

September 2025



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 Miss Hickin, Miss Hine and Mrs Pemberton.

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 our role in providing the children with the best possible start to their education, through our Early Years practice and beyond, extending into our Wrap around Care and Lunchtime provision. 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...

***...We are beyond proud of how far he has come. You have played such a huge part in his development...***

***...This has been the most fantastic foundation for the next stage in his life...***

***...Your team, Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Admin, Catering and Site have our gratitude and appreciation always...***

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

ps- Look out for a very special message about a staff fundraising event coming up later this term!



PFTA  
funded...



Look at what has happened over the summer, lot of work paid for by Worcestershire CC. This is part of work to make disability access a priority.

**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 **8<sup>th</sup> October 5.30-6.30pm** 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** -Mrs Webb has returned and is planning 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, and Miss Bailey last year 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 a variety of extra curricular clubs. 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 by 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. The children eat our school meals really well 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 16.09.25 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, paid for the playground development and contributed towards the music room. This year, we would love to raise money for 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 2025

**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**

**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**

## HALF TERM

**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**

**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.