

NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

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

April 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the summer term at Blackwell First School. As we start this term, the teachers have already assessed the children through observations and daily learning tasks. As a result, the children really are ready to learn and we are helping them to make strong progress as we start the last term of this academic year.

Following parent consultations, in order to support your children, we ask that you work on any targets shared by the class teachers during meetings last half term or any areas on the half termly homework sheet. This sheet identifies the learning that the children are experiencing each half term and can be used as a discussion point, even if the optional homework is not completed.

Some of the easiest areas to support, but also the areas requiring the most repetition, are spelling practice of key/ tricky words, times tables (Y2-4), number bonds and doubles and halves to 20 (YR-2) and reading.

As we often mention, reading is the means by which we open up all learning and, as a result, the world. The more help you can provide with reading, the better. Below are a few ideas for helping with reading:

- **PRACTISE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL READING BOOK** – Hear them read their familiar book in Red, Green and Purple Classes and listen to them read their books in Yellow and Blue Classes.
- **READ ALOUD** – Reading aloud to your children shows them that reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.
- **FAMILY READING TIME** – Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.
- **BOOK CHAT** – Book chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too.

Research shows that children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.

Our first topic this term is 'Take a Trip' and each class will be learning through Geography, Science and RE. Yellow Class will read 'Ocean meets Sky' and Blue Class will read 'Journey to Jo'burg'. As part of their work, they will learn about a European country. From the Far East to Africa and back to Europe, they will be taking a few trips.

Purple Class will read a story from India called 'Pattan's Pumpkin' and Green Class will read 'The Suitcase' introducing them to African countries and considering immigration and refugees. Red Class will focus on 'Anna Hibiscus' and find out about contrasting places.

Uniting all of the classes, the children will plan for a whole School Festival on May 16th (this is a children only event).

Look out for the class newsletters which will explain more about the children's learning for this half term and how you can support them to make more progress with tasks to practise at home.

Please come along to our '**Sport's Day**' on 24th May from 9am- 11am on the large field. (Nursery will follow in the afternoon). Please wait in the large circle marked on the field. Bring your money as 'Tea and Toast' will serve during the morning/ afternoon. Family can come along and you may wish to bring blankets/ picnic seats. Let's hope for good weather. If it is rained off, we will rearrange for after half term.

Thank you for your support as always and we look forward to a good term and some sunny weather.

Best wishes, Mrs Moss



Easter Holiday Club 2024

We have really enjoyed having a Holiday Club so that the children from different classes could play together. We even welcomed back some of our 'old' pupils. We thank Miss Townsend, Mr Beattie, Miss Hine, Miss Bailey, Mrs Webb, Miss Kuriger and Mrs Marks for running club during this holiday and for all staff who supported us in opening.



Easter celebrations with 'Singing on the Steps', a choir concert, a recorder concert, assemblies and storynight ended the Spring term perfectly.



Summer Holiday Club is running during the first week of the summer holiday and at the end of August. Booking forms will be available shortly.

'Tea and Toast'

In order to continue to offer the strong provision that we do, with high staffing levels and excellent resources, we rely heavily on the PFTA for additional funding. In collaboration with the PFTA, we opened our 'Tea and Toast' community café in 2022. We are open between 8.30-9.30am and also 3-4pm. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and our regular customers who have supported us in retaining our current staff this year.

Knowing that you are supporting school by purchasing a tasty treat from us will make your purchase extra special! Many thanks to our 'volunteers' who will run the café each day.

Teacakes
Toast
Cakes
Coffee
Tea
ALL PROCEEDS TO
SCHOOL FUND

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

SPORT – We held our Wake and Shake competition last half term and the winners were the children of Green Class. There are still two competitions this year so we look forward to celebrating a new class winning next time.



