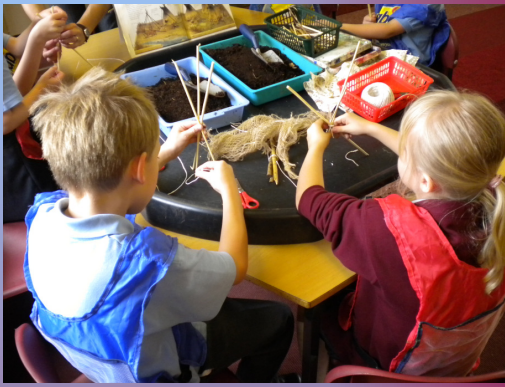


Let us start your learning journey...



Blackwell
First School

Support



**Blackwell
First School**



*"We learn new things
every day."*

Madelin, aged 5



*"The best things about
school is how kind
everyone is."*

Tom, aged 8



*"I like working with
others. "*

Sam, aged 8 and

Jacob, aged 8

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**Blackwell
First School**

OUR VISION

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

In order to develop well rounded children, Blackwell offers:

- Stimulating and creative learning, with a focus on basic skills
- Education to support future careers
- Skill development centered around personal and social skills
- Opportunities to develop healthy lifestyles

OUR CURRICULUM

Curriculum

Our Early Years and Primary curriculum offers stimulating and creative learning with a focus on the basic skills of speaking and listening, reading, writing and maths. In order to equip the children for their whole lives, Blackwell develops well rounded children for the future through the development of personal and social skills, healthy lifestyles and skills for life, including ICT.

We work as a school community on whole school topics, over a five year rolling programme, which focus strongly on the learning process. Each topic lasts for a few weeks and children work towards an outcome whilst developing learning and social skills during their project work. Topics are designed to develop a sense of community and citizenship and an appreciation of the world in which we live. Our Forest School work based on a Scandinavian outdoor learning philosophy supports this ethos. We regularly invite visitors to enhance curriculum work and also participate in relevant educational visits.

Foundation Stage curriculum

This is the curriculum for children prior to and including the reception year in school. The focus is on ensuring children develop in a safe environment that supports their well being, social skills and increased personal independence. Skills and knowledge are developed through relevant and enjoyable planned learning experiences. A strong emphasis is placed on practical 'hands on' activities and the use of the outdoor areas in school. The Foundation Stage has six areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Mathematical development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical development
- Creative development

Primary curriculum

This is the curriculum for children from 5 to 11 years of age. The focus is on ensuring children make progress in the key areas of learning (basic skills) whilst developing skills across the whole curriculum. At Blackwell we foster a love of learning with an emphasis on developing skills for life (including collaboration, enquiry, communication, problem solving and independence) through our topic work. The Primary Curriculum subjects taught are:

- English
- Maths
- Information and Communication Technology
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Personal Social Health Education
- Music
- Art
- Design Technology
- Modern Foreign Languages (French)





Blackwell
First School

OUR SCHOOL DAY

8.45-55am Doors open- children arrive

8.55am Registration

9.05am Collective Worship

9.20am Morning lessons

12.00-12.55pm Lunch

1.00pm Afternoon lessons

3.15pm End of the school day

Arrival at school

Children may come into school from 8.45am and staff will be in their classrooms ready to welcome them. The school day officially begins at 8.55am. All children are expected to be in class by this time for registration. Latecomers must sign into the school office.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place every morning, where we celebrate the new school day. Each week certificates are awarded to individuals for effort, achievement, attainment or for being a good, caring school citizen. We also celebrate birthdays during Collective Worship on Wednesdays.

Wake and Shake

Wake and Shake sessions are twice daily aerobic routines that the children take part in, in order to develop health and fitness and readiness for learning. A new routine is learned each half term and a school competition is held and the winning class is presented with a cup as 'Wake and Shake Champions'.

Break Times

Morning play times are taken when most appropriate for individual classes. A drink (milk or water) and healthy snack (from home or purchased from the school healthy tuck shop) are consumed during the morning. Afternoon breaks are Active Breaks and are taken when appropriate for individual classes. They consist of learning skipping skills, traditional playground games and aerobic activities designed to develop fit and healthy individuals. All children should have a named school water bottle in school in order for them to have access to drinking water during the day.

Lunch Times

At lunchtime, children may purchase hot meals (pre ordered) or bring healthy lunches from home. High priority is given to healthy eating and the development of good social skills. Children also enjoy an outside play over the lunchtime period.

End of the day

School finishes at 3.15pm. Children are dismissed by staff to their parents or a nominated collector. A child will only be allowed to go with someone other than their parent if the teacher has been **notified beforehand**, stating the name of the collector.

Clubs

The Montessori Before and After School Club is run in the Methodist Church Hall in Blackwell and details are available through the school office. A wide variety of clubs is offered on the school site and they vary on a termly basis.

Absence

All absences must be reported to the **school office** in order for them to be authorised. Children may be absent for holidays during term time, although this is discouraged. Authorised absence for holidays must be requested from the head teacher and is limited to 10 school days in an academic year.

Medication

If your child has medical needs please inform the office staff, head teacher and class teachers. A supply of appropriate medication such as inhalers should be kept in school. Routine medication is not administered by school staff. If a child needs prescription medication, it must be administered by a parent or after written consent, the office staff.

