

Brize Norton Primary School

Striving, Helping, Inspiring, Nurturing, Excelling

We SHINE for ourselves and each other with kindness.



NEWSLETTER 10 – 24th April 2026

Head Teacher's News

Welcome back to the Summer Term – and what a fantastic start we have had!

The first couple of weeks have been incredibly busy and full of exciting opportunities for our children. We have been delighted to welcome new members of our team, whom you can read more about and meet later in this newsletter. I am sure you will also join the team in congratulating Mrs Drinkwater on her wonderful news as she is expecting a baby.

Pupils have already benefited from a wide range of enriching experiences, including Health and Safety workshops delivered by VolkerFitzpatrick, who are currently working on the RAF base, engaging Eco Virtual Reality workshops, and curriculum enrichment through celebrations such as National Cricket Day, Earth Day, and Purple Up Day, which we marked today.

This term, we are also having a huge push on our OPAL provision. Once again, a HUGE thank you to the Bampton Community Shop for their grant which enabled us to have the lines repainted on the playground and a couple of new activities that the children have already enjoyed using, along with new equipment for the children to enjoy. We are currently in need of metal utensils for the mud kitchen, so if you have any spare ladels etc, please do think of us!

Looking forward to the summer term ahead, we have more enrichment activities planned, which we will share with you in the coming weeks: Sports week, visits from sports people, class visits, Snowdon and much more.

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

SHINE...



This SHINE nomination is for Miss Nelson and Mrs. Townsend who has been going *over and above* in sourcing and creating new opportunities for play. Miss Nelson has had the spade out digging fixings for slides and built a new mud kitchen and Mrs. Townsend has been scouring charity shops for donations. A HUGE thank you from us all.

Attendance:

Buccaneers 96.84%

Hurricanes 98.04% Well Done!

Hercules 93.22%

Voyagers 95.79%

Falcons 94.46%

Contact

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Useful Information

INSET DAY – 1st May

School will be closed on 1st May for an INSET day. Enjoy the long weekend.

VE Day – Friday, 8th May

To mark VE Day, children are welcome to come to school dressed in red, white and blue. All children are encouraged to bring a packed lunch so that we can once again enjoy a street-party-style lunch together. During the day, children will be learning about VE Day, its importance and the historical significance behind the celebrations.

Year 4 and 5 Prospective Burford Secondary School Parent Meeting – 13th May

Parents of children in Years 4 and 5 who are considering Burford Secondary School are invited to a meeting at 3:30pm in the Falcons classroom. The meeting will be led by Mr. Cowley, Head of Year 7, and Mr. Albrighton, Headteacher, who will give an overview of the school's vision and values, the transition timeline, and other useful information, as well as answering any questions.

Stay and Play – Come and Experience OPAL - Friday, 15th May

Come and experience your child's lunchtime through our OPAL provision. You are welcome to join us for all or part of the lunchtime and spend time with your child, allowing them to show you around and what is on offer.

If you would like to join us, please email the school office to let them know. On the day, please come to the gate by the play park at 12pm. We are sure you will enjoy the play time! We hope to see you there.

Sports Day - 8th June

Sports Day is a little earlier this year and will lead us nicely into a fun-packed and busy Sports Week, during which the children will take part in a wide range of events!

This year, we are running two sessions: a sports morning for our youngest children and the Lower School (10am start), and a sports afternoon for the children in the Upper School (1pm start). Children will be competing in their houses and will require a plain T-shirt in the colour of their house. Please speak with the school office if you are unsure of this.

All parents are invited to join us on the recreational ground to watch their child/ren and support their house – please do bring a picnic rug and chairs for your comfort. In the school playground, and between the two events, you are welcome to join us for a picnic. More information will follow in due course.

Art Hands – Supporting Homelessness

We are supporting the Arty Hands project by raising awareness around homelessness as well as supporting those in need. There will be a toiletries donation station in the shared area from Monday, where you can donate toiletries such as toothpaste, shampoo, body wash etc. Children will be introduced to this through an assembly by learning about Hannah's story. If you would like to support the project, your child can bring in an item to donate and pop it in the box. We will have it with us for the rest of this term.

Thank you in advance.



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Other News....



Brize Book Bunch

We had our second meeting at the start of this term. Another lovely session discussing our chosen book, *Puzzled* by P.J. Nichols. Once again, the children impressed me with their contributions and thoughts.

Health and Safety in Construction

The children took part in an interactive session exploring real-life site safety, with hands-on PPE demonstrations and a visit from one of VolkerFitzpatrick's supply chain partners, who brought a construction vehicle for students to see up close.



VR Environmental Workshop

In preparation for Earth Day this week, students explored fragile ecosystems and remote habitats through an immersive VR experience, seeing biodiversity first-hand and understanding the real-world impacts of plastic pollution and climate change.

