a new and unfamiliar place, and we have been exploring what it might feel like to visit somewhere so different. The children have really enjoyed discussing Gregory's adventures and thinking about how he adapts to island life.

We also had a fantastic **Apple Day**! The class learned about how apples are pressed to make juice and got to see (and taste!) the process in action. It was great fun watching the apples being turned into delicious, fresh juice.

What a busy and brilliant week for Class 3!

Class 4

It's been another exciting week in Class 4!

In history, we explored the world of the Anglo-Saxons, handling real artefacts and uncovering fascinating clues about life in the past. In science, we became investigators, testing a range of materials to find out which ones were insulators and which were conductors. There were plenty of surprises and lots of great scientific thinking along the way!

Class 5

Class 5 have had the wonderful opportunity to learn some life skills this week. Their behaviour was exemplary and they listened well to speakers from all of the different stations, including; Lifeguards, Police, Fire Service, First Aid, Electricity and Gas Safety. They also had chance to learn about healthy life choices with some 'Sound Meditation.' We were so relaxed! Children also learnt about Hoax calls and the impact this can have on others, who are in need. After a lunch break filled with games run by Dartmouth Academy PE Ambassadors, they took part in a Swimming Gala. We were so proud of the supportive and caring attitudes they had towards their peers - great cheering on and some fantastic wins!



In Other News

Forest School Focus:

Prickles, Autumn Days and Happy Hearts - Forest School News

This week's Forest School sessions were inspired by an exciting wildlife discovery — a baby hedgehog spotted on School Lane last week!

We talked about what to do if you find a hedgehog out during the day, and the children's thoughtful responses showed just how much they care about animals. It was lovely to hear that even our youngest pupils knew that hedgehogs are nocturnal and that if one is out in daylight, it might need help. Many children mentioned *Prickles in a Pickle*, a fantastic local rescue that helps hedgehogs in trouble.

We also discussed how hedgehogs are lactose intolerant (no milk, please!) and how cutting a small hole in garden fences can help create "hedgehog highways," allowing these much-loved mammals to travel safely in search of beetles, earwigs, and caterpillars.

As the seasons begin to shift, we've noticed a chill in the air and darker mornings and evenings. Change is in the air, but one thing that remains constant is the value of outdoor play. This week, every year group embraced time outside. The mud kitchen was a hub of creativity and imagination, while tyres and wooden planks became the building blocks of brilliant construction projects.

It's been another wonderful week of learning, playing, and connecting with nature in our beautiful Forest School area.





Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

Apple Pressing Day

Wednesday was re-named 'Blackawton Apple Pressing Day'. Such an impressive effort by all involved and an equally impressive product! The whole process of making apple juice was enjoyed by our school community and the end result was absolutely delicious. A very big thank you to Jade and her family who organised, supplied and supervised this wonderful experience. Cheers!





Year 6 getting stuck in to the Junior Life Skills and swimming gala event at Dartmouth Leisure Centre



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SEND Signpost



Vicky Llewellyn
SENDCo

📢 New Health Resources from CFHD for Children and Young People with Learning Disabilities

Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD) have launched new pages and resources on their website, dedicated to supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people with learning disabilities. These new resources are part of their specialist learning disability health pathway, which provides tailored support for children and young people aged 0–18 across Devon and Torbay who have a diagnosis of moderate to profound learning disability. The new web pages include practical information, guidance, and resources for families, carers, and professionals to help manage health needs and promote positive outcomes. Link here: [New health resources page for children and young people with learning disabilities - Children and Family Health Devon](#)

📞 New Occupational Therapy Advice Line (Devon & Torbay)

Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD) have also launched an occupational therapy telephone advice line. This can be accessed by all, whether that is the young person themselves, family members or carers, education staff, social care staff, voluntary organisations or other health professionals. The phone line provides access to advice and support around helping children and young people develop everyday skills. Link here: [CFHD Occupational Therapy telephone advice line - Children and Family Health Devon](#)

Maths Problem of the Week - Family fun!

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

If six people are in a room and each person shakes hands with everyone else one time, and one time only, how many total handshakes take place?

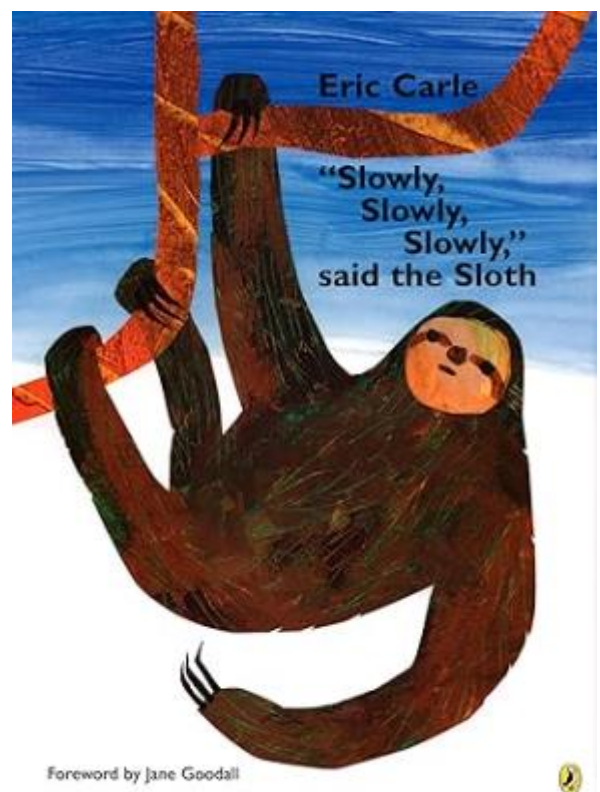


Miss Burt's Recommended Read:

In preparation for World Sloth Day on Monday 20th October, this week's recommended read is *Slowly, slowly, slowly,* said the Sloth by Eric Carle.

