BLACKFORDBY ST MARGARET'S *CofE* PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter – November 2026

'By their fruits shall you know them.' Matthew 12:33

🎄 Message from Ms Benson

As we move further into the festive season, I would like to take a moment to say how incredibly proud I was of our children on Remembrance Day. They showed such maturity, respect and understanding throughout our acts of remembrance and were a true credit to our school community. Their thoughtful attitude reflected our school values beautifully and demonstrated the kindness and respect we strive to show every day.

Children in Need Day was also a wonderful success. There was a real sense of fun throughout the school, and it was lovely to see everyone getting involved whilst raising money for such an important cause. The day also gave us an opportunity to reflect on our school value of Hope. By supporting Children in Need, the children learned how their actions can make a positive difference to others and help bring hope to those facing challenges.

I have recently been listening to the children as they rehearse for both the Nativity performances and our Carol Concert. I have been thoroughly impressed by their enthusiasm, confidence and hard work. The children are doing wonderfully and I know you will be incredibly proud of them when you see their performances. We cannot wait to share everything they have been preparing with you.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish all our families a happy and exciting start to the Christmas season.

❤️ Children in Need

We raised £129.91 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this worthwhile cause. Your generosity will help make a difference to children and young people across the UK.

⭐ Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance
12th November to 19th November
Whole schoolattendance :

Attendance Monitoring and Penalties
From 19 August 2024, penalty notice fines may be issued for 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a 10-week period, which constitutes irregular attendance. Attendance including lateness will be closely monitored to prevent this.

Lateness in School
Punctuality is essential for maintaining consistent attendance and supporting effective learning.
Impact of Lateness
Late arrivals disrupt both the child's learning and the classroom environment. Missing initial activities can lead to gaps in understanding and progress. Example: Being 10 minutes late every day equates to nearly 7 full days of lost learning annually.

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days' worth of teaching lost in a year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
30 minutes	20.7 days

🌟What Have We Been Learning?

🎨 Reception Class

This week we have been reading Owl Babies and using the story as inspiration for our artwork, creating some wonderful owl paintings and crafts. We have also been busy learning a new phonics sound. Albert and Theo have particularly enjoyed exploring and building with the blocks.

🎭 Robin Class

Robins have been working hard rehearsing for the Nativity and are looking forward to performing for their families. In Maths, Freddie has enjoyed practising number bonds to 10, while Albie loved investigating whether paper would float during a science activity. Kaleb has particularly enjoyed writing stories during English lessons.

🪟 Magpie Class

Magpies have been exploring the famous artwork The Great Wave by Hokusai and creating their own fantastic versions. Nora especially enjoyed this project. In Maths, the class have been developing their knowledge of square numbers and times table facts, which Izzy says has been her favourite learning this week.

🔭 Owls Class

Owls have been learning all about the solar system, with Einar and Joseph particularly enjoying discovering new facts about space. In English, the class have been improving stories in preparation for writing their own, while in Maths they have been showing great determination as they learn about simplifying fractions.

❄️ Winter HAF Programme

Free Winter Holiday Clubs for Eligible Families

Children aged 4-16 who receive targeted free school meals can access free holiday clubs and trips over the Christmas holidays through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Activities include crafts, sports, games, outdoor play and healthy meals. Booking opens from 24th November.

For more information and bookings visit:
https://eequ.org/leicestershirehaf

🎅 Santa Fun Run

Our annual Santa Fun Run will take place on Thursday 3rd December after lunch.

As this event takes place outdoors, arrangements may change depending on the weather.

Children are invited to wear their favourite Christmas outfit, festive jumper or festive accessories to add to the fun!

🍽️ Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas Dinner will take place on Wednesday 16th December 2026. We look forward to celebrating with our school family and enjoying a festive lunch together. Please look out for booking information from Relish.

🚪 Guess Jenny's New Door Number!

Jenny is moving house and needs your help to raise money for Rainbows Children's Hospice.

Visit the school office and take a guess at Jenny's new house number!
£2 per guess

Open to all families

Winner announced after the Santa Fun Run on 3rd December

All proceeds donated to Rainbows

Will your lucky number be the winning one?

🎭 Nativity Performances

The Nativity is fast approaching and the children are busy rehearsing.

Each family will be issued with:
ONE ticket for each performance

If you would like to swap tickets for a different performance, please return them to the school office and we will do our best to accommodate requests.
Both performances will take place in the school hall.

🍞 Breakfast Club – Childcare Voucher Payments

Don't forget that Breakfast Club can be paid for using eligible childcare vouchers and the Government's Tax-Free Childcare scheme.

Parents wishing to use Tax-Free Childcare can find more information and register online:
🔗 tax free childcare

If you currently use childcare vouchers and need our provider details, please contact the school office.

