



Newsletter

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

Dear Families,



Bellboating on the canals, developing resilience and teamwork. May 2017

June 2017

This is our final half term in school for this year. Where has the time gone? This last half term is vital to your child's education and it is important that they attend school as much as possible. Missing things in school at this time of year is really unhelpful. During this half term, the teachers continue to ensure that the children make as much progress as they can to help alleviate the inevitable time spent away from school during the summer holiday break and some loss of skills. The teachers also work on transition now, helping the children understand the change of expectation likely from September when they are in their new year groups, by raising the expectations just a little higher and expecting more independence, especially from the younger children in Red and Green Classes. For those off to Middle School, teachers and children now receive visits from the Middle School teachers, pay visits to their new schools and take part in work that is sent on to the new schools. During the last week of the term, children visit their new teachers and classrooms and Year 4s take part in their End of Year Breakfast. In addition, we have a Summer Fair, Red Class family assembly, Malvern residential, Bellboating Regatta and our new Red Class for September 2017 start their storyclub sessions. We look forward to welcoming both our new Reception and Nursery children and Mrs Webb and Mrs Mander are currently involved in home/ Nursery visits. It will be a busy half term here at Blackwell!

Malvern residential trip/ Bellboating

During July, we will be off to Malvern with our Year 4s! Further details to follow. You will be provided with a list of items that the children will need to pack and they will need a bag/ case that they can transport themselves as Miss Townsend and I will not be carrying any bags for Year 4s! We do have to walk with them for a little way, so wheels may be helpful... In the meantime, Year 4s have started their bellboating training in anticipation of the Bromsgrove Bellboating Regatta later this term. Here are some photographs of the children bellboating last term.

All of these activities are character building and support the development of children's independence and life skills. They thoroughly enjoy the experience and teambuilding which is an essential component. Grateful thanks to Andy Train, national bellboating champion, who provides us with training and to Miss Townsend, our qualified helm and Mrs Moran.



Sporting Games 2017

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Sporting Games 2017' on what was a very warm morning. Well done to our champions. It was good to see the enthusiasm and determination of the children and to see not only the sporting skills that they develop in PE and afternoon clubs on show, but also to see sportsmanship and the skills required to make good team players and sporting stars. Many parents and grandparents commented on how good it was that all abilities were included so sensitively and that there was a good balance between competitive and participatory events. They certainly didn't sit still for long! It was also a pleasure for all of the children and families to watch and cheer on the Year 4s during their final two running races, a real finale! Well done.



Sport's Day 2017- a chance to show both competitive and sporting skills.



Early Years training for staff

Over the last few years our Early Years staff members have taken part in extensive training in Early Years Indoor and Outdoor education. Now that we will have a Nursery on site from September, all of the Early Years staff members will be taking part in training to support our Early Years practices over the next six weeks. In order to support your own understanding of the provision on offer, we will share some of the training with you via newsletters.

Collective Worship

Our theme this week is 'Simplicity' and we are considering all the things in our world that are so easy to take for granted. We will be considering the UN 'Rights of the Child' article that says that all children have the right to a name and what this means. We will also be looking at nature and learn to appreciate the seemingly simple life of a bee or butterfly.

In light of events over the weekend and previous weeks, the approach we will take is as outlined below:

- No whole school or whole class discussions
- Staff will answer questions factually and honestly but without significant detail
- Staff will discuss issues only with individual children as asked and will focus on the rarity of such events and the role of the emergency services in keeping us safe

As a whole school, we will focus on Community Cohesion and British Values over the coming weeks during Collective Worship, emphasising tolerance and respect between cultures, religions and beliefs.

Issues may be highlighted by the children during class discussions, particularly during PSHE and Philosophy and the approach to questions will be as above. We hope that knowing how we deal with the children's questions will support you at home.