SCHOOL DIRECT/ SCITT – TRAIN TO TEACH

If you know someone who would like to train to teach, please let them know that they can train with us through Bromsgrove Primary Alliance and can email office@bptsaworks.ch.uk
This option of School Direct/SCITT training is only available to candidates who already hold a degree and is a one year full time programme.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

On their return to school after the Easter break, the children will be learning to APPRECIATE the world around them, considering people, places, the natural world and man made wonders. This fits in well with the Take a Trip project that the whole school, from Red Class upwards, will work towards. As part of their learning in Geography and RE, the children will consider a dilemma. This way of learning supports the school's vision and values, enabling the children to think deeply about social and moral issues, making their learning meaningful.

In Collective Worship, will consider the issue of EQUALITY and the children will consider how the wider world is unequal and how to remove inequalities. Using the inequality of educational opportunities will link this learning into their Take a Trip project. Considering these 'BIG ISSUES' is part of the vision of the school, enabling the children to learn from real life dilemmas and opening their eyes to the wider world.

Forest School Clothing

No matter what the weather is doing, please send the children in long sleeved tops and trousers for Forest School. With deer living in our Forest School, it is important that we minimise the risk of contracting Lyme Disease.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

Thank you for your co-operation.

YEAR 4 ADVENTURE

We look forward to our 'Year 4 Adventure' this year and have planned a residential at our Outdoor Adventure facility between 10-12th July. The children will take part in a Beacon Walk, archery, low ropes, zip wire and a range of other activities including bed making and preparation of their own lunch. When children from previous years return to Blackwell to tell us about their adventures beyond Blackwell, they often share their memories of Malvern. It is a real opportunity for the children to grow and mature before they head off to Middle School.

Updates:

- Parking- please be careful when parking around Blackwell First School and neighbouring road. Please note that the staff car park is for staff only and families are asked to leave the entrance area empty to enable staff cars to enter and exit safely. Please also park only on the one side of St Catherine's as some cars have been parked on the other side of the road, making it impossible to pass.
- Class photographs- May 20th.
- Payments to school will remain to ParentPay or invoicing through WCC until further notice.

Dates

- 8.4.24 Term starts
- 8.4.24 Year 4s bellboating
- 8.4.24 Red Class height, weight checks and hearing retests.
- 23.4.24 **Year 4 music event at Alvechurch TBC- please be aware that we may request drop off at AMS for 9.15am on this day.**
- 29.4.24 Year 2 educational visit- see letter
- 30.4.24 7pm PFTA meeting on zoom
- 18.5.24 SPRING BALL- PFTA event
- 20.5.24 Class photographs
- 20.5.24 FILM NIGHT 5.30-7pm- book through PFTA
- 23.5.24 Green Class Bake Sale
- 24.5.24 SPORT's Day- 9am-11am Reception- Year 4/ 2pm Nursery
- 27th-31st May- Half term**
- 3.6.24 School reopens
- 5.6.24 Science Day for Year 2 – on site
- 10.6.24 Year 4s bellboating
- 18.6.24 Dental Survey (Reception and some Y1s)
- 24.6.24 Reception- Year 4 Educational visit
- 27.6.24 8.45am Purple Class family assembly
- 1.7.24 Year 4s bellboating
- 4.7.24 Year 4s cross school PE event at BFS
- 5.7.24 Change the Rules Day – PFTA event
- 6.7.24 SUMMER FAIR- get ready for the PFTA event of the year. Get baking and enter the cake competition. Do you have showstopper ideas?
- 10-12.7.24 Year 4 residential
- 15.7.24 5.30pm NEW Nursery parent meeting
- 15.7.24 6.30pm NEW Red Class parent meeting
- 16.7.24 8.45-9.30am NEW Nursery settling in
- 16.7.24 Children all visit new classes for September
- 16.7.24 6pm NEW Year 2 parent meeting
- 17.7.24 8.45am Red Class family assembly
- 17.7.24 6pm NEW Year 3 (and 4s are welcome) parent meeting
- 18.7.24 School Tea Party
- 18.7.24 8.45-9.30am NEW Nursery settling in
- 18.7.24 Red Class and Nursery Bake Sale
- 18.7.24 6pm NEW Year 1 parent meeting
- 19.7.24 Year 4 Leavers' assembly 9am
- HOLIDAY CLUB- 22-26.7.24/ 27-30.8.24