

# Brize Norton Primary School

Striving, Helping, Inspiring, Nurturing, Excelling

We SHINE for ourselves and each other with kindness.



NEWSLETTER 08– 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Head Teacher's News

This spring term has been filled with energy, curiosity, and a strong sense of community across the school, and as such, seems to be passing by quickly, with only 2 weeks before we break for the Easter holidays!

Last week, I thoroughly enjoyed joining class circles and speaking with children about their experiences, and it was a pleasure to be accompanied by one of our governors, who was equally impressed by the children's confidence and positivity. Pupils spoke warmly about how much they value their circle time and the opportunity it gives them to share, listen, and reflect together. Circles provide valuable time for children to focus on our school values, explore social situations, share ideas, problem-solve together, and build empathy and strong relationships together in a fun and engaging way.

This week, we were delighted to celebrate British Science Week, exploring this year's theme, Curiosity: What is your question? Across the school, children placed their own questions at the heart of their learning. Classes collected natural materials, generated and sorted questions about floating and sinking, identified which were testable, and investigated a shared enquiry. This questioning approach ran from KS1 to KS2, with younger pupils comparing and sorting while older pupils looked for patterns, causes, and effects. It was a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their scientific thinking, build confidence in asking questions, and enjoy hands-on investigation.

Although it may seem some way off, our PLATINUM OPAL accreditation will come to an end at the beginning of the next academic year. We are delighted to reaffirm our commitment to the programme and to continuing to provide high-quality play opportunities for all of our children. We have now begun the reaccreditation process and will be working over the next six months to further develop and strengthen our play provision.

Our OPAL working party will support this process and consists of Ian Griffiths (Chair of Governors), Laura Nelson (OPAL Lead), and myself. Together with the wider team and the children, we will be evaluating the current play experience and looking at how we can both maintain and further improve our existing play offer.

Best wishes as always,  
Mrs Jones and the team here at Brize.

## SHINE...

Congratulations to our U11 footballers. A team of girls and a team of boys took part in the Burford partnership tournament last week. The girls were runners up, coming second with no goals conceded and the boys won the tournament. A fantastic team effort – well done to all and a huge thanks

SHINE  
AWARD

### Attendance:

**Buccaneers : 97.7%**

**Hurricanes : 95.8%**

**Hercules : 96.5%**

**Voyagers : 95.2%**

**Falcons : 98% Well done**

### Contact

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## Useful Information

### Staff Update – Office Manager

After a great deal of interest in the role and a very strong field of applicants, we are pleased to share that we have appointed a new Office Manager, Mrs Rebecca Hitchman, who will be joining us after the Easter break. She brings a wealth of office-management experience and comes highly recommended.

We will, of course, be very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Keeble as she begins her well-earned retirement, but we look forward to welcoming Mrs Hitchman to the team.

### SEN Review Week

Next week is SEN Review Week. Families of children with a learning plan are encouraged to book a meeting with the class teacher to discuss progress made this term. Learning plans will be emailed to you after the meeting for your records.

### Assessment Week

Our children showed wonderful focus and resilience throughout Assessment Week, this past week, approaching each task with determination and confidence. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and positive attitudes. An attainment report will be sent out via email next week so you can see how your child has progressed since Christmas.

### Snowdon Parent Meeting – Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March

If you have a child attending the Snowdon trip, there will be a final parent meeting at 3:30pm in the Falcons classroom. During this session, we will share all key information, go through the final arrangements, and answer any remaining questions. A final kit list will also be handed out. If you have any outstanding payments, please make these as soon as possible, or speak to the office if you need any support.

### Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

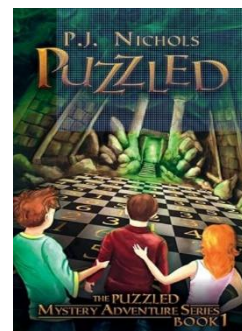
We are currently recruiting for a lunchtime supervisor to come and support us over the lunch hour. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please do direct them to the [MyNewTerm](#) website, where they will be able to find out more about the role and apply if interested.

### Road Safety

Next week, the children will be having an assembly on Road Safety led by VolkerHighways who are currently working on the RAF base. They will speak with the children at an age-appropriate level about how to keep themselves safe when out and about. As the days are getting longer and lighter, we hope this will reinforce safe messages for the children as they make their way to and from school as well as outside of school.

