



Mrs Marks illustrated the 'Rights of the Reader' by Daniel Pennac for us. Hetty and a BFS reader are enjoying time together to illustrate 'The Right to Skip.'

Dear Families,



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2024
Celebrating children's books and reading since 1919
EVERYCHILDAREADER.NET

Reading is the window to the rest of the curriculum and enables children to make good progress. Please read storytime books with them and hear them read their school books as often as possible. It makes a massive difference to them.

NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

...developing the whole child...

March 2024

I opened a book

By Julia Donaldson

I opened a book and in I strode.

Now nobody can find me.

I've left my chair, my house, my road,

My town and my world behind me.

Ofsted has recently produced further research into English teaching nationally and is pleased with how well children in Early Years and Year 1 are reading across the country. Ofsted now has several priorities for schools to focus on:

- Fluent reading in Year 2 onwards;
- Oracy- children's ability to speak well and understand language and its use and
- Writing skills.

For families who wish to support their children with the areas of focus, bedtime stories are the ideal way to do this. This exposes the children to language beyond their reading ability and engages them in conversation about stories, which, in turn, supports their writing.

Visiting the library is an enjoyable experience for children, but they can choose 'Reading for Pleasure' books to take home to share with you as well as their 'Reading books' from school. We hope that you can find time to read together and enjoy the magical world of stories.

Please read on to find out about the end of term events. Thank you all for your good wishes whilst I have been absent due to my surgery, and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss

Parent Consultation Meetings

Class newsletters and the school website share with you the children's learning each half term. Parent Consultation meetings (including twice yearly reports) inform you of the progress that the children are making towards that learning.

This week and next, the teachers will share your child's achievements with you and also some targets which will help them move on with their learning. Please help them by working on these targets at home too.

The best support you can give is hearing them read, sharing books and talking to them. With your support and our hard work, they will make progress across the curriculum.

Look out for next term's class newsletters in April to find out more about what they children will be learning.

End of term 'Singing on the Steps'

During the next two weeks the children will be learning songs and poems to sing and recite to you from the steps at the front of school as an end of term opportunity to visit the school and see the children perform.

Please come along to the front playground on:

13.3.24 8.45am Recorder concert children

18.3.24 8.45am Nursery and Red Classes

19.3.24 8.45am Green and Purple Classes

20.3.24 8.45am Yellow Class Family Assembly

21.3.24 8.45am Green Class Family Assembly

22.3.24 8.45am Yellow and Blue Classes

Tea and Toast will be available for these occasions so please support school.

There will also be a Purple Class Bake Sale on 21.3.24, after school.

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

BELLBOATING – This will take place with the Year 4s during the Summer term. **Thank you to the PFTA for funding this.**

SPORTING EVENTS – Competitive, coaching and club events are planned for the Summer term. Watch out for Parentapp messages. After School Club also have a Fun Fitness Club and our Football Club continues. Miss Kuriger has been running Sports Club each afternoon during enrichment clubs.

Arts – The children are looking forward to performing to you before Easter and their preparations are underway...

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP Last week our theme was **Safety** and we started the week by considering work of the United Nations and the 'Rights of the Child'. We use the book 'For Every Child' to consider the rights that children have and to help them understand the responsibilities that sit alongside those rights. This is designed to support them in understanding their collective rights and responsibilities. We hope to develop children with lifelong community minded attitudes.



We work with the children on safety by explaining how school keeps them safe, how their families help to keep them safe and how they can keep themselves safe and learn to be responsible for their own safety. We share online safety advice and also share the Childline phone number to help them develop their own strategies for keeping safe.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

In 2023, we had an external safeguarding review and whilst we had no major issues to address it was a useful exercise to consider all of our systems and procedures.

