



Our vision is at the heart of our provision here at Blackwell First School and these photographs evidence a range of experiences provided during the year.



Dear Families,

Welcome back everyone. Welcome to our new families both in Red Class, Nursery and across the school. Welcome to new staff too including Mrs Kuriger, Miss Smith and Mrs Lampon.

The start of the year is always a good time to consider our school vision:

**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.**

During the training days with staff, we considered role models in their different forms and how effectively we promote aspirational individuals within the school curriculum. We aim to support children to become positive role models themselves. The children are at the heart of all we do and we are pleased that the collaborative work between families and the school supports the school vision. We aim to make school relevant and interesting for all children. Here is a sample of what some parents wrote at the end of the year on their feedback forms...

*...thank you for making school such a happy place...*

*...we will treasure all of the wonderful opportunities and memories...*

*...thank you for helping me to learn, feel safe and comfortable at school...*

*...we've been walking back and forth to school for over a decade and whilst many things have changed, the ethos has remained very strong...*

*...thank you for everything you do for our children and the school...*

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 topics. Years 1-4 will be learning all about "Long ago" with their own focus on a period in history and we are looking forward to creating Floor books as projects to send home and Reception and Nursery will be learning "All about me" for the first few weeks in school. Mrs Mander is helping Nursery children 'settle into their home from home' and follows their interests as they learn routines and become experts at tidying up with a little help from experienced Nursery children!

We are delighted to share another year with you all and send those who have moved on to Middle School our best wishes.

Class newsletters will provide you with further information.

Best wishes, Mrs Moss



From sport's days to concerts, residential and school visits, there is a lot for the children to experience at BFS.

**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 email the [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk), give us a call on 0121 445 1622 or catch teachers at the end of the day.

We will be hosting an informal open evening on site on **9<sup>th</sup> October 6-7pm** which is an opportunity to wander around school with your children, to get a feel for the whole school. Teachers will send out letters offering on site, phonecall or zoom parent consultations during October. For new families in Nursery and Reception, there will be some meetings within the first few weeks to 'check in' with you all.

**Sports** – With Mrs Webb off on maternity leave, Miss Bailey is planning for the sporting events on the calendar this year. As part of the All Active Academy, a Bromsgrove wide organisation, we are sharing event planning for all year groups. Well done to everyone, led by Mrs Webb for achieving the Platinum Sports Award. There is so much sport and PE to celebrate at school and this award reflects that.

**Arts** – Please contact the school office if you are interested in your child (Year 1 upwards) learning to play the recorder, fife (in preparation for the flute) piano or violin. We work with our music teachers Mrs Grainger, Mrs Hipkiss, Mrs Spurgeon and Mrs Johnson from Severn Arts to offer lessons for children in school. Although they have a full timetable, we hold a waiting list and will offer spaces as soon as possible.

**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 trainers for outdoor PE lessons. They also need wellies, thick socks and gloves. Lost property is taken to relevant classes when named. We have both new and **second hand uniform** available.

**PARENTAPP** - Our main form of communication is through ParentApp so please sign up if you have not already by emailing [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk)  
Thank you.

**NB-** When searching for older letters, click on 'content' and 'letters home' to find less recent letters easily.

**Afternoon enrichment 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 and healthy activities in which to engage and stimulate the children's interests.

This term your children in Years 1-4 will be engaged in some of the clubs listed here: Art; Dance; Games and Puzzles; Forest School; Nature; Craft; Music and Sport. We will inform you of your child's club group and Forest School day so that you can ensure that they attend school in plain blue, black or grey jogging bottoms on that day. The children are likely to be tired from a full day so the option of a 1.40pm pick up is ideal for some children at this time, particularly the younger children. The Reception (Red Class) children will participate in class based indoor and outdoor play for the first term until they settle in this familiar environment and over time we will begin to mix them with other children for afternoon clubs.

## 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, epipen 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.

**In the event of contagious illness that would prevent children from attending school, such as sickness, COVID and scarlet fever, please keep the children at home for the recommended period of time in order to prevent the spread of illness to other children and staff. We can advise you on the number of days children should remain absent from school when infected with such illnesses.**

**READING AND HOMEWORK** - In light of guidance issued from Department for Education (DfE), we use a phonics programme called Little Wandle Letters and Sounds for the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This works by:

- Teachers teaching a set order of phonics;
- Children reading a book with the teachers three times a week that matches their phonic level;
- Children receiving a hard copy of the same book (this is to practise with you and should be one they are feeling secure with);
- Children bringing home a further book once a week that matches the phonics taught but one that is less familiar and
- Children bringing home a book for their family to read to them each week as a library book to read for pleasure.