The session moved learning beyond textbooks, inspiring sustainable habits, and included a virtual museum filled with fascinating environmental facts. A HUGE thank you to the BNSA for funding this experience for the children.



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Purple Up Day was a great success, with children and staff proudly wearing purple to show their support and appreciation of our service children and their families as part of Month of the Military Child. The day helped raise awareness and sparked thoughtful discussions, with pupils engaging positively and enthusiastically throughout. It was wonderful to see our school community come together to mark the occasion in such a supportive and inclusive way.

We celebrated National Cricket Day with great enthusiasm across the school. A huge thank you to Mrs. Rae for leading the day, beginning with an informative assembly that introduced the children to the game and its values, followed by engaging cricket sessions for all pupils. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and it was wonderful to see everyone getting involved.



BRIZE BOOK BUNCH UPPER SCHOOL

NEW BOOK

Our Next Read:
The Girl Who Stole an Elephant
 by Nizrana Farook

Adventure. Courage. Freedom.
 What would you do if you were brave enough to steal the Queen's jewels?

Meet Chaya, a fearless hero who lives by her wits. When a daring theft goes wrong, Chaya escapes into the jungle on the back of a magnificent elephant. But she's not just running from danger—she's uncovering secrets, making unlikely friends, and discovering what freedom truly means.

- Jungle-chases
- Animal companions
- Friendship and bravery
- High-stakes adventure

ALL WELCOME

BOOK BUNCH MEETING 2ND JUNE
 Come along ready to talk, think, and share your favourite moments!

Branching out for Nature at Bampton Library

Cotswolds National Landscape

Saturday May 9th 10.30-12.30pm

The Cotswold National Landscape team are coming to Bampton Library.

Hosted by the Cotswolds Wardens, the volunteer arm of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

WITH GIVEAWAYS AND GREAT PRIZES

- An opportunity for children to join a number of activities, aimed at improving an awareness of nature - helping nature to help you!
- Hands on fun for all the family. Plus some freebies to give away

No booking required

The Library

www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk Bampton

Church View, Bampton, OX18 2NE Tel:01865 815100

Meet our new team members...



Mrs. Rebecca Hitchman – Office Manager

Hello, I recently worked as a Golf and Membership Administrator where no two days were the same. I am looking forward to working with you all as the Office Manager and help everything run smoothly in the background.

Outside work, I enjoy walking, reading and spending time with my family. I am really pleased to have joined the Brize community. I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks and months.



Mrs. Katey Bowhill – Teaching Partner

I am so happy to be back at Brize Norton Primary school, I have been welcomed back with many smiles and hugs from the children it's been so lovely. A little bit about me, I have been working in education for 21 years in a variety of settings.

I have 3 children ages 15, 10 and 8 who keep me extremely busy along with our guinea pigs, cats and our dog. I don't have any hobbies as such, but I do enjoy going camping with my family and being at the seaside.



Mrs. Ann Townsend – Lunchtime Supervisor

I have worked with children for many years, and I am looking forward to bringing my knowledge and skills to Brize Norton.

Outside of work, I enjoy walking and reading. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone over the next few months.

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Lots of smiles and happy faces this week with the new additions to the playground. It was lovely to see...



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthralls young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56246505>
<https://www.teen.com/social-media-algorithms/>



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Dates for your Diary		
Term 5	Thurs, 30th April	RAF Falcons Launch Day – for Sevice chn in Upper School
	Fri, 1st May	INSET DAY
	Mon, 4th May	Bank Holiday
	Fri, 8th May	VE Day
	w/c 11th May	Year 6 SATs week
	Wed, 13th May	Burford Secondary School Information meeting for parents of chn in Year 4 and 5 – 3:20 in Voyagers’ classroom.
	Thurs, 14th May	Buccaneers – Farmer Gows Visit
	Fri, 15th May	Stay and Play @ Lunchtime.
	Thurs, 21st May	Year 5 Enrichment Day – Burford Secondary School
	Thurs, 21st May	Whole School Enrichment Day – more info to follow!
	w/c 25th May	Half Term
Term 6	w/c 1st June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
	Tues, 2nd June	Brize Book Bunch Meeting – Upper School
	Wed, 3rd June	CAMHs and Mental Health Support Team Parent Drop-in 2:15 – 3:15
	w/c 8th June	Sports Week
	w/c 8th June	Phonic Screens
	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 June	Snowdon Trip
	Thurs, 11th June	Hill End Trip for Year 4 and those not climbing Snowdon.
	Mon, 15th June	Parkour Workshop
	Thurs, 18th June	Paralympic Athlete Assembly and Workshops
	w/c 22nd June	Assessment Week
	Tues, 23rd June	Forces Family Afternoon Tea @ 2pm
	Thurs 25th & Fri 26th June	Year 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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