Several recommendations were made:

- Remind the children of the existence of Childline
- Inform parents of who to contact in the case of a child protection issue- this is Worcestershire Family Front Door **01905 822666**
- **Ensure parents update contact details/ changes to mobile numbers; and provide 4 contacts (all of whom can drive)**

The designated person for safeguarding in the school is Anna Moss and Helen Townsend and Fleur Webb are also trained leads. Blackwell First School is an Operation Encompass school and receives police reports when there are incidents of Domestic Abuse. Operation Encompass is designed to support schools in helping children who have been present during reported cases of Domestic Abuse. It is important to know that a large number of children are present or in the same household during incidents of Domestic Abuse and that this has a significant impact on children's long term mental wellbeing. Please contact Anna Moss if you would like to speak about any of these issues.

FINAL NEWS

- *Malvern residential for Year 4s- we are looking forward to the residential. Many thanks to staff for taking the children in their own time. This could not happen without this considerable goodwill.
- *Y4 Leavers' event – we will be planning a Leavers' DO so look out for further information. (19.7.24)
- *We have an educational visit booked for June for Red- Blue Classes.
- *Remember 'Storynight' on 18th March 5.30-6.30pm- please pay via the PFTA link on the ParentApp.

Mr; Barker's Lemon & Courgette Muffins- Makes 12

Ingredients:

- 350g courgette raw, approximately 1-2 medium
- 125ml vegetable oil
- 2 free-range eggs
- 100g granulated sugar
- 1 lemon zest and juice
- 300g plain flour
- 1tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1pinch salt

For the lemon glaze- 85g icing sugar/ 1tbsp lemon juice

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan. Line muffin cases.
 2. Coarsely grate the unpeeled raw courgettes (in a food processor). Lightly squeeze the gratings in a clean cloth to remove excess moisture.
 3. In a large bowl, whisk the oil, eggs, sugar, zest and juice until smooth, then stir in the courgette. Sift in the flour, baking powder and salt and gently combine.
 4. Spoon the batter into the prepared cases and bake for 12-15 minutes until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool completely.
 5. Mix the lemon juice and icing sugar together until smooth. Drizzle over the cooled muffins and sprinkle with lemon zest (optional).
- ✓ Suitable for freezing/Make it vegan: use flax eggs/ Make it wheat free: use rice flour



Developing fluent mathematicians...please help us help the children!

As a school we value the continuing professional development of staff and, each year, the staff receive specific year group training from Anthony Reddy, Maths consultant, as well as focussed training on Mental Maths to support maths in Years 2-4. With lots of practise, the children are becoming better and better at being 'number fluent.'

In the Early Years of school, it is vital that children develop number fluency by practising the following:

- Nursery and Reception – developing the understanding of numbers up to 5, then 10, then 20 without moving on too quickly. We need to help them 'play' with numbers through games to help them have instant recall by the end of Red Class of all number bonds within 10 (5+4/3+2/7-3 etc)
- Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) – instant recall of all number bonds within 20 and multiples to 100. Y2s also need to know times tables and be able to recall them all for 2, 5 and 10 up to 10x10.
- Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)- instant recall by the end of Year 4 of all times tables and their division facts to 12x12. (Y3- 3xs, 4xs, 8xs, 11xs and then Y4- 6xs, 7xs, 9xs, 12xs and repeat all others)

It would be so helpful if you could support the children with learning these number facts and talk about them with the children, explaining them. Expectations from the National Curriculum are high and the children need plenty of practise to help embed their learning. Key vocabulary that children often confuse is helped by the song below, especially helpful for Key Stage 2 but we use the correct mathematical vocabulary with all year groups as the more they hear, the more they develop their understanding. (Key Stage 2 children will help you sing this one!)

When you add two numbers it's the TOTAL and the SUM.
DIFFERENCE is the answer in a SUBTRACTION.
When you MULTIPLY numbers it's the PRODUCT that you find.

DIVIDE by your DIVISOR and the QUOTIENT 's left behind.

Playing cards, board games, using maths practically for cake making, telling the time and buying things in the shops are all really helpful ways to support the children.

Miss Townsend and I can really tell which children are practising their times tables at home so thank you for helping the children become more fluent.