We will provide more details of this programme and offer support for helping your child learn to read in family workshops. **Please send in all books each Friday to be changed.**

Homework for Year 1-4 children will also be sent home each Friday and we ask that you return homework on a Monday. Homework remains optional, with the exception of reading, which is vital to children's educational development. Help with mental maths and spelling is also greatly appreciated and will be shared with you on newsletters and homework sheets.

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. There will also be events for families to support your involvement in school life. We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey with you.

There is a charge for visits as the school budget is not sufficient to fund these trips. The PFTA funds 50% of the cost but your contribution is required in order for them to go ahead. There is likely to be a visit per term and you will be asked to contribute to enable the visits to take place. **If you'd like to set up a regular payment system rather than be required to pay in one amount, please contact the school office and this can be arranged.** Christmas visits to the theatre, alongside other Christmas events, come at a busy time financially. It may be worth considering a longer payment plan starting in September. Thank you for your support.

**THE BLACKWELL KITCHEN** - 'The Blackwell Kitchen' is doing a superb job with Mrs Barker alongside Mrs Miles and Miss Shepherd 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 shortly, but it is good to see so many Year 3s and 4s 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 eat their dinners brilliantly. Well done.

For the small number of children opting for packed lunches, please remember we adhere to government food standards for schools. **Crisps, chocolate and sweets are not allowed.** Thank you for your co-operation.

**ATTENDANCE** - Schools nationally are concerned about the amount of time children are missing school. For us, attendance is strong. However, we have an increased number of children missing school due to term time holiday absence. This is a concern for us as if children miss a new concept such as division or fractions, it can set them back from their peers. **Please take holiday during school holidays if at all possible.**

**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. The first meeting is on 16.09.24 at 7pm. A zoom link will be sent on parentapp. Last year, the PFTA funded the purchase of resources, bellboating for Year 4s, subsidised school visits and a host of other smaller projects. This year, we would love to raise money for a small building for hosting music lessons and Computing equipment. Help us to help the children!

**FIRST AID** - Children bring home a sticker or letter following first aid treatment. We will notify you of any head bumps via ParentApp so that you can monitor your child for 24 hours. Thank you. If you require support with ParentApp, contact the office.

**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 Thompson/Miss Kuriger for details.

### AUTUMN TERM 2024

TE DAYS - Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September - School closed to all children  
TERM STARTS - Wednesday 4th September - School reopens to all children  
14.9.24 Sponsored Mile  
16.9.24 7pm First PFTA meeting- virtual  
17.9.24 Nursery, Red, Green Classes Bake Sale  
1.10.24 Blue Class educational visit  
9.10.24 Red and Green Classes- educational visit  
9.10.24 6-7pm Open Evening for current families  
18.10.24 Change the Rules Day  
19.10.24 Scarecrow Festival - theme TBC  
23.10.24 8.45am Blue Class family assembly  
22/23.10.24 Parent Consultations  
TE DAYS - Thursday 24th October and Friday 25th October - School closed to all children

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS - Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November

4.11.24 Individual pupil photographs  
6.11.24 Family learning workshop for Red Class families  
9.11.24 Open Day for prospective families - please book a slot  
20.11.24 Wreath Making  
28.11.24 5.30-7pm Christmas Storynight and Gift Fair  
30.11.24 10am-5pm Christmas Shopping Day 'Leave your children at school day'  
4.12.24 Red Class educational visit  
5.12.24 Green and Purple Classes - educational visit  
9.12.24 Decorate a bauble competition  
10.12.24 Yellow and Blue Classes - educational visit  
12.12.24 9.30am Nursery Christmas Performance  
13.12.24 9.30am Red Class Christmas Performance  
16.12.24 9.30am Green Class Christmas Performance  
17.12.24 9.30am Purple Class Christmas Performance  
18.12.24 9.30am Yellow Class Christmas Performance  
19.12.24 9.30am Blue Class Christmas Performance  
20.12.24 Christmas Panto in school  
TERM ENDS - Friday 20th December - Last day of term for children  
**Christmas Productions- These will take place in the hall and due to restricted room, we ask that no more than two adults per child attend as we do not have the space to accommodate more adults. A filmed version will be available for everyone to enjoy at home (details to follow). Many thanks.**

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP** - We start this term with 'New starts' 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.