

Brize Norton Primary School

Striving, Helping, Inspiring, Nurturing, Excelling

We SHINE for ourselves and each other with kindness.



NEWSLETTER 11 – 15th May 2026

Head Teacher's News

The summer term has begun with a wonderful sense of momentum and celebration across our school community. As we move toward the final weeks of the academic year, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the achievements, experiences, and joyful moments that have shaped the start of this term.

A major highlight has been the outstanding effort shown by our Year 6 pupils during their SATs this week. These assessments can feel like a significant milestone, yet our pupils approached each day with calm determination and a maturity that impressed staff throughout the school. They should feel extremely proud of what they have achieved.

Our playground has also been buzzing with excitement thanks to the addition of new playground markings and the installation of swings. These vibrant new features have transformed playtimes, offering fresh opportunities for imaginative games, active fun, and shared laughter. Today, we were also pleased to welcome a number of parents who joined us to share in the playtime experience. Their visit offered a wonderful window into what playtimes are like here at Brize - full of energy, creativity, and joyful interaction. It was lovely to see families engaging with the children and gaining a real sense of the positive atmosphere that fills our outdoor spaces each day.

Another memorable moment this term came when our Upper School service children visited RAF Brize Norton to watch the RAF Falcons complete their first parachute jump of the year. Witnessing the Falcons descend in formation was both inspiring and unforgettable, especially for pupils with strong connections to the armed forces.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to celebrating achievements, nurturing curiosity, and creating opportunities for every child to shine. You will see from the Term 6 calendar of events that there is a lot still in store for your children yet to come.

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

SHINE...



A special congratulations to our Year 6s who really did SHINE all week as they sat their Year 6, KS 2 SAT tests. We are very proud of them all.

Attendance:

Buccaneers: 97.82%

Hurricanes: 98.13% WELL DONE!

Hercules: 95.85%

Voyagers: 96.30%

Falcons: 94.52%

Contact

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Useful Information

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 the new term.

NEW Communication

We are excited to share that we are currently working behind the scenes on a new, streamlined communication system for families. Soon, all school information will be accessible through one easy-to-use app. This will bring everything together in one place - from letters and newsletters to payments, messages, and lunch bookings. Our aim is to make communication clearer, quicker, and more convenient for everyone, reducing the number of platforms you need to check and helping you stay connected with school life more easily. More information will follow in due course.

Review of Medication Policy

Following a review of our Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy, we have introduced new measures to support pupils experiencing minor illnesses. The school is now permitted to store Calpol on site.

In circumstances where a pupil is unwell but able to remain in school, staff may administer Calpol, provided parental consent has been granted. Parents must have completed the annual consent form, but verbal authorisation will still be obtained prior to any administration. The consent form will be sent home in the new term. If you do not wish your child to receive medication in this way, this can also be noted on the return form.

All other medications, including prescribed antibiotics, will continue to be managed through existing procedures and will require a separate consent form.

Wet Weather Library

We are wishing to set up a wet weather library with raincoats, waterproof trousers and wellies. We have reached out to some charities to support this. If you have any of the above that your children have grown out of, do think of us as we would appreciate any donations. By having some clothing that children can borrow on rainy days if they have forgotten theirs, means we can get out in all weathers for playtimes, ensuring children remain dry and comfortable in the afternoons.

Brize Village Bash – Sunday, 5th July

As always, we are holding a non-uniform day (Friday, 19th June) in advance of the Village Bash which is on the 5th July. Please donate an item for the tombola: beauty and care products, sweet treats, books and stationery, bottles & food products e.g., tins of biscuits, chocolates. All donations gratefully received – this is the BNSA's largest income generator which funds a lot of whole school events. If you are also available to help on the day of the Bash, please do let the office know, and we will pass your details on.

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Other News....

Rags 2 Riches

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Rags 2 Riches campaign. We raised a total of £42.

Term 4 to 6 KS2 Hockey Club – Thursdays 3:15 – 4pm

Children in years 3 to 6 are invited to an after-school hockey club which will take place on the astro every Thursday with Miss Henley. Children will need to be in PE kits and have trainers. A mouth guard is also required if the children are to use wooden hockey sticks and hard balls.

This club is going to run all the way through to the summer holidays. Children can attend one term, two or all 3. The cost for the club is £10 per term (6 weeks). Please email the office by half term if you require a space for Term 6 and a payment will be made available on School Money.

Term 6 KS2 Girls Football Club – Fridays 3:15 – 4pm

Girls in Years 3 to 6 are invited to join Mrs Jones for an after-school football club. This will take place on the astro, so PE kit and trainers required. If your child would like to join, please email the office by half-term and a £15 payment will be set up for you. All money from this club will go towards our OPAL provision. It will begin the first Friday after the break. Children are to be collected from the playground at 4pm.

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

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

ALL WELCOME

Non-Uniform Day!

Friday, 19th June

Bring in an item you wish to donate
for the **BNSA Tombola**
at the Brize Village Bash!



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SMILE 2005

NHS
Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

How can I look after my oral health and support others this Smile Month?

To find out more please scan the QR codes below to watch these 4 videos.

What is Smile Month? Why is oral health important?

SCAN ME

How can I look after my oral health?

SCAN ME

11th May - 11th June 2026

How can I support the oral health of someone living with dementia?

SCAN ME

How can I support a child who is reluctant to brush their teeth?

SCAN ME

SMILE 2005

Smile Month

NHS
Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

50 Years Celebrating Smiles

11th May - 11th June 2026

Follow these **3 steps** to keep your teeth and gums happy this Smile Month:

- 1
 - Brush your teeth twice a day for 2 minutes, once before bed and at one other time
 - Use a family fluoride toothpaste
 - Spit don't rinse
- 2
 - Cut down on how often you have sugary foods and drinks
- 3
 - Visit your dentist every 6 months or as often as recommended

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life; from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PREMATURE EXPOSURE

13+

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing – so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

Advice for Parents & Carers

START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints – and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.

NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.

RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.

Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist site gmrw3.com and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



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National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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Dates for your Diary		
Term 5	Thurs, 21st May	Year 5 Enrichment Day – Burford Secondary School
	Thurs, 21st May	Whole School Enrichment Day – more info to follow!
	Fri, 22nd May	Cricket Day – children need to wear their PE kit.
w/c 25th May		Half Term
Term 6	w/c 1st June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
	Mon, 1st June	Non-Uniform Day – Bring an item in for Opal!
	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
	Fri, 19th June	Non-Uniform Day – Donations for the Viallge Bash
	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
	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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