

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### December

9th - Y1 Victorian Day

11th - Christmas Jumper Day

15th - EYFS/Y1 Nativity @ 2pm

16th - EYFS/Y1 Nativity @ 9:30

18th - Whole School Carol Service @ 2pm

22nd - 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 - Christmas Holidays

### January

6<sup>th</sup> - Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Bocking, the simple act of greeting each child in the morning is more than just a routine to us; it is the basis of our school culture and community spirit. We take immense pride in the way we welcome our pupils each day, setting a positive tone that supports their emotional and social well-being from the moment they arrive.

What makes Bocking unique is the commitment shown by every member of staff, including our site manager, Mr Bain, who personally greets every single child! This level of care and attention is rare in many schools, and it reflects our dedication to making every child feel valued and seen. For me, as headteacher, greeting the children is one of my favourite parts of the day. It offers a precious opportunity to connect with almost every pupil, sharing a simple "good morning - how are you today?" that can brighten their day and foster a sense of belonging.

The significance of these greetings goes beyond mere politeness. For some children, it is a moment to share an urgent piece of information that they feel is important to communicate immediately about a new fact or something that is coming up at the weekend! For others, it is about being recognised and acknowledged as they transition from home to school—a vital step in helping them feel safe, secure, and ready to learn. This also enhances our Life Skills curriculum where we teach the importance of making eye contact when speaking to others and the confidence to respond with further questions.

Our Mental Health Champion, Mrs Aldous, also plays a crucial role in this welcoming process. Positioned at the gate each morning, she not only greets the children but also provides essential emotional support, especially for those who find crossing the school threshold or saying goodbye to a parent or carer challenging. This nurturing environment helps ease anxieties and promotes positive mental health, reinforcing our school's vision of a safe and inclusive space where every child can thrive.

### Notice:

At Bocking, we are committed to supporting the health and well-being of all our pupils as part of the Healthy Schools initiative. We kindly ask that children bring healthy packed lunches to school, as nutritious food is essential for their growth, development, and ability to concentrate throughout the day. Please note that chocolate is not considered part of a healthy packed lunch and should be avoided. For break time snacks, we also request that crisps and chocolate are not included, as these do not align with our commitment to promoting healthy eating habits. There is fruit and sometimes vegetables available throughout break and lunch times for those that need a little extra. Our school dinners are carefully planned to ensure that sugar intake is balanced and controlled across the week, with desserts designed to meet the standards of the Healthy Schools meal plans. If you think you may qualify for Free School Meals beyond year 2, please ask Miss Day at the office who can help you. Dinners should be booked via Parent Pay by Wednesday each week. These should not be changed on the day as meals numbers have already been prepared.

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Cagney

## BEFORE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

**FRI - IROCK**

## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

**Mon - Choir**

**Wed - SCS**

**Thu - SCS**

**Fri - Taekwondo**



## STAR OF THE WEEK

**EYFS - Barnie**

**Year 1 - Maisie**

**Year 2 - Ramona**

**Year 3 - Demi**

**Year 4 - Orin**

**Year 5 - Alice**

**Year 6 - Louis**

## AR READERS

**Now the weather has changed, please ensure your child has a water proof jacket.**

**All items of clothing should be named.**

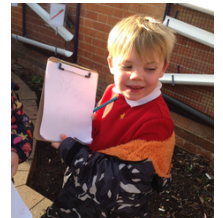
**Water only in bottles please.**

Polite Reminder:  
The school toilets are closed for cleaning from 3:20.

# CLASSROOM NEWS...

## YEAR EYFS

This week in EYFS, we have been learning how to retell the story "Owl Babies" using actions. Having focused on this story for a while, we created a mind map of everything we now know about the story - there was a lot we recalled, even who wrote the story! Then, in maths, we have enjoyed exploring different ways to make the numbers 4 and 5 using two parts, by arranging squares and noticing the parts within our arrangements. As the week progressed, we grew more confident and began describing the two parts as a number sentence - we will soon learn to write this too! During our busy time, we have loved spending time in our outdoor classroom, where our new 'post office' has inspired us to send letters to Santa and role-play as postal workers. Our post office has been very busy with some long Christmas lists!



## YEAR 1

It has been another very busy couple of weeks in Year One where we have been engaged in all our of learning. In English, we have been working on our recount writing, describing what it was like if you travelled back in time to the Victorian times to see Victorian houses. In maths this week we have been finding a part and have introduced the subtraction symbol. In science, we have been testing what materials float and then experiment to see what happens when we add a weight and we have now chosen the materials that we want to use when we design and make our junk model boats.

## YEAR 2

This week, in Year 2 we have continued to explore our new English text, Paddington in Peru! We have continued to explore new vocabulary and use it successfully within our writing. In maths we subtracted across a ten, using the dienes, number-lines and 100 squares. We also had our KS1 shape day where we learned to count the sides of a variety of 2D shapes. In DT, we made our vehicles with movable wheels based on our design briefs from last week. In Science we explored how and why different materials can change shape by bending, twisting, squashing and stretching. Finally, in geography we learned the difference between human and physical features and drew some beautiful images to show the difference.



## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

**92% - EYFS**

**85% - Year 1**

**92% - Year 2**

**95% - Year 3**

**91% - Year 4**

**92% - Year 5**

**92% - Year 6**

Attendance  
target 95%

Please be aware that the gates open at 8:35, and your child is marked late, affecting their attendance from 8:50am. Punctuality is a valuable lifelong skill. Late arrival affects not only the pupil who is late but disrupts the whole class. Where a pupil arrives after the registers close, with no justifiable reason, a U code will be entered into the register. The U code amounts to an unauthorised absence for the whole session. We must warn you, a penalty notice may be issued where there have been at least ten sessions of unauthorised absence during a rolling 10 school week period.

## ONLINE SAFETY..

### Online safety:

Protect Neurodivergent Children from Scams in Games

As we all know, neurodivergent children can be amongst those most vulnerable online, therefore more likely to become victims of things like scams. Those with ADHD, autism or other divergent ways of thinking might not recognise when someone intends to do harm.

Internet Matters have put together a brand new free guide for parents which explores how neurodivergent children's unique traits can leave them open to scams, particularly in games.

You can download the free guide [HERE](#).  
Gadget Gift Guide

Christmas can be an exciting time when many children are given new devices and gadgets. Ireland's online safety charity, CyberSafeKids, have put together a brand new guide for parents and carers covering:

The benefits and risks of popular smart devices and toys.  
What you can do to make them safer.  
Age recommendations  
And more.

You can download the guide [HERE](#).