

Yellow Class enjoying  
the trail at playtime.



Blue Class visited 'Rosa Lodge' the matron's house at the sanatorium- they discovered interesting evidence from wartime Blackwell.



Dear Families,

Welcome back everyone. What a great start to the school year we have had this week. Welcome to our new families both in Red Class, Nursery and across the school. At the start of the year I remind everyone (staff, parents, children and governors) of the school aim:

**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 delighted that we have recently been awarded Platinum Sports award and also discovered that we are one of only two primary schools in the whole of the West Midlands who hold the Platinum Artsmark, showing our seriously we take the development of the whole child.

Here is a sample of what some parents wrote at the end of the year on their feedback forms...

*...another smashing year at Blackwell...the relationship you made with her from very early in the year has made her time with you so enjoyable...*

*...he has loved being in your class (and says you're really funny!)...*

*...an absolutely amazing year. His progress has been very steep...*

*...we are both really pleased with his progress, especially his... social skills...*

*...we are overjoyed with his school report and what he has achieved this year...thank you so much for your dedication and support...*

*...she has gained confidence throughout the year. This is down to your support, encouragement and teaching over the last year...*

*...she has so much enthusiasm for learning, all through the care, support and fantastic teaching from those at Blackwell...*

Please see the new academic year's School Development Plan headlines attached, to see our focus for development this year. We are looking forward to starting our new whole school topics. Years 1-4 will be learning all about "Blackwell Long Ago" with a focus on what Blackwell was like for children during WW1 and WW11 and Reception will be learning "All about me" for the first few weeks in school. Mrs Mander is helping Nursery children 'learn the ropes' and follows their interests as they learn routines and become experts at tidying up with a little help from experienced Nursery children! Class newsletters will provide you with information about what aspects of topics are being covered.

Exploring the stream  
in Red Class.



Nursery settling  
into the sand.

Reading to  
Bertie and  
Peggy in  
Purple  
Class.



Exploring new resources  
in Green Class.

**WELCOME** 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 myself 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 25.9.19 at 6-7.30pm. This is an opportunity for children, parents and the community to come together into school and visit classrooms, look at work and informally speak with class teachers. Further Parent Consultation days will be available after half term to discuss children's work and progress.

**Sports** – Mrs Webb is busy planning for the sporting events on the calendar this year. All children from Reception to Year 4 will participate in a competitive Bromsgrove wide event during the year- details to follow. Well done to everyone, led by Mrs Webb for achieving the Platinum Sports Award.

**Arts** – Miss Foster and Mrs Grainger visited before the summer to introduce the children to flute and violin lessons. If you would like your child to have flute/ violin/ recorder or piano lessons with our peripatetic teachers, please ask at the office for a letter. They are a perfect opportunity to introduce children to instrumental lessons in an informal way and music lessons support children's development.

**Blackwell School Club** is our school run Out of School Care provider. We are open from 7.15am until 6pm and provide a range of play based activities as well as breakfast and tea in a nurturing environment. Please see the office or Mrs Moran/Mrs Edney for details.

**Afternoon school clubs** are offered on the school site for children from Reception onwards 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. These are free of charge. This term your children will be engaged in some of the clubs listed below:

- Art- to reinforce curriculum learning and develop creativity
- Music- to support curriculum development and communication
- Sport- to develop core skills of balance, strength and stamina
- Film- to engage children in classic stories, developing language and creativity
- Sewing- learning new skills and problem solving
- Forest School- appreciating the outdoors and co-operation
- Crafts- developing creativity and communication
- Story- reading and sharing stories to develop language
- Construction- developing gross motor and creativity
- Country Dancing- developing performance and co-operation
- Jigsaw- developing fine motor, visual memory, co-operation and resilience
- Yoga and Smart moves- developing gross motor and co-operation

## Medical Needs and administering medication in school

For children with medical conditions that require support above and beyond the average child in mainstream provision, we follow guidance as set out by the Department for Education in the document 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions- April 2014'. The school policy is available from the school office on request.

### Administration of medication

In light of government guidance, when children are well enough to be in school, but require medication (such as antibiotics) we ask that parents request that 'where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours' (Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions- April 2014). Where this is not possible, in agreement with the headteacher, school staff will administer medication with written parental consent and only when in date medication is received in original packaging that is clearly labelled and includes instructions for administration, dosage and storage. (This includes travel sickness medication). This will be administered at or as close to 12 noon as possible.

If your child has an inhaler, ipipen or any long term medication, please ensure that it is in date and in school. School documentation needs completing by parents prior to medication being administered. Please also remember to tell us of changing medical needs so that we can amend school records and ensure the best possible care is available.

### SITE DEVELOPMENTS

As always, the school has had work completed over the summer holiday. Our 'School Room' will enable multi agency meetings to take place in a quiet and confidential venue and for us to host meetings and training sessions to support professional development.

We are also able to host community events and will develop this use throughout this year.

Thank you so much to the dedicated staff who have spent so much time over the holidays preparing for the start of term, enabling the site to be so well looked after and running the holiday club. It is a delight to be part of such a busy, happy school.

We looked forward to an exciting year ahead.

**WELLIES** – We hope that you don't mind, but Mrs Cain would like to mark the children's initials on the back of their new wellies to help us quickly find pairs before Forest School. Thank you.

### EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We are currently planning Educational visits and visits to school by visiting artists for this academic year as the children benefit hugely from the memorable experiences that these visits provide and the practical nature of the visits enhance their learning. Children will experience a theatre visit, a visit to an art gallery and a Stone Age experience visit this year. There will also be events for families to support your involvement in school life, starting with open evening on 25.9.19. We also look forward to our first event, a Memory Café, where children will share wartime experiences with members of the community.

**THE BLACKWELL KITCHEN** – Mrs Barker is in her sixth year as School Cook in 'The Blackwell Kitchen' and is doing a superb job alongside Mr Hopkins in preparing such delicious, healthy meals for the children. Everyone who visits, from kitchen inspectors to other headteachers, comment on the quality of the food. We look forward to welcoming Red Class to lunchtimes next week, but it is good to see so many Year 3s taking up the option of School Meals once it is no longer free. It is so good to see how well the children eat our school meals when they are with their peers, helping to develop good eating habits. Our Nursery children are eating their dinners brilliantly. Well done.

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP** – We start this term with 'New start' discussing making positive changes before moving on to 'Responsibility' next week, where we will consider the UN Rights of the child and associated responsibilities. We will cover the rule of law during this time as part of British Values education. Rev Paul Clarke has now retired and a group of volunteers connected with St Catherine's will visit each half term and contribute to the children's developing morality alongside other visitors considering the values education that drives our vision.

**PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY** – We now have a parent governor vacancy and will send out a letter inviting people to express their interest in this position. Please ask Mrs Moss if you wish to find out further details.

**CHRISTMAS** - It may seem a long way off, but it will be here before we know it!

We want to give you plenty of notice for booking off time from work so the dates of concerts are printed at the end of the letter and the website. Please note that all children (Reception- Year4) will perform in the church this year. A Coffee Afternoon with songs is planned for Nursery.

Please note that there are two Christmas Performances. We request that you only bring 2-3 people to a performance as space is limited. Although we do not have a toddler performance this year and you are welcome to bring a little one as long as they sit on your lap, please do go to the 'Wheel' room if they become restless. Thank you.

**UNIFORM** – Please ensure that all uniform is named as even with varying sizes it is tricky matching unnamed jumpers to owners! Children (YR-Y4) need both trainers and pumps in school for indoor and outdoor PE lessons. They also need wellies, thick socks and gloves. Lost property is taken to relevant classes when named but where it is unnamed, you may need to hunt around several classes.

**PFTA**- The Parent Friend and Teacher Association helps to raise money for the school to spend to support children's learning. The group meets every half term and is looking for new members to support its work. Please come along to the first meeting this year on 16.9.19 7.00pm at school. Last year over £18,000 was raised for resources which would otherwise not have been possible, so please come along and find out how you can support the children's experiences through fundraising.

### Diary Dates Autumn term

2.9.19 - 3.9.19 School closed for TE Days  
4.9.19 School opens for children  
16.9.19 PFTA meeting at school- 7pm- all welcome  
23.9.19 Book Fair after school Monday-Thursday this week  
25.9.19 Open Evening for current families and the community- 6-7.30pm- all welcome  
27.9.19 Memory Cafe - Local History study- invited guests  
16.10.19 Open Evening for prospective families for Reception/ Nursery 2020- 6.30-7.30pm  
24.10.19 Purple Class assembly- 8.45am- families welcome  
24.10.19 School closes for children  
25.10.19 School closed for TE Day  
28.10.19 - 1.11.19 Half Term  
4.11.19 School opens for children  
5.11.19 Individual school photographs  
6.11.19 Family learning evening - 6-7pm- Red Class families welcome  
11.11.19 Influenza vaccinations  
19/20/21.11.19 Parent consultation meetings  
6.12.19 Christmas Fair - 6pm  
10.12.19 Piano concert for Mrs Cutler's pianists- 3.30pm  
11.12.19 Piano concert for Mrs Grew's pianists - 3.30pm  
13.12.19 Christmas Concert filming morning- please order your DVDs!  
13.12.19 Christmas Lunch  
17.12.19 Christmas Concert- Red and Green Classes- 9.30pm St Catherine's Church- 2/3 adults per child welcome  
17.12.19 Christmas Concert- Purple, Yellow and Blue Classes- 1.30pm St Catherine's Church- 2 adults per child welcome  
19.12.19 Christmas Concert - Purple, Yellow and Blue Classes- 9.30pm St Catherine's Church- 2 adults per child welcome  
19.12.19 Christmas Concert- Red and Green Classes - 1.30pm St Catherine's Church- 2/3 adults per child  
(If toddlers attend concerts, please sit them on an adult's lap and take them into 'The Wheel' at the side of the church if they become restless. Photographs and filming is welcomed but no images/ films are to be uploaded onto social media for child protection reasons).  
20.12.19 Party Day- children may wear own clothes and remember sensible shoes and an outdoor coat are still required. Pantomime day.  
20.12.19 Christmas Coffee sing song- 2.30pm- Nursery families  
20.12.19 School closes for children

Spring/Summer dates are on the school website [www.blackwellfirstschool.com](http://www.blackwellfirstschool.com)