



Midland Sinfonia, July

Newsletter



Blackwell First School,
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July 2025

Dear Families,

What a busy year this has been! From a visit to Chedworth, the British Museum and Black Country Living Museum to sporting events and music events to theatre trips, it has been a successful year. At the end of the year, we reflect on the last twelve months in school and consider the progress the children, staff and school have made. I wish to thank all of the school staff for the difference they make to the children's care and learning this year. This year, we say goodbye to Miss Smith, who has covered Mrs Webb's maternity leave. We thank her very much and wish her well. We welcome Miss Hickin and Mrs Pemberton to work across the school and know that they will be wonderful additions to the teaching team.

We are grateful for the support of you as parents, our collaborative schools in Worcestershire Hills Trust and to the Governing Body for their contribution to the leadership of the school. We are particularly grateful to Isabel Welch, Chair of Governors, and Mrs Taylor, Vice Chair, and thank them for their superb dedication to the school. We are truly grateful to the governors for their tireless support of the school.

Thanks also to the PFTA for amazing fundraising efforts, so essential to ensure that we can continue to offer the rich and varied educational opportunities currently available whilst the budgetary demands are increasingly challenging. I say it each year, but without the PFTA funds the school would not offer what it does. During this term alone, they have part funded trips, part funded the music room that will be built over the summer, paid for bellboating for Year 4s and their end of year dictionaries. Particular mention must be made to our Year 4s and their families for their support to the school over the years. You were our COVID Nursery class and look how far you have come!

Our results show that the children have again made strong progress, which has been supported by excellent teaching. When the children leave us in Year 4, they have developed into individuals who are mostly working securely with many children at above expected standards and with life skills of independence, communication and an excellent sense of moral purpose. This group has been a rewarding class of children and watching them develop over the years and the progress that they have made from Red Class to Blue Class has been a highlight.

The school works hard to fulfil its role as a real community school and remains at the heart of the village. The work we do supports children in developing that sense of community and their own role within a community and as part of the UK. Developing the children as local and global citizens is an important aspect of our work as could be seen during our Collective worship themes on values. Our community work this year on 'Tea and Toast', work with the residents of Burcot Grange, the Blackwell Fringe and the Summer Fair have all served to unite us.

Finally, I would like to say, on behalf of everyone at school, thank you for your support and your kind words throughout the year. Good luck to adults and children who are moving on to new schools and new adventures. We wish you well and hope that you come back to see us. Have a good summer break and we will all meet again on 3rd September when we welcome our new Nursery and Reception intakes and new staff members.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss

This year, we have been inspected by Worcestershire Hills Trust and an external consultant. This experience has been very positive and some comments from the reports provide a flavour of the visits.

All of this information is used to support the development of next year's School Development Plan.

Music- A strong sequence of learning has been established. This supports staff from Early Career Teachers (ECT) to more experienced, non-specialized staff. Focused Continuing Professional Development (CPD) has been implemented to enhance teaching practices. Additionally, there is consistency in lesson delivery, with learning clearly building on prior learning, ensuring a cohesive and progressive educational experience for pupils.

History- Work in books is consistently of very high quality. Pupils have opportunity to write independently, pupils make a personal response and have choice in their learning. There is a careful balance between developing English writing skills and ensuring pupils develop their understanding of historical knowledge and skills. Bespoke next step marking references historical skills, pupils consistently respond to this guidance. As well as learning new knowledge overtime, pupils have opportunities to explain, persuade and analyse as part of their learning.

Art- The school has had its exemplary Arts provision recognised by the ARTS MARK PLATINUM 2025 (Art and Music) supported by a wide range of artists studied, cultural artists explored across the school and an artist in residence: Mark Riley.

English- The writing leader has worked with an external writing consultant using the latest research. As a result of this a very well-considered whole school sequence of writing, (supported by carefully chosen texts) has been formulated and implemented. There is strong impact on outcomes and pupils' attitudes to learning.



The children learn so much when they experience educational visits as they bring learning to life. Thank you for your support in enabling us to provide these opportunities.

Reports

Last week, you received your child's report and there was a covering letter to help you understand how your child is achieving in line with the national standards. It is most important that you look at the children's **progress** comment as this indicates whether they are working well. Whilst some children do reach this high national standard, it is important that you do not feel that your child is unsuccessful if they are not currently working at the standard. It is important to remember that children develop at different rates and that many children who may be described as not working at the expectation when they are very young, will go on to reach expectations later on during their primary school years. It is also important to note the general comments and skills development sections as these indicate your child's development in areas that are crucial to their future as learners.

Summer Holiday 'Keeping up!'

