

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School



Blackwell First School,
St. Catherine's Rd.,
Blackwell,
Near Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire.
B60 1BN
December 2011

Dear Families,

Happy Christmas to you all! We are in the midst of Christmas festivities here at school and by the end of the week the productions will be over. The children have worked hard and learned so many songs and words and dances in a week. We are very proud of them. Taking part has required persistence and patience and the children have been building up skills required of us all at this busy time!

On Monday it is party day and the children can come in their own party clothes, but please make sure they have sensible shoes and coats for outdoor play. We break up at 3.15pm on Tuesday and hope you have a good Christmas.

The first day back is January 5th and we are off to Derby theatre. We will have an early lunch in school and will leave school at 12noon. The production starts at 2.15pm and we will leave the theatre at around 5pm. We hope to be back by 7pm. Whilst they are at the theatre, the children will have a snack and will then be provided with sandwiches at the start of the journey home. The school building will be shut that day but we have a mobile number for emergencies only. The number is 07583 309 049.

Thank you for your valued support this term and for helping to make Blackwell the successful community school it is.

SUMMING UP THE TERM

Autumn Term 2011 has been a successful term for the school. The children have settled into their new yeargroups well and are making good progress in terms of academic ability and the development of skills for the future, such as independence, teamwork and communication skills.

Thinking about progress towards the school's development plan for this year, the following list gives an indication of how much has been achieved so far this term.

Developing Healthy Lifestyles

- Work has begun on a second Forest School site on the large school field

Achievement

- Progress for the vast majority of children is good or outstanding this term
- Workshops have been offered to Reception parents
- Teachers and Teaching Assistants have all received training on questioning techniques and strategies for helping children think for themselves

Safety

- Outdoor playground rules fitted to support safe, happy playtimes
- Wet room created with shower for children's use when necessary

Making a positive contribution

- Work on respect
- Work on behaviour management techniques that have high expectations and also sanctions that fit inappropriate behaviour

All this whilst inspiring the children with meaningful learning through opening Roman Restaurants or Spas, presenting assemblies, having a Scarecrow Festival, planning and running a Cooking around the World market and experiencing a Christmas Play! We have been busy.

FUNDRAISING

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone for helping to raise £179.85 for Children in Need this year. £80 was from the raffle organised by Sarah Troman (Matthew's Mum). Thank you Sarah! Calendars

The PTA has raised over £750 through the sale of calendars, which will be used to partly fund the theatre trip. Thank you Leanne Gwilliam for the photo shoots! There are still a few remaining in the school office if you would like some last minute presents. Christmas Fair

Profit from the PTA Fair has not yet been finalised but the fair was a huge success and very busy. This will also help to fund the theatre trip.

Huge thanks to the PTA for their hard work.

THANKS

I wish to extend our grateful thanks to you all for support this term. A special thank you to parents/ grandparents who help with Forest School, readers, costume making (Mrs Pavitt, Mrs McClure, Mrs Livesey) and prop making (Mr Pavitt).

I also wish to thank Lesley Penfold (Chair of Governors), Hugh Evans (Vice Chair) and the Governors for their contribution to the leadership of the school. They remain a largely unseen body of people, who work very hard behind the scenes to help make the school the success it is.

DOGS

Just a reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school site for health and safety reasons. As a school we appreciate the problem of fouling on the pavements outside school. I have requested a 'dog waste bin' from the council. You can add weight to my request by also requesting one. Just log onto Bromsgrove District Council website and put in a request yourself. Thank you.

- 19.12.11 Christmas Party morning, Christmas lunch in school and Pantomime in school- PARTY CLOTHES ALL DAY PLEASE
- 20.12.11 School closes at 3.15pm
- 4.1.12 Training day for teachers- school closed for children
- 5.1.12 School re opens for children for the Spring term- Whole school trip to the theatre- children to be collected at 7pm! (SNACKS AND SANDWICHES PROVIDED)

**HOT LUNCH DEADLINE
THURSDAY 12 NOON
FOR LUNCHES THE
FIRST WEEK BACK.**