### Brize Book Bunch – Upper School

If your child is in the Upper School and would like to join in the next Brize Book Bunch – the chosen book is *Puzzled* by P.J. Nichols. We will meet together on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April to discuss the book over a donut. The last session was a real success – looking forward to the next meeting to talk about this one. The story is suitable for 9+. Mrs Jones



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## Other News....

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### Attendance

A strong school community depends on consistent attendance, and Oxfordshire County Council's guidance makes clear why it matters so much for every child's learning and wellbeing. Regular attendance isn't just a procedural expectation — it's one of the biggest predictors of long-term achievement and confidence in school life.

### Why attendance is essential for every pupil

Pupils who attend school regularly benefit from stable routines, stronger relationships with teachers and peers, and uninterrupted learning. Missing lessons, even occasionally, can quickly lead to gaps in understanding, lower confidence, and reduced progress.

With our new termly attendance updates, we hope you feel more informed with your child's attendance. If you would like any further information, do not hesitate to contact the school office.

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If you are having a clear out, don't forget about us! We welcome any old toys and games as well unwanted items such as... items for our sandpit, kitchen utensils, old sheets for den building, drain pipes, duplo, old decking boards. If in doubt, do just contact Miss Nelson or Mrs Jones to ask if we can make use of your unwanted items.

Thank you in advance.

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For World Book Day, we launched the Brize Book Bunch and held our first meeting. We discussed the book, *The House at the Edge of Magic*. This was a real highlight of the term for me. It was wonderful discussing the story, hearing the children's views and sharing our thoughts about the story. The children really impressed me with their contributions, and it was enjoyed by us all. Look out for the next book recommendation if your child would like to take part – it's open to all in the Upper School.

Mrs Jones



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# World Book Day...!

We had a very cosy World Book Day last week – the children enjoyed being in their pyjamas and took part in a range of activities throughout the day. The 'drop everything and read' event that happened was a real success; the children enthusiastically took part in this over the course of the day. Thank you to those who were able to send photos of 'extreme reading'. Some very creative and 'extreme' ideas were shared! The team were also ever so impressed with the potato characters that were brought in.



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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

### Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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## Dates for your Diary

	w/c 16th Feb	HALF TERM Holidays
	w/c 16th March	SEN Review Week
	Thurs, 19th March	Year 6 and Buccaneers Height and Weight measures Buccaneers vision checks
	Tues, 24th March	Year 4 MFL Day @ Burford Little City visit Buccaneers
	Wed, 25th March	World Maths Day
	Thurs, 26th March	Irock Concert for parents @ 2:30pm
	Thurs, 26th March	Parent Meeting for those going to Snowdon @ 3:30 in Falcons
	Fri, 27th March	End of Term – school finishes @ 1:15pm
	w/c 30th March	Easter Holidays
	Mon, 13th April	Term 5 begins
	Thur 23rd April	Rags 2 Riches collection
	Fri, 24th April	Purple Up Day
	Fri, 1st May	INSET DAY
	Mon, 4th May	Bank Holiday
	Fri, 8th May	VE Day
	Thurs, 21st May	Year 5 Enrichment Day – Burford Secondary School
	w/c 25th May	Half Term
	w/c 8th June	Sports Week
	Mon, 8th June	Sports Day – Lower school am & upper School pm with picnic lunch. <i>Information to follow</i>
	Tues, 9th June	Basketball workshops
	Wed 10th – Fri 12th	Snowdon Trip
	w/c 22nd June	Assessment Week
	Tues, 23rd June	Forces Family Afternoon Tea @ 2pm
	Thurs 25th & Fri 26th June	Yesr 6 Induction Days @ Burford
	Fri, 26th June	Armed Forces Day
	w/c 29th June	SEN Review Week
	Mon, 29th June	New Reception parent meeting @ 4:30pm
	Tue 30th June	Yr 2 cricket event at Burford
	Wed, 1st July @ 3:45	Stay & Play – New Reception starters

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	Thurs, 2nd July	Stay & Play – New reception starters @ 3:45pm
	Fri, 3rd July	New class experience day
	Fri, 3rd July	Reports out
	Tues, 7th July	Upper School Play Performance 1:30pm and 5pm
	Fri, 17th July	Leavers Assembly at 9:15
	Fri, 17th July	End of Term – school finish 1:15pm

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