Slowly, slowly, slowly . . . that's how the sloth lives. He hangs upside-down from the branch of a tree, night and day, in the sun and in the rain, while the other animals of the rain forest rush past him. "Why are you so slow? Why are you so quiet? Why are you so lazy?" the others ask the sloth. And, after a long, long, long time, the sloth finally tells them!

An informative, and beautifully illustrated book to celebrate one of nature's most special animals.



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Road Safety Reminder

Due to a recent road closure, there has been an increase in traffic through French Furze. Members of the community have noticed that some vehicles are travelling at significant speed through the estate and are concerned for the safety of all pedestrians, especially the children.

We kindly ask all parents, carers, and visitors to **please drive slowly and with extra care** when passing through French Furze and entering the car park for drop-off and pick-up times.

By working together and being mindful of our speed, we can help ensure the safety of all our children and families when accessing school. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our community safe.

HEAD LICE

Please check your child's hair!



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](#)

Breakfast Club's hedgehog rescue: Update



After last week's rescue, Lauren has let us know that the rescued hedgehog is doing really well and being expertly looked after by Prickles in a Pickle. Here are some photos we thought you might like to see.



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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

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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



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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**

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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.

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WildWeek in Dartmouth -

Autumn adventures in nature this half-term

Family-friendly, free-to-attend events - talks, activities, theatre
hosted by **BeWild** at Dartmouth's welcoming Coastal Trail Café

Plan your
WildWeek



From Monday 27th to Friday 31st October, drop into the café at 2pm to find out more from local experts about bird migration; the wonderful world of bats; the extraordinary life in our rock pools, or that prickly favourite, the hedgehog. Come and be inspired, informed and entertained - a brilliant way to connect with the natural world on our doorstep.

And on Tuesday 28th, we have *Fungi Frida and the Myco Heroes*: a delightfully fun and silly show with songs, puppetry and games, alongside mind-boggling facts about the astonishing properties of our fantastic fungi. For under-12s and their families. Can fungi save the world?? Come along and find out!

Full details of the week's events at <https://bewild.uk/october-wild-week-coastal-trail/>



• Talks • Activities • Child-Friendly • **BeWild** • Free •

WildWeek

@ COASTAL TRAIL

6 SOUTH EMBANKMENT DARTMOUTH TQ6 9BH

27-31 Oct 2025, 2pm daily

BeWild are returning to the **Coastal Trail Café**, Dartmouth for a **WildWeek** of daily inspirational talks, hands-on events and activities designed to connect our community with the incredible wildlife right on our doorstep. **Get involved!**

Plan your
WildWeek

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

fun, interactive theatre for 0 - 12 year olds and their families!

Fungi and the Myco Heroes Frida and the Heroes by georgie taylor



Coastal Trail Cafe, Dartmouth

2pm

28th Oct 2025

Free!

Part of Autumn Wild Week with

Be Wild

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KINGSBRIDGE GYM CLUB

HOLIDAY CLUB

£25

ALL DAY 9AM - 3:30PM



MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER



TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER



WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER



THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER



BOOK HERE

[HTTPS://PORTAL.ICLASSPRO.COM/KINGSBRIDGEGYMCLUB/BOOKING](https://portal.iclasspro.com/kingsbridgegymclub/booking)



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fusion-lifestyle.com/swimschool

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Young People's
Theatre



Playground
Arts

October Half Term Clubs



'Telling Tales' 6-9 yrs

The Mansion 27th & 28th
October

10am - 2:30pm

£65

Amended dates

'Create a Play in
2 Days' 10-14 yrs

MiC 29th & 30th October

10:30am - 4pm



Questions welcome - for more info contact Sarah 07387553237
playgroundartstheatre@gmail.com

THE
MANSION

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Buckfastleigh
Town Council

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Shoobox Appeal 2025



A reminder that this year's Shoobox 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	

Please label each completed box with the approximate age and indicate BOY or GIRL. 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!

Blackawton Primary School Noticeboard

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

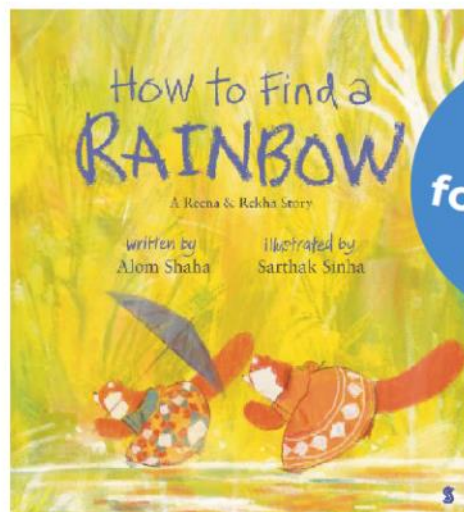
Date: Tuesday 11 November

Time: 10.30am

Duration: approx. 1 hour

Age: Years 1, 2 and 3

Tickets: £7 (includes free
book for every child)



**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

* terms and conditions apply



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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.

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HALF TERM FUN FOOTBALL DAY



FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER

VENUE: KEVICC, TOTNES TQ9 5JX

£20 | Age 5-14 Years | 10am-3pm



LIMITED PLACES • BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT
TO BOOK VISIT www.shearsoccer.co.uk

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



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IMPROVE PERFORMANCE • BUILD SELF-CONFIDENCE • MAKE NEW FRIENDS
FOR BOYS & GIRLS OF ALL ABILITIES • ALL STAFF UEFA/FA & CRB QUALIFIED

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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