

NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

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

June 2020

Dear Families,

What a busy last half term it was! There was an art exhibition online and a sport's day that raised almost £1500 for Acorns, a Yellow Class newspaper to replace the 'Family Assembly' and much learning at home and school. Thank you all for your tremendous support of both the children and the school.

The appearance of the new class teddy bears and our HAPPY GATE along with chalked pictures around Blackwell brought everyone together.

As we embark on a new half term together, the last of this year, there are changes afoot as Nursery, Reception and Year 1 return to us in addition to key workers and we continue with Home Learning for those still at home, learning through our parentapp and YouTube channel. We have chosen UNITY as the universal value for Collective Worship this week, uniting us all in our new half term.



The Art Exhibition on YouTube provided an opportunity to share and celebrate artwork created last half term.

Hello 'Stay at Home superheroes' and 'In School superheroes'

Supporting a return to school

The YouTube film welcomes children back to school and shares the school site and new routines with you all.

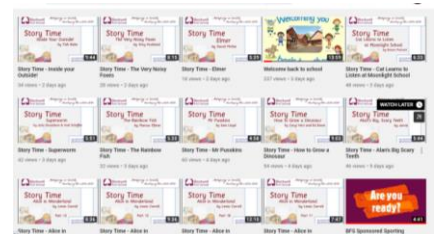
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFfZHeLZYag>
Many of the children returning have watched this now and it will help them manage the changes when they return.

We hope that other children will also watch and develop an understanding of how BFS has changed but also, most importantly, how it has stayed the same.

As you watch the film, you will see that although there is a giant marquee and lunchtime is outside, most of the school remains relatively unchanged except for the movement of some tables and the creation of 'Mini Bubbles' for Before and After School Club.

During their time in school this half term, whenever the children return, we will use this valuable time before the summer holiday to provide some closure for the children with their teachers and prepare them for their return in September into a new class. We hope this may be possible with the other year groups as the half term progresses and have plans in place to support transition, in whatever form.

Join us on YouTube to listen to stories and help the children stay connected to school. We have used our channel to launch our Sporting Week and display the children's artwork. We will also upload Induction sessions for our new Nursery and Reception children later this month.



Blue Class children enjoyed creating underwater creatures inspired by their Literacy work.

Here to Help!

During this time, many of you have had and are having wonderful experiences with the children at home and finding out all about the children's learning in ways you never thought you would. Tania has mastered the 'Bus Stop' method much to Eva's amusement! (Yellow Class)

There are, however, times when things are less than jolly and this time can be testing for everyone so do remember that we are here to help and to signpost you should you need support or someone to listen. The phonecalls home from the teachers will continue for those classes not yet in school and for those children unable to join us yet from Nursery, Red or Green, a member of staff will continue to call.

We are employing the services of our Educational Psychologist for both whole school work and also individual family work, where this is needed. Anita Soni has been integral in planning for the children's return to school as well as providing ongoing support and guidance for maintaining strong relationships whilst at home. Other support is available through:

Worcestershire Here 2 Help-

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

Safeguarding-

head@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk

General enquiries-

office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk

Sheri Gidney and team at St Catherine's Church-

sherigidney@gmail.com

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This week we are considering UNITY, such an important value at this time when we are working as two separate versions of school, at home and in school. This Collective Worship, available on the parentapp, considers how the United Nations leads by example in unifying nations across the globe. We have used artwork by Norman Rockwell and Marc Chagall to exemplify the aspects of peace and unity, values on which the UN are founded. We share our 'We will Sing' film and provide an opportunity to join together to sing, using the hymns from our website. We hope that you find time to reflect on the value of unity and feel a sense of connectedness .

Mrs A Moss (headteacher)

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

Sporting Week 2020- well done everyone for setting yourselves great sporting challenges before half term and raising almost £1500 for Acorns.

Art Exhibition- view our art exhibition on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6swwqa0Ho0>

This represented so much beautiful art that the children have experienced through their topic before half term. Well done Team BFS!

POSSIBLE SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

As we do not yet know whether we will be fully open or not, we cannot definitely announce summer Holiday Club arrangements.

If we are fully open, then we will open for normal Holiday Club for at least four weeks this summer. This will enable the children to have an additional chance to socialise and time in school without formal learning and it will allow us to offer some transition back for those who may find another long break a challenge.

It will also allow us to recoup some of our losses sustained as a result of school closure during the summer term.

If we are expected to be socially distant, we will consider a streamlined version but will still hope to offer a service for those who would like this provision.

We will keep you informed as soon as we know more...details to follow shortly.

Dates

All dates are currently postponed

Induction for new Nursery and Reception children.

The school site is currently closed to external visitors as directed by the Government. For those children starting Nursery or Reception in September 2020, we are unfortunately not able to offer on site induction procedures. Instead, we will share weekly stories, messages and tours of the classrooms and site with you on our YouTube Channel from week beginning 15th June, 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming you to Blackwell First School and meeting you all in person.

For Year 4s- bellboating and residential trips are currently postponed. We will notify you of alternative dates for both and have provisionally booked dates during the summer holiday or a weekend in September, depending on when we are able to open.

Thank you.