Keeping everyone safe

The school leadership team along with governors ensure that all systems and procedures are in place to make sure that the school is a safe place to be. The teachers also work hard to develop the children's awareness of safety and their ability to keep themselves safe. Below are some of the procedures in place in school:

- Regular audits and visits by the County Council;
- Twice yearly audits, monitored by Governors;
- Termly healthy and safety meetings with Governors;
- Weekly safety checks, including fire alarms, water checks etc;
- Daily safety walks of the site;
- Risk assessments in place for all areas of school, including off site visits, use of the field, classrooms, use of resources such as cooking equipment etc;
- Site safety, including arrangements for visitors on site;
- Risk assessment completed with all children prior to activities, including new activities or refreshing safety procedures at regular activities such as Forest School;
- Staff recruitment;
- Collective Worship focused on safety, including keeping safe from bullying, e-safety, road safety etc and
- Curriculum with all aspects of safety at the heart, such as PSHE (Personal Social and Health education) learning about protective behaviours with regards to safe and healthy relationships.

We have always carried out termly fire drills. This is evacuation from the building. Last year, however, we evacuated the whole site for the first time so that both staff and children were aware of the procedure. The procedure has been in place in the event that we would need to leave the site and St Catherine's Church has kindly provided us with keys for a number of years, in order that we have alternative accommodation should the need arise. In the autumn term we also rehearsed our lock down procedures which went smoothly and supported us in developing our systems further. Mrs Bailey and Mrs Hargreaves, who are central to such emergency procedures, continue to ensure that all systems operate smoothly. Well done everyone.

Congratulations Mrs Thompson and family!

Mrs Thompson is currently at home with her new baby, Connie, as well as her older two girls. She has her hands full at the moment, but returns to us next Spring. Congratulations Mrs Thompson.

Sport and the Arts

Sports – We have 'BCM Games' taking place this half term for our Y3s between Blackwell, Charford and Millfields.

Arts – South Bromsgrove High School drama teacher, Mr Sugars, will be working with some of our children this half term.

The children have enjoyed a super day of circus skills today leading to artwork based on circus paintings. We hope to add some pictures of their artwork soon.



TERM DATES- Summer Term 2017

- 5.6 Circus skills day
- 7.6 Storyclub – YR
- 9.6 Swimming
- 14.6 Storyclub- YR
- 14.6 Outdoor learning day- BCM: morning Y3s
- 16.6 Swimming
- 17.6 Blackwell Festival
- 19.6 Bellboating Y4s
- 19.6 Drama SBHS Y3s
- 19.6 PFTA AGM 7.30pm in school
- 21.6 Storyclub- YR
- 23.6 Swimming
- 28.6 Storyclub- YR
- 28.6 YR Athletics at Ryland Centre
- 29.6 Red Class assembly
- 30.6 Swimming
- 30.6 Settling in visits for Nursery 8.30-9.30
- 1.7 PFTA BALL
- 5.7 Storyclub – YR
- 5.7 Malvern residential
- 6.7 Residential
- 7.7 Residential
- 7.7 No swimming
- 12.7 Bell boating regatta
- 12.7 Storyclub- YR
- 14.7 Swimming
- 14.7 Settling in – Nursery
- 15.7 SUMMER FAIR
- 17.7 Year 4s transition day
- 17.7 Nursery Induction meeting (in Red Class) – 5.30pm
- 18.7 Class swaps
- 19.7 Jungle Tea Party
- 19.7 YR induction meeting
- 21.7 Leaver's breakfast
- 21.7 End of term
- SUMMER HOLIDAY
- HOLIDAY CLUB- 24-28 July AND 29.8-1.9
- School opens – 4.9.17 – 2 Teacher Days



Circus skills day- The children learned about the Circus today and took part in a circus skills workshop to support their understanding of circus before starting their art, science and English work tomorrow. They had a lot of fun, learned new skills and learned a lot of new vocabulary related to the circus that will support their literacy work.



Mrs Anna Moss, Head teacher