

The Blue Letter: 27th January 2023



Learning, Loving, Growing,
Together with God.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Notification of Strike Action by the National Education Union

As I mentioned in last week's Blue Letter, there is due to be strike action by members of the National Education Union. We have now undertaken the assessment of risk based on staffing and safeguarding considerations. 80% of our teaching staff are members of the National Education Union and, as a result, the industrial action will have a very significant impact on our provision. Our decision has been made based on staffing arrangements, guidance on industrial action provided by the local authority, and the ability of the school to ensure safety on site.

I can confirm that our school will need to be closed to most children on 1st February.

We will be in a position to offer childcare arrangements to a very limited number of children on 1st February including those:

- with an Education Health Care plan
- Children in receipt of means tested Free Schools Meals (not infant free school meals)
- Children whose parents work in the emergency services (e.g. paramedic, doctor, nurse, dentist, police, fire services) and are required to work on 1st February and therefore have a need for childcare.

If your child fits into any of the three categories outlined above and you wish for them to attend school on this day, please email head@boxgrove.w-sussex.sch.uk by the end of the school day on Monday, please include which category your child fits into.

The commitment of our staff team to your children and families remains as high as ever. Whilst as a school, we regret any inconvenience this may cause, we must respect that members of any professional association or union have the right to take this action following a legal ballot.

If your child is entitled to means tested free school meals (not infant free school meals), and we currently order a meal for your child, you will receive a £5 voucher on Monday to cover next week's strike day and the day of potential strike day on 2nd March. This means on the strike day, there will be no meal provided for your child in school and you will need to send them with a packed lunch.

St Blaise Fair

On Saturday 4th February, Boxgrove Priory Church hold their annual St Blaise Fair. We will be running a chocolate/sweet tombola stall at the event. The proceeds of the stall will be shared between the school and Kwa Mkono Disabled Children's Centre, Tanzania. If you are able to help label tombola items on Friday 3rd February please speak to Rebecca Wingate (Scarlett's Mum). If you are able to help run the stall on Saturday 4th between 12noon and 2pm, please speak to Mrs Dommett.

The diary and advance dates can be found on the next page

Diary

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Monday 30th January | |
| Tuesday 31st January | Owl Class PE |
| Wednesday 1st February | Strike Day - see previous page |
| Thursday 2nd February | Fox and Owl Class swimming Fox Class Roman Dress up day Squirrel Class PE - Year R and Year 2 only Year 1 Forest School - bring a change of clothes suitable for the weather. A coat and boots or trainers that can get muddy are recommended. Future Flyers (selected children) |
| Friday 3rd February | Bring donations for St Blaise Fair Tombola Squirrel Class PE |

Advance Dates

Saturday 4th February - St Blaise Fair

Friday 10th February whole school walk - weather permitting

Monday 13th February - start of half term week

Monday 20th February INSET day

Wednesday 1st March Deadline for Swimming payments*

Wednesday 1st March - World Book Day

7th & 8th March - Parents evenings

Friday 17th March - Comic relief day

Friday 17th March - School Mothering Sunday Service

Friday 31st March - Cobnor payment deadline *

Friday 31st March - last day of term - normal finish time

* If you would like to make regular payments for the cost of either swimming or Cobnor, Mrs Sheehan is happy to take them. A reminder of the deadline for paying is on the advance dates list.

Rights Respecting School Ambassadors

This week we have awarded badges to our new Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors. We are looking forward to them working with Mrs Martin as they lead the school towards achieving the Silver Award.



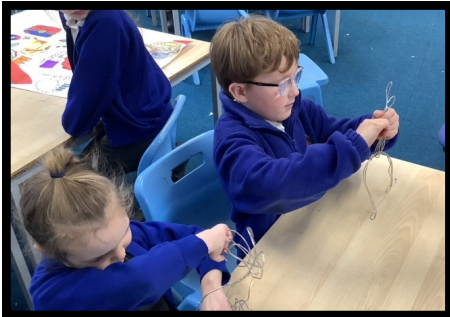
Owls chat with an Evacuee



Owls were really lucky this morning to have the opportunity to find out from 95 year old Patsy about her experience in World War Two as an evacuee. They were surprised to discover that she didn't miss her parents and that she was mostly scared of the mice, rather than the danger of the bombs! Thank you to Patsy for giving her time to talk to the children and to Mrs Brackley for organising the video call.

Fox Class Giacometti Sculptures

Fox Class have been looking at the work of the sculptor Alberto Giacometti. They used wire to create figures which they covered in Modroc before creating a wooden platform for their sculpture to stand on. I'm not sure they will reach the same 6 figure sums that Giacometti's works of art do, but they still look fantastic!



Reception Chinese Dragon

Reception children have been learning about Chinese New Year this week and made a fantastic dragon, which they paraded around school this afternoon!



Achievers

Well done to all our achievers this week:



Squirrel Class: Lucia, Alice, Miracle, Brielle, Mary-Kate and Arham

Fox Class: Xanthe, Freddie, Annie and Isla

Owl Class: Mia, Mollie, Michael and Lollie