Over the summer, the children need a good rest and break from school. It is important to keep the children reading if you possibly can. Please keep them reading books of their choice and

- Watch stories read by their teachers (on BFS YouTube) and
- Spelling and mental maths activities.

The teachers may also send some particular work home for individuals who they feel would benefit from specific work. Please support them with this learning and keep reading!

Collective Worship

During this last week, we have concentrated on 'Changes' to help with transition as well as having 'Freedom' as a theme and we have discussed the freedom that comes from living in the UK and the associated rights that we have. With such rights come responsibilities, and we talk (as part of British Values) about the need to follow the law and what this means. As part of this work, we discuss the lack of freedom for some people across the world and discuss this in terms that the children understand, such as a lack of freedom to go to school, have friends, wear what they want, choose a job and have beliefs that are different from others.

Arts and Sport

Thank you to Miss Bailey for leading sport so well during Mrs Webb's absence. Thank you to families for continuing to pay for school trips, including sport trips, which form such an important part of the children's educational experiences but which cannot be funded by school. Each class have enjoyed and learned from a trip to the theatre at Christmas and a second main trip as well as sport's trips. Letters and details of payment will be shared nearer to the time, but if you would like to set up regular payments in advance to manage the cost, please speak to the school office.

Malvern and Bellboating adventure

The Year 4s have enjoyed their super trip to Malvern, showing their developing resilience, teamwork and spirit. These aspects of learning behaviours have been developed during their time with us and we hope that they continue to flourish at their new schools. The children also thoroughly enjoyed bellboating during this term. Thank you very much to the teaching staff who gave up their time to enable the Year 4s to have such a wonderful end to their time at BFS.



PFTA We owe a huge thanks to the PFTA for their excellent summer fair for raising about £2,800. All of the people involved have worked extremely hard to ensure that they raise as much for the children as possible. This year, the PFTA has donated over £15,000 for resources and school visits. Thank you to all involved. We hope to replace computing equipment next year. The PFTA will help us fundraise for this.

At a time of ever decreasing budgets, this support is invaluable and the funds that school is able to raise through our Before and After School and Holiday Club supports the school on its journey. Please do use Holiday Club and Blackwell School Club.

Thanks to Emily and Manjit as co-Chairs, Charlie as Secretary, Carrie as Marketing and Jo as treasurer and the whole committee and all those who help to organise fantastic community events throughout the year. From Storynights to Summer Fair and everything in between, the PFTA has been active all year.

Next year, Charlie and Manjit will take on the Chair role jointly, Hannah will take over as secretary and Jo will continue as treasurer with Carrie continuing as media. Thank you for supporting PFTA events as without you attending, the PFTA would not be able to contribute as much as they do. **THIS ALL BENEFITS YOUR CHILDREN!**

Autumn term dates

- 3.9.25 School opens- welcome back (Red Class part time for a week and a half)
- 13.9.25 Sponsored Mile on the main school field- PFTA
- 29.9.25 Blue Class educational visit- TBC- 7.30am departure and c. 6pm return
- 2.10.25 Immunisation- flu
- 1.10.24 Educational Visit for Blue Class- 7.30am departure and c. 6pm return
- 8.10.25 5.30-6.30pm Open evening for current parents- opportunity to visit all classes
- 16.10.25 Nursery, Red and Green Bake Sale after school- please bring donations
- 17.10.25 Change the Rules Day- PFTA
- 18.10.25 Scarecrow Festival – PFTA
- 21/22.10.25 Parent Consultation meetings
- 22.10.25 8.45am Blue Class Family assembly
- 23/24.10.25 School closed for children- training days
- 3.11.25 Individual photograph day for all children
- 5.11.25 6pm Red Class family learning evening
- 8.11.25 Open Day for prospective families for Reception and Nursery- please book
- 19.11.25 Wreathmaking evening – PFTA
- 22.12.25 'Sitter Service' for Christmas Shopping- PFTA
- 24.11.25 Book Fair in school each afternoon after school all week
- 4.12.25 5.30-7pm Christmas Storynight for children and Craft Fair for adults
- 11.12.25 9.00am Nursery Christmas Performance – school hall
- 12.12.25 9.00am Reception Christmas Performance- school hall
- 15.12.25 9.00am Green Class Christmas Performance- school hall
- 16.12.25 9.00am Purple Class Christmas Performance- school hall
- 17.12.25 9.00am Yellow Class Christmas Performance- school hall
- 17.12.25 Christmas lunch
- 18.12.25 9.00am Blue Class Christmas Performance- school hall
- 19.12.25 Panto and Party/ School closes

- Music tuition payments needed ASAP- piano, recorder and violin.
- Extra-curricular and after school club bookings needed ASAP with payment.
- Lunch orders needed ASAP with payment
- Uniform collection ASAP for those who have been notified.