

WHAT'S COMING UP

October

24th - NON PUPIL DAY
27th-31st - Half Term

November

3rd - Autumn Term

Begins

4th - EYFS 2026

Admissions Tours @ 9:30

6th - EYFS 2026

Admissions Tours @ 9:30

11th - TLC

13th - TLC

27th - Travelling Book

Fair

December

11th - Christmas Jumper
Day

15th - EYFS/Y1 Nativity @
2pm

16th - EYFS/Y1 Nativity @
9:30

18th - Whole School
Carol Service @ 2pm

22nd - 5th Jan 2026 -
Christmas Holidays

January

6th - Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the children start their half term holiday tomorrow, our NPD on Friday is still a day of learning for our staff.

Oracy is a vital component of children's learning, as it underpins their ability to communicate effectively, engage confidently in discussions, and develop critical thinking skills that support progress across the curriculum. At Bocking, we recognise the importance of enhancing oracy skills to enable pupils to make rapid and sustained progress in their learning. To achieve this, on Friday our staff will be upskilled through training and continuing professional development, ensuring they have the expertise to embed oracy strategies effectively into their teaching. CPD is a foundation of school improvement; without it, teachers risk becoming stagnant in their approaches to learning. At Bocking, we ensure we provide our teachers with the best knowledge and understanding, allowing them to deliver high-quality lessons that inspire and support every pupil's growth and achievement.

Our Open Door afternoons each term are an opportunity for the school community to join and witness this firsthand. The year 2s proficiency at sewing was demonstrated as the children showed off their figures that they have been making as a conclusion to their Design and Technology unit of work. Year 5, in small groups created learning maps to show what they have been learning this term representing their team work and showing their excellent presentation in their books; Year 3, led by SCS, showed off their netballing skills with parents joining in and looking like they were having a lot of fun! It seems that in all year groups the children enjoyed having their parents and carers joining in with their learning. Thank you for attending.

Our Year 6 children have been having a great time off site this week and have certainly found their confidence at the PGL centre in Kent. The children had an amazing time, stepping out of their comfort zones to try complete activities that to begin with they were unsure they could even attempt. They were full of stories when they returned of how far they got up the leap of faith, how well their friends did at the assault course and the antics of bedtimes and the early morning dancing! A school residential plays such an important part of the year 6 learning journey and embeds all of our values at Bocking.

I am: Ambitious, Respectful, Responsible, Engaged and I Persevere

Have a lovely half term and stay safe during Halloween,

Mrs Cagney

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mon - Choir

Wed - SCS

Thu - SCS

Fri - Taekwondo



STAR OF THE WEEK

EYFS - Parker

Year 1 - Esme

Year 2 - Lenny

Year 3 - Joshua

Year 4 - Aniamina

Year 5 - Cleo

Year 6 - Whole Class

AR READERS

Y3 - Wren

Y4 - Huxley, Oliver, Bolu

Y5 - Cleo, Olivia, Poppy

Please name all items of clothing. We have so much lost property already!

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 busy retelling Spike Milligan's poem The Ning Nang Nong. We used musical instruments to highlight the 'noisy words' such as bong and clang. We also practised performing the poem in parts, with each group taking a few lines and adding their own actions. We had great fun exploring poetry! Then in maths, we refined building repeating patterns and played games with our talk partners to see if they could spot the error we made deliberately in our repeating pattern. In Understanding the World, we learned about how Diwali is celebrated, creating our own diya lamps, rangoli patterns and mehndi hand art. It has been a very busy week in EYFS!



YEAR 1

On Friday we went to the care home to ask the residents our topic enquiry question. While at the care home we shared toys and games and also heard what it was like to be a child when they grew up. Lots of us played noughts and crosses and some played card games, and some played with the skittles. On Monday we also were very lucky that some of our parents and grandparents came into school to share the toys they played with as children. We have used these lessons to help us determine if Grandma had an Xbox and have decided that she wouldn't have had one. This week in English we have all shown excellent perseverance with our writing as we have completed our first fantasy story. In maths we have been comparing numbers using $<$ $>$ and $=$ symbols, identifying which is more, less or if they are the same. In Art we have been exploring the skill of printing and used lots of different items to print the patterns they had on them

YEAR 2

It's been a busy and brilliant week in Year 2! In maths, the children have been mastering their number bonds to 10, 20 and 100, showing great focus and fluency. In English, they planned, wrote and performed their very own free verse poems – full of expression, rhythm and creativity! In History, the class explored their enquiry question, "Were Brunel, Franklin, Darwin and Kingsley good choices for our school houses?" and shared some thoughtful opinions and persuasive ideas. The children also took time to evaluate their final art pieces, reflecting proudly on how their skills have improved this term. To finish the week, they designed colourful posters all about what makes them amazing – a perfect celebration of their individuality and confidence!



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

89% - Year EYFS

76% - Year 1

94% - Year 2

95% - Year 3

93% - Year 4

91% - Year 5

99% - 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..

Report - Understanding the Impact of News on Children's Wellbeing

There seem to be a lot of reports coming out at the moment. This new report from Internet Matters called Informed or Overwhelmed looks at how social media is reshaping how children and young people consume news, the opportunities and challenges. This is an important one to understand as reports show us that children and young people don't get their news the traditional way, it comes from a range of other sources with social media being a big one. Especially TIKTOK.

This report looks at how distressing news stories, mis and disinformation (plus AI-generated content) can impact a person's wellbeing with the algorithmic design having a big impact in pushing out negative and distressing news, creating anxiety, overwhelming feelings. Over a quarter of children have believed a fake AI-generated story, another 41% think they have. This leaves children feeling embarrassed, confused and less trusting. At 58 pages it's a big report but there is lots of useful information in the Executive Summary if you are time-limited. **You can read the full report [HERE](#).**

Instagram AI Content PG13

Instagram have come out with their latest 'we prioritise teen safety' feature. This time they have introduced a new way for parents to manage their teens' access to one-on-one chats with AI characters. Teen accounts are now to be guided by PG13 movie ratings, which means that users should only see content that's similar to what they would see in a PG13 movie by default.

AI characters (chatbots) are a significant concern. They were introduced into many apps around 3 years ago and there continues to be reports of multiple failures of so-called safety guardrails with children being exposed to chats, advice and guidance which is entirely age-inappropriate.

The new features:

Allow parents to turn off their child's access to one-on-one chats with AI characters entirely.
Allow parents to block specific AI characters.

Parents will get insights into the topics their children are chatting about with AI characters. You can find a more in-depth explanation [HERE](#) for the AI chatbots and [HERE](#) for the teen/PG13 accounts.