

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School



Blackwell First School,
St. Catherine's Rd.,
Blackwell,
Near Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire.
B60 1BN
6th September 2010

Dear Families,

Welcome back everyone! We hope that you all had a good summer and are ready for a busy autumn term here at Blackwell First School. Welcome back to all the children and staff, particularly our new children in Reception and their families.

At the start of the year it is a good time to share the Blackwell First School vision and remind everyone of our purpose: **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.**

We are looking forward to starting our new whole school topics. Years 1-4 will be learning all about London and the Great Fire and Reception will be learning "All about me" for the first few weeks in school. Class newsletters will provide you with information about what aspects of topics are being covered.

READY TO LEARN

The school day is from 8.55am-3.15pm and doors open at 8.45am. The children should be in school ready for registration at 8.55am with their book bags, pump bags and water bottles organised! It is helpful for Red Class parents to assist with this process at the start of the year before leaving the children at the class door. New homework books and spelling books for Y1-4 (along with reading books) will be sent home during the first few weeks. Further details to follow.

HAPPY TO HELP

The start of term is always busy as children settle into new routines. Support them by encouraging them to be independent and reassuring them about any changes. If there is anything you are wondering about please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Moss at the end of the school day. We are usually available to speak informally after 3.15pm.

An informal open evening (no appointments) will take place on 22.9.10 5.30-7pm. This is an opportunity for children and parents to come into school and visit classrooms, look at work and informally speak with class teachers. A further Parent Consultation evening (and daytime appointments) will be available after half term.

LEARNING PLATFORM

We will be launching our brand LEARNING PLATFORM this half term so look out for further details. The site will be accessible via our website. At the moment the site is only accessed in school during lessons. In time, once parents and children have had training in its use and safety aspects, it will also be possible to access it from home. This will further develop home school learning.

CLUBS

Before and After school clubs are offered on the school site as a way of extending children's learning, providing additional curriculum linked activities, providing the children with healthy activities in which to engage and stimulate the children's interests.

A list of clubs on offer will be sent home. Please select your child's choices and we will do our best to provide a club of choice. We encourage children in Years 1-4 to attend at least one club. Many Reception children are weary after the long day at school so we do not offer clubs to these children. Some clubs are run by outside providers, who have current clearance and qualifications. Some are run by school staff. Charges made by the school are for costs incurred and for buying new equipment/ resources for the club. You will notice that many clubs encourage the healthy lifestyle choices we encourage at Blackwell.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Last year a significant amount of focused work took place and the good academic results alongside the development of the children's social skills, reflected the hard work of both the children, families and the school staff. Please see the attached School Development Plan outline, indicating areas that the school will focus on this year.

LOST

At the end of the day finding a lost jumper can be a problem in a school where maybe half of the children may be wearing the same size jumper!

Please name all items of clothing (including coats, PE kits and lunch boxes).

Thank you



Medical Needs

If your child has an inhaler, epipen or any long term medication administered by school, please ensure it is in date and in school. Letters authorising school administration of all medication are required before staff can administer. Please also remember to inform us of changing medical needs so that we can update your child's medical records.

Thank you.

Mrs A Moss (Headteacher)

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Over the summer a significant amount of work has been completed on the school site. We are pleased with the refurbishment of the administration areas to include a medical room. Thank you to all involved: Mrs Price for her decorating skills; Lesley Penfold and Hugh Evans for contributing their time and efforts over the break and the school staff.

Just a reminder- the Red Class outdoor area and trail are **OUT OF BOUNDS** for any children before and after school for their own safety and to ensure that areas set up by teachers are not disturbed before the school day starts!

Work has also taken place to further develop safety in school. If you need to take your child out of school during the day, you must go to the school reception and office staff will fetch them from their classroom. The children will need signing out by you.

At the end of the school day the children will only be dismissed once their adult family member has been seen. If other arrangements for collecting are necessary, then parents must notify class teachers. Thank you for your co-operation. We all want the children to be safe.

DATES

- 6.9.10 Start of term
- 20.9.10 Reception children full time/ CLUBS START this week
- 22.9.10 5-7pm Open Evening for all parents
- Harvest Festival date- TBC
- 25.10.10-29.10.10 Half term
- 3.11.10 Parent Consultations 4-7pm OR
- 3.11.10 Parent Consultations morning- Green Class
- 3.11.10 Parent Consultations afternoon - Blue Class
- 4.11.10 Parent Consultations morning- Red Class
- 4.11.10 Parent Consultations afternoon- Yellow Class
- 18.11.10 Storynight 6-7pm and Book Fair
- 29.11.10 CLUBS END this week
- 17.12.10 School closes at 3.15pm for Christmas Break