💙Friends of Blackfordby School (FOBS) Fundraising

We are excited to share that our PTA, Friends of Blackfordby School (FOBS), has signed up to easyfundraising.

This means you can raise funds for the school completely free of charge every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers, including Tesco, Amazon, eBay, M&S, Argos and Sainsbury's, will make a donation to FOBS at no extra cost to you.

The money raised helps support our pupils by funding treats, experiences and activities throughout the year.

Please consider signing up and sharing the link with grandparents, family and friends. The more supporters we have, the more we can do for our children.

See the attached flyer for details and how to join.

🎶 Rocksteady Concert Reminder

A reminder for families of our Rocksteady musicians that the Christmas Rocksteady Concert is coming up soon. We are looking forward to seeing the children's hard work and musical progress showcased.

Our talented Rocksteady musicians have been working incredibly hard learning their instruments and performing together as bands.

We are excited to announce that Rocksteady will be holding a concert in the school hall this December to showcase all their hard work and progress.

It's not too late to join and become part of a rocking band!

🏫 EYFS Open Event

Do you know a child due to start school next September?
We will be holding an EYFS New Starters Open Event on 2nd December from 3:30pm to 4:00pm. This is a great opportunity for prospective families to visit the school, meet staff and find out more about life at Blackfordby.
Please help spread the word to family, friends and neighbours who may be interested.



Nut Free School Reminder

We have children in school with severe nut allergies. Please do not send products containing nuts in lunch boxes or snacks. Thank you for helping us keep all children safe

NOVEMBER

9th - EYFS New Starters Open Evening 15:30 - 16:00

13th - Children in Need - Non School Uniform

16th - 20th - Anti-Bulling Week

DECEMBER

2nd - EYFS/KS1 Nativity

3rd - Santa fun run

8th - Rocksteady Concert 14:30 in hall

15th - KS2 carol service 9:15

16th - Pantomime in school

16th - Christmas dinner day

8th - Close for Christmas

💻 School Website

Don't forget there is lots of useful information available on our school website:
🔗 Blackfordby School Website
Under the Community section you will also find flyers and information about local activities and events taking place over the summer holidays. ☀️

Friends of Blackfordby School (FOBS)



Raise FREE Funds for FOBS When You Shop Online!

We are Friends of Blackfordby School (FOBS), the fundraising group dedicated to supporting the children of Blackfordby St Margaret's C of E Primary School.

Every penny we raise goes directly toward enriching our pupils' school experience – from serving refreshments at school events to funding memorable experiences and treats throughout the year.

You can now support us for FREE every time you shop online through easyfundraising! Over 8,000 retailers—including Tesco, Amazon, Argos, Sainsbury's, and M&S—will donate a percentage of your spend to FOBS at no extra cost to you.

3 simple ways to raise:

1 App

Download our free app on iOS or Android. Choose a retailer, shop as normal, and your cause gets a free donation.



2 Donation Reminder

Add our browser extension and get a handy pop-up whenever a retailer is offering a donation – just click to activate.



3 Website

Log in, pick your retailer, shop, and raise a free donation when you checkout.



Shop with 8,000+ retailers, including:

ebay TUI M&S TESCO Sainsbury's

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-blackfordby-school-fobs

Please share with grandparents, family, and friends – the more people signed up, the more we can do for our children!

Relish!

Merry Christmas

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL LUNCH

Wednesday 16th of December 2026





ROCK STEADY

DOES YOUR CHILD WANT TO PLAY MUSIC IN THEIR OWN BAND?

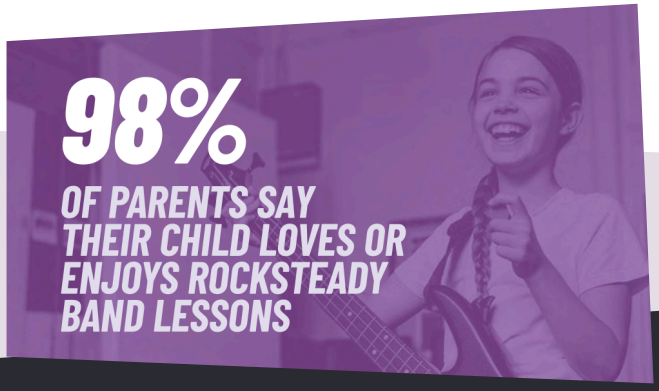


With Rocksteady, children learn to play an instrument through fun and inclusive weekly in-school rock and pop band lessons.

It's the perfect way to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time - all at school! There's no musical experience necessary and instruments for lessons are provided.

Rocksteady lessons are also shown to boost confidence, improve wellbeing and encourage teamwork!

Scan QR code to find out more!





0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com