

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School

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

April 2026

Dear Families,

What a lovely end to the Spring term we have had at Blackwell First School. Please enjoy the photographs of some Spring term events.

Following parent consultations, in order to support your children, we ask that you work on any targets shared by the classteachers 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.

Our first topic next term is 'Let's Travel' 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 to share their learning during whole school assemblies.

Look out for the class newsletters which will explain more about the children's learning for the next 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 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 9am- 11am on the large field. (Nursery will follow in the afternoon at 2pm). 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



Open Classrooms and Class assemblies were enjoyed by each class and thank you for supporting these events. The children enjoy showing you their classrooms. Purple Class Dance Festival was brilliant at the Artrix.



Easter celebrations with 'Singing on the Steps', Easter Egg Hunt, assemblies and the storynight ended the Spring term perfectly.



### '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 run the café each day.

Teacakes  
 Toast  
 Cakes  
 Coffee  
 Tea  
**ALL PROCEEDS TO SCHOOL FUND**

### Medicines in school

An increasing number of children require medication during the school day, which we administer at 12pm each day. We only administer at other times if there are exceptional reasons. Please plan your home administration to allow us to administer in school at 12pm. If you are able to administer three doses at home, that will help us too, freeing up staff to work with the children/ complete other tasks.

For children with sensitive hands from handwashing, we will provide handcream as bringing in handcream from home is not practical for teachers to manage. We will provide Nivea. If children have prescription creams due to severe skin difficulties, we will, of course, enable them to have these as needed.

In terms of suncream, if children are able to have the 12 hour suncreams applied before school, this is very helpful. If children need suncream reapplying during the day, we ask that from Red Class upwards children reapply it independently and it is kept in their bookbag. They will be able to reapply before going outside at breaktimes.

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

On their return to school after the Easter break, the children are learning to APPRECIATE the world around them, considering people, places, the natural world and man made wonders. This fits in well with the 'Let's Travel' 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 Let's Travel 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.

### YEAR 4 ADVENTURE

We look forward to our 'Year 4 Adventure' this year and have planned a residential at our Outdoor Adventure facility between in 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 roads. 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 18<sup>th</sup>
- Please continue to book After School Club and School Meals in advance of the required dates if at all possible.
- DONATIONS NEEDED: embroidery thread, wool, buttons, reels of cotton, felt
- **BAN ON MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES- Children are no longer allowed to bring mobile phones or smart watches into school, following new government guidance (April 1<sup>st</sup>).** We have changed our school policies and if children bring them in by mistake, we will keep them safely in the office until hometime.

### SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

**SPORT** – We held our Wake and Shake competition last half term and our Sport's Day is on May 22nd, please come along. Year 4 bellboating started today- **thanks to the PFTA for funding this enjoyable event.**

**ARTS** – Mark Riley will join us this term for engaging arts projects. **Many thanks to PFTA for funding this event.**

### Forest School Clothing

No matter what the weather is doing, please send the children in long sleeved tops plain dark coloured 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.

### SAFEGUARDING NEWS

In 2024, we had our Ofsted report which highlighted safeguarding as effective. Whilst we had no issues to address it was a useful exercise to consider all of our systems and procedures. We have recently had an external review of Safeguarding from Worcestershire CC. The report was strong with a recommendation that we record behaviour and SEND information within our Safeguarding reporting system in order to build a picture of children within one system.

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.

- 13.4.26 Term starts and PFTA meeting 7pm
- 23.4.26 Green Class cricket event
- 24.4.26 Change the Rules Day
- 24.4.26 QUIZ NIGHT- please book!
- 28.4.26 Midland Sinfonia Day for all classes and CHOIR CONCERT 3.30pm at St Catherine's Church- please join us!
- 9.5.26 Choir concert with Midland Sinfonia at St Lawrence church, Alvechurch 3pm- tickets available. (Rehearsal times TBC)
- 18.5.26 Class photographs
- 21.5.26 Purple, Yellow and Blue Bake Sale after school- please bring donations!
- 22.5.26 Sport's Day 9am (Nursery 2pm) on large field- all welcome
- 9.6.26 Red Class educational visit
- 15.5.26 Father's Day/ Family making event- details TBC
- 20.6.26 Blackwell Fringe- community event with BBQ and refreshments at BFS between 12-3pm and choir concert @ St Catherine's Church 11am
- 25.6.26 Red Class PE visit and Purple Class Educational Visit
- 1.7.26 Purple Class Family Assembly
- 4.7.26 12-2pm Summer Fair
- 7.7.26 ARTs Day – Year 4 with Royal Ballet
- 7.7.26 Possible concert at Prince Henry's High School- evening
- 8-10.7.26 Residential Y4s
- 13.7.26 Transition Day for all year groups
- Parent meetings for new year groups: 13.7.26 5.30pm new Nursery, 6.30pm new Reception/ 14.7.26 5.30pm new Y1, 6.30pm new Y2/ 15.7.26 6pm new Yellow/Blue
- 16.7.26 Red Class Family Assembly
- 17.7.26 Blue Class Leavers' 9am and Term ends