OUR SCHOOL STAFF

Head teacher: Mrs A Moss

TEACHERS

Senior teacher: Miss H Townsend – Years 3 and 4

Teacher: Mrs F Webb – Years 2 and 3

Teacher: Miss K Sims – Years 1 and 2

Teacher: Mrs R Wilford– Reception

Teacher: Mrs S Williams - Reception

Teacher: Mrs P Barton – across classes

ADMINISTRATORS

Mrs D Bailey

Mrs M Hargreaves

Mrs C Border – Finance administrator

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Higher Level Teaching Assistant: Mrs M Moran – all classes

Teaching assistant: Mrs S Cripps – Years 3 and 4

Teaching assistant: Mrs L Woodhead– Years 3 and 4

Teaching assistant: Mrs M Morgan – Years 2 and 3

Teaching assistant: Miss L Aubury– Years 1 and 2

Teaching assistant: Mrs V Rudd – Reception

Teaching assistant: Mrs J Franklin – Reception

Teaching assistant: Mrs L Joiner – Reception

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS

Mrs V Rudd

Mrs M Morgan

Mrs L Joiner

Miss L Aubury

CLEANER IN CHARGE

Mrs D Thornton



OUR GOVERNORS, PTA and COMMUNITY LINKS

GOVERNORS

It is the governing body's role to support the head teacher in leading the school and act as a 'critical friend'. The governing body consists of a range of motivated and committed members with a wide variety of experiences which support the life of the school.

Chair of governors: Mrs L Penfold

Vice chair of governors: Mr H Evans

Governors:

Mrs A Moss

Mrs C Hughes

Mrs C Kirkby Webb

Mr S Checkley

Mrs L Gwilliam

PTA

The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is a group of volunteers that meets every half term to organise fundraising events on behalf of the school. Money raised directly benefits all children and provides the school with additional funding to support the curriculum. Annual events include: a Promises Auction; a Christmas Fayre; a Quiz Night and a Summer Fayre.

All parents and teachers are members of the PTA and are welcome to attend any meetings. Meetings are held at Blackwell First School or Blackwell Club.

Chair of PTA: Mr P Price

Treasurer: Mrs E Sudworth

Secretary: Mrs N Smith

COMMUNITY LINKS

Links are made with the local community through liaison with St. Catherine's Church and the Reverend Philip Swan, the Parish Council, a gardening club run by the Burcot Garden Centre and governors, weekly reading sessions led by Burcot Grange Residential Home residents on the school site and Cadbury's.



OUR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

In addition to the Montessori Before and After School Club which operates in the Blackwell Methodist Church Hall, Blackwell First School offers a choice of after school clubs on the school site.

Each term a new selection of clubs is on offer for a nominal charge and children can select from a wide range. We are proud to offer clubs that reflect the healthy lifestyle ethos of the school.

Clubs recently on offer include:

- Gymnastics
- Tennis
- Football
- Netball
- Dance
- Art
- Guitar
- Recorders
- Forest School
- Gardening
- French



OUR POLICIES

All policies are available on request from the school office. They include Teaching and Learning policy, Child Protection policy (Safeguarding), ICT policy, Behaviour policy, Complaint Procedures and Subject policies.

CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING

At Blackwell First School we follow all guidelines for child protection to ensure all our children are safe and cared for at all times.



OUR UNIFORM

The wearing of school uniform is an expression of belonging to our learning community and all children are expected to adopt the following dress code:

- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- Sky blue shirt or blouse
- Burgundy cardigan, pullover or sweatshirt (with school badge*)
- Blue and white checked dress (in Summer)
- Grey shorts (in Summer)
- Black school shoes

For P.E. lessons the code is as follows:

- White polo shirt (with school badge*)
- Navy or white shorts
- Black pumps for indoor lessons
- Trainers for outdoor lessons
- Burgundy sweatshirt/navy jogging bottoms

Pump bags, book bags and water bottles are also part of our essential school equipment. (These items may be ordered from the school office).

Small wristwatches and stud earrings are the only items of jewellery allowed, on health and safety grounds. These items should be removed for P.E. lessons.

N.B// All items of clothing must be **clearly named**, including vests, socks and shoes.



ADMISSION

Blackwell First School strives to ensure that every child settles quickly into school. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to school regularly prior to entry.

The induction programme for prospective Reception children and parents

Before admission

- open morning and evening – Autumn term
- weekly story club (Easter to July) which provides an extended opportunity to make new friends and meet the teachers
- induction evening – Summer term
- induction day – Summer term

After admission

- gradual entry during the first 2 weeks
- new parent's meeting – during first few days of the Autumn term
- parent consultation meeting – Autumn term

Admission for pupils with disabilities

We offer provision to support those children with disabilities. The Accessibility Legislation (2003) ensures that the school is open to all children.



OUR CLASSES

There are four classes at Blackwell First School.

Red Class – Reception

Green Class – Years 1 and 2

Yellow Class – Years 2 and 3

Blue Class – Years 3 and 4



Red and Blue Classes are
in the oldest part of the
school, built in the 1870s.

Green and Yellow Classes are in the classrooms
near the small field.



OUR CALENDAR

Autumn Term - 3.9.09 (Staff only- 3.9.09 and 4.9.09)- 18.12.09

Half term 26.10.09-30.10.09

Spring Term – 4.1.10 (Staff only – 4.1.10 and 5.1.10) – 1.4.10

Half term 15.2.10-19.2.10

Summer Term – 19.4.10 – 23.10.10

Half term – 31.5.10-4.6.10 (Staff only – 7.6.10)

OUR TOUR

Come and see what life is like for our children at Blackwell First School.



CONTACTS



Blackwell First School

St. Catherine's Road

Blackwell

Near Bromsgrove

WORCS B60 1BN

Tel: 0121 445 1622

Fax: 0121 445 6072

E-mail: **office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk**

Website: www.blackwellfirstschool.com

Head teacher: Mrs A Moss

Administrators: Mrs D Bailey/Mrs M Hargreaves

