



February 2012

Dear Families,

Thank you to all of you who completed parent questionnaires. The questionnaires help us to identify strengths of the school and to plan for areas of development. Please see the attached sheet which provides you with feedback on parental responses.

It was good to see that in all areas our positive responses have improved on last year. Last January, during our OfSTED inspection, the Inspectors were overwhelmed by the positive responses of families. So we are delighted that responses this year are even more positive and believe it shows that we are forever improving as a school. We strive to do the best we can for all of the children in our care and always use our vision to support us in our work.

At Blackwell First School we aim to educate the whole child and to ensure children are happy, healthy and fulfil their potential in terms of development of skills for life, social and moral values and academic success.

If you feel that there are any areas that are not being addressed by us in school, please come and discuss them with me. Thank you.

Helping the Children with Learning

As part of recent staff training, a Local Authority Education Advisor, visited school to work with staff on questioning. She demonstrated good questioning techniques during a reading session with a group of Year 2 children.

The children were amazing! They talked and talked about their reading and answered tricky questions posed by the advisor.

After the session, the advisor commented about how fabulous the children were and how well they articulated their learning and thoughts.

Much of this is thanks to the skilful questioning that they experience in school every day and also to the time you spend as parents talking with your children and listening to them. A few months ago, I explained that some questions were better than others at making children think. If you are keen to get your child talking and thinking, ask them questions that require more than a yes/ no answer. Ask them: How do you know? Why? Can you give me an example? Have you ever seen/ done anything like that before? Explain how you did that. Tell me another way you could... Happy thinking!

Letter from Chair of Governors

Attached is a letter from Lesley Penfold, Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body. The Governing Body offers strategic advice to the school and meets regularly to consider the ongoing needs of the school.

HELP

We are desperately short of any spare boys and girls trousers, pants (boys and girls), socks and tights. We use these to change children into when they have the odd accident or become very wet or muddy outside. If you have any of our spare uniform at home or can spare old uniform, please send it in. Thank you.

Payment for Schools

Mrs Bailey and Mrs Hargreaves are delighted with the electronic payment scheme in school called Payment for Schools. This enables you to pay over the internet for uniform, clubs, trips milk, fruit etc.

Many of you are already using it and it saves a lot of administration time in the office. If you would like to use it please log on to the school website www.blackwellfirstschool.com and follow the Payment for Schools link.

We understand that there have been a few difficulties for some first time log ons. For help with this or to find out your log on details, please speak to Mrs Bailey in the office.

10.2.12 Break up for half term

20.2.12 School reopens for children

22.2.12 Violin lessons start

24.2.12 Y3s start learning Olympic Dance to present at the Artrix and the Blackwell Olympics.

27/28.2.12 Parent Consultations

5.3.12 8.45-9.15 School Nurse drop in clinic

9.3.12 Malvern Payment due for Y4s

17.3.12 MAINTENANCE DAY- volunteers please!

23.3.12 Yellow Class assembly 9am

28.3.12 Dance Festival for Y3s- Artrix

30.3.12 Easter Service in St Catherine's- all welcome 2pm TBC

30.3.12 Break up for Easter/ Mrs Webb starts maternity leave

Mrs A Moss (Head teacher)