

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School

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

April 2025

Dear Families,



Open Classrooms and Class assemblies were enjoyed by each class and thank you for supporting these events. The children enjoy showing you their classrooms.

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. 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 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 23rd 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



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



Mothering Sunday pot decorating proved a popular PFTA event and the children shared their artistic skills.

'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 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 '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 19th
- Please continue to book After School Club and School Meals in advance of the required dates if at all possible.

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 23rd, please come along.

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.

- 28.4.25 School opens for summer term
- 28.4.25 PFTA meeting 7.30pm -virtual
- 7.5.25 'Silent' Discos (PFTA event): 4-4.45pm N/Red, 5-5.45pm Green/Purple, 6-6.45pm Yellow/Blue (Tea and Toast open for adults waiting)
- 10th/11th May Blackwell Fringe event including choir concert in St Catherine's and Ceilidh dances in school hall (see flyer)
- 12.5.25 Red Class Height and Weight checks
- 12.5.25 Purple Class Educational visit
- 19.5.25 Class photo day
- 22.5.25 Blue Class cross school arts event at Blackwell First School- VE Day theme
- 22.5.25 Purple Class Science Day at Charford First School (packed lunches provided by Blackwell Kitchen)
- 22.5.25 PFTA After School Bake Sale (donations please on the day from Purple, Yellow and Blue families)
- 23.5.25 Sport's Day 9am on school field (Nursery 2pm)
- 26.5.25- 30.5.25 Half term holiday**
- 23.6.25 Purple Class Educational visit
- 25 or 26.6.25 TBC Red Class Olympics event (visit)
- 26.6.25 Purple Class Family Assembly 8.45am
- 27.6.25 New Red Class children story visit 8.45am
- 30.6.25 Blue Class Bellboating
- 1.7.25 Possible Y3/4 choir OR Blue and Yellow Class event all day at Artrix (TBC) with an evening concert performance. This is a cross school Bromsgrove event.
- 3.7.25 New Red Class children story visit 8.45am
- 5.7.25 Summer Fair 12-2pm
- 9-11.7.25 Residential Blue Class
- 10.7.25 New Red Class children story visit 8.45am
- 10.7.25 TBC Yellow Class PE event at Charford First School
- 14.7.25 TBC transition visit for Blue Class children to their middle schools (morning only requiring drop off and pick up by parents. Letters from middle schools to follow)
- 14.7.25 Children visit new classes for September 25
- 14.7.25 5.30pm New Nursery parents family meeting
- 14.7.25 6.30pm New Red Class parents family meeting
- 15.7.25 Midland Sinfonia music day ending with a 3.30pm concert from Choir in St Catherine's Church
- 15.7.25 6pm September 25 Green Class family meeting
- 16.7.25 6pm September 25 Purple Class family meeting
- 17.7.25 Red Class Family Assembly 8.45am
- 17.7.25 6pm September 25 New to Yellow or Blue Class family meeting
- 18.7.25 Blue Class Leavers' assembly 9am
- 18